

**Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services (CCDCFS)**

**POLICY STATEMENT**

<b>POLICY NO: 7.06.03</b>	<b>SUBJECT: Client Rights</b>
<b>APPROVED BY: James McCafferty</b> <b>EFFECTIVE DATE: May 7, 2008</b> <b>REVISION DATE: June 30, 2008</b>	<b>Legal, Juvenile Court &amp; Custody Issues</b>

**PURPOSE:** To provide a basic understanding of the rights of individuals who are involved with CCDCFS.

**SCOPE:** This policy applies to all CCDCFS staff and the children and families that it serves.

**POLICY**

It is the policy of CCDCFS to respect the rights of all individuals who are involved with CCDCFS, and to treat them with dignity and respect.

**PROCEDURES**

Persons involved with CCDCFS maintain rights. The following is a listing of some of those rights. If you have any questions concerning these rights, clients may either contact your worker of record (WOR), supervisor, or other person in the WOR's chain of command; or clients may contact the CCDCFS Customer Service Unit at (216) 432-CARE (2273).

In General: *Clients have a Right to:*

- be advised of their rights and to ensure that the client understands his/her rights; the worker of the record (WOR) shall make a notation in the family case notes.
- discuss concerns about your rights with CCDCFS workers.
- participate in the CCDCFS decision making process, except as otherwise provided by law.
- receive an explanation of any decisions, proposed or taken by CCDCFS, involving yourself or your child.
- an opportunity to be heard during all aspects of your involvement with CCDCFS.
- to receive verbal and written notification to work with CCDCFS in jointly developing, implementing and reviewing the case plan for you and your child, and to be provided a copy of the case plan.

- access and review information related to yourself or child that is contained in the CCDCFS case record, so long as such access is not limited by law, and excepting specific information that would pose a significant risk of harm to others.
- confidentiality within the limitations and requirements of federal and Ohio laws, rules or court orders.
- regular and frequent visitation with your child, unless it is not in the best interests of the child or limited or not permitted by a court order.

In regard to the Provision of Services: *Clients have a Right to:*

- receive services without discrimination or harassment.
- have the privacy of your child’s information respected, except as otherwise provided by law.
- have the privacy of your information respected, except as otherwise provided by law.
- have the privacy of your family’s information respected, except as otherwise provided by law.
- be informed and authorize written consent to disclose of confidential or private information when CCDCFS is legally or ethically required to release such information, except as otherwise provided by law.
- be informed and authorize written consent prior to recording or filming for purposes other than identification, diagnosis, or treatment, or as required by law.
- receive a copy of their signed consent for release of information form. CCDCFS shall place a copy of the written consent in the client’s case record.

In regard to Civil Rights: *Clients have a Right to:*

- be provided assistance, including an interpreter, free of charge, if you have a disability or have limited English proficiency.
- service in the least restrictive, most humane setting feasible.
- agree to, or refuse, services.
- be treated in a culturally sensitive manner, with respect and consideration for personal dignity.
- have your religious beliefs respected.

In regard to raising issues, complaints and concerns: *Clients have a Right to:*

- file a grievance complaint about services through the CCDCFS Customer Service Unit.
- utilize the grievance process, without concern for retaliation.

In regard to investigations: *Clients have a Right to:*

- be informed, at the time of initial contact by a CCDCFS representative, of the allegations against you.
- receive a document advising you of the outcome of the CCDCFS investigation of allegations of child abuse, neglect, or dependency.
- appeal an “indicated” or “substantiated” report disposition against you.