

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

**RELIGIOUS PARTICIPATION, SOCIALIZATION AND EDUCATION
FOR CHILDREN IN CUSTODY**

POLICY

Tuscarawas County Job & Family Services' staff and foster caregivers demonstrate consideration for and sensitivity to the religious backgrounds of children in out-of-home care and for families receiving agency services and acknowledge that every child has the right to enjoy freedom of thought, conscience, and religion.

PROCEDURES

A. RELIGIOUS PARTICIPATION

1. The foster child's worker will ask the child's parents if they have a religious affiliation or preference for their child. If so, it will be noted in the case record and conveyed to the child's foster caregiver.
2. The foster caregiver is responsible for making arrangements for the child to practice his/her chosen religion, unless it is determined and documented on the child's case plan that practicing said religious beliefs and faith is not in the child's best interest.
3. The foster child may be encouraged to participate in religious activities but will not be coerced to do so.
4. The foster child shall not be baptized or submitted to any religious procedures without prior consent of the child, according to the child's age and functioning level and prior written approval of the child's parent, guardian or custodian.
5. All children shall have the right to enjoy freedom of thought, conscience, and religions.

B. MEDICAL TREATMENT AND RELIGIOUS PRACTICES

1. Tuscarawas County Job & Family Services' staff and foster caregivers will not require a foster child to receive non-emergency medical treatment which conflicts with the above-noted religious tenets or practices of the child or parent without the specific written consent of the parent, guardian, or custodian.
2. When a foster child requires emergency medical treatment and such treatment conflicts with the above-noted religious tenets or practices of the child, parent, guardian, or custodian, the foster caregiver will immediately transport or arrange transportation for the child to a medical facility and will contact the Tuscarawas County Job & Family Services.

C. SOCIALIZATION

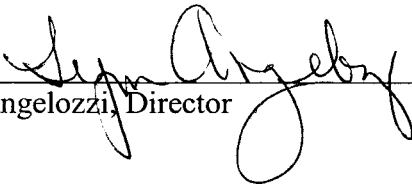
1. The foster caregiver will allow privileges and assign responsibilities to a foster child similar to those which would be assigned to a family member of the foster caregiver who is of similar age and functioning level.
2. The foster caregiver will encourage the child to participate in community, school, and recreational activities which are appropriate to his/her age and functioning level, and will, as is necessary and reasonable, arrange appropriate transportation for the child to attend such activities.

D. EDUCATION

1. The foster caregiver will make arrangements with the child's worker for each school-aged child to attend a school which complies with the minimum standards as prescribed by the State Board of Education and will ensure that the child attends school in accordance with the child care agreement.
2. A foster caregiver's request to provide home schooling for a child in foster care is considered on a case-by-case basis. See Children Services Policy on Home Schooling for additional procedures.
3. The foster caregiver, as appropriate, shall teach a child tasks and skills required for life in the community.

E. PRIVACY

Children shall enjoy a reasonable right of privacy consistent with their age and circumstances.



Lynn Angelozzi, Director

3-27-09

Effective Date