

**Cuyahoga County Division of Children and Family Services  
(CCDCFS)  
Policy Statement**

**Policy Chapter:** Substitute Care  
**Policy Number:** 6.02.15  
**Policy Name:** Reimbursement to Foster or Adoptive Caregiver for Damages Done by a Foster or Adoptive Child in Their Care

**Original Effective Date:** 07/10/1998  
**Revision Date(s):** 09/01/2014, 11/01/2012, 09/14/2009  
**Current Revision Date:** 12/01/2017  
**Approved By:** Cynthia G. Weiskittel

**PURPOSE:** To provide foster and adoptive caregivers with information regarding reimbursement for damages caused by a foster or adoptive child in their care.

**SCOPE:** This policy pertains to all CCDCFS foster, pre-finalization adoptive and relative parents, all CCDCFS staff and where applicable, to non-CCDCFS foster and adoptive parents who are caring for children in the custody of CCDCFS.

**POLICY**

- A. CCDCFS **does not** as a common practice reimburse foster, pre-finalization adoptive or relative caregivers for damages caused by a child in their care. Caregivers are urged to consult their homeowner's insurance policy for coverage.
- B. In extraordinary situations, DCFS may consider reimbursement on a case by case basis.

**PROCEDURES**

- A. If a caregiver feels that the damage done by a child is an unusual situation, they may request payment from CCDCFS by submitting a written request to their Resource Manager (RM) or Child Protection Specialist (CPS) including a summary of the damage, a summary of the incident in which the damage occurred, two estimates for repair and any other documentation which may prove helpful.
- B. The RM or CPS submits the documentation to the Senior Manager of Foster Care or Extended Services for consideration.
- C. The Senior Manager of Foster Care or Extended Services makes a decision within seven (7) days of receipt of the documentation.

The decision may be one of the following:

1. The agency denies payment;
  2. The agency reimburses a portion or all of the damage;
  3. If age appropriate, the child or children are responsible for paying a portion or all of the damage. The decision as to whether a child would benefit from this experience is made with consultation between the worker of record's (WOR) senior manager and the RM senior manager.
- D. The Senior Manager notifies the caregiver in writing within three (3) business days of the decision and the reasons for the decision.
- E. If the agency has determined that CCDCFS will pay for the damage, the caregiver is to have the damage repaired, pay for the costs and submit the paid invoices to their Resource Manager or Child Protection Specialist for reimbursement.
- F. For further information, please consult policy 6.02.13 "Payments to Foster Parents."

**SEE ALSO:**

Ohio Administrative Code Section 5101:2-5-13

**Cuyahoga County Division of Children and Family Services Policies and Procedure Manual**

Policy 6.02.13 Payments to Foster Parents