

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

Policy Chapter: Substitute Care
Policy Number: 6.02.16
Policy Name: Legal and Liability Issues for Foster & Adoptive Parents

Original Effective Date: 08/31/2009
Revision Date(s): 10/01/2015, 11/01/2012
Current Revision Date: 12/01/2018
Approved By: Cynthia G. Weiskittel

PURPOSE: To provide foster and adoptive parents with information regarding legal and liability issues related to caregiving.

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

POLICY

- A. CCDCFS **does not** offer liability insurance to foster, adoptive or relative caregivers. Caregivers are urged to consult their homeowner's insurance policy for coverage.
- B. CCDCFS **does not** offer legal services to foster, adoptive or relative parents for matters directly related to the proper performance of their roles nor does CCDCFS provide legal representation, legal fees, counseling or legal advocacy for relative or foster/adoptive caregivers. Caregivers must secure and pay for their own legal representation should they require such services.
- C. Caregivers are urged to contact their local, state and national Foster Parent Associations, Adoptive Parent Associations or Relative Caregiver Organizations for information about liability and legal representation programs.