

**TUSCARAWAS COUNTY JOB & FAMILY SERVICES
CHILDREN SERVICES POLICY**

PLACEMENT DECISIONS FOR CHILDREN IN CUSTODY

POLICY

All placement decisions are made to meet the best interest of the child in custody.

PROCEDURE


A. Parameters for ALL placement decisions:

1. Meet the child's needs in the least restrictive environment.
2. Give first consideration to agency-licensed foster homes.
3. Never exceed a facility's license capacity.
4. Place siblings together when appropriate.
5. Only consider appropriately-licensed facilities.
6. Examine caregiver's ability to meet child's needs--culturally, environmentally, physically, and emotionally.
7. Before placing a child in a "borrowed" foster home, group home, or other licensed facility, attempt to make a prior on-site evaluation.

B. Staff involved in initial placement and placement change decisions:

1. Child's worker and/or supervisor.
2. Foster care worker.
3. Adoption worker--if permanent custody is imminent.
4. Placement Services Unit Supervisor.
5. Social Service Department Head--if permanent custody is imminent.

NOTE: In emergency situations, a Social Service Worker 3, in consultation with a Children Services supervisor, may be the only staff involved in placement decisions.



Lynn Aneglozzi, Director

8-11-08

Effective Date