

## Policy: Provision of Care by Territory Families Staff

### Policy Purpose

To prescribe the limited circumstances in which Territory Families employees are eligible to provide direct out of home care for children in the daily care and control, or under parental responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

### Policy Statement

As a general rule, Territory Families does not encourage employees becoming authorised carers. This is because of the intrinsic difficulty of managing issues and risks, including conflicts of interest that may arise from the employee's dual role as an employee and as an authorised carer, especially as they may apply in a small jurisdiction such as the Northern Territory.

Territory Families employees may only apply to be authorised carers in the following specific circumstances:

- The employee is adopting the child and awaiting formalisation of the consent by the local court;
- The employee is a blood relative or a kinship relative and is seeking to be the child's kinship carer;
- The employee was an authorised carer at the time of commencing their employment; or
- Exceptional circumstances apply, as determined by the Executive Director responsible for direct service delivery.

Employees who were approved as authorised carers under an earlier policy put in place on 11 November 2012, continue to be eligible to provide direct out of home care in accordance with those 'grandfathered' provisions, that is, for so long as the placement arrangement remains active for the child(ren) concerned. No further children may be placed, except in the specific circumstances described in this policy.

### Legislative Basis

[Care and Protection of Children Act 2007](#)

[Care and Protection of Children \(Placement Arrangement\) Regulations 2010](#)

[Public Sector Employment and Management Act 1993](#)

### Standards

[Standards of Professional Practice](#)

Authorised by:

<b>Executive Director, Service Development and Policy on:</b>	16/03/2015	<b>Active from:</b>	16/03/2015
<b>Version 1.0</b>	To guide Territory Families about the limited circumstances in which they may be able to provide care for a child who is in the care of the CEO.		

Current Version V 1.01

<b>Active from:</b>	6/02/2017	<b>Authorised by:</b>	Director, Policy
<b>Update:</b>	Rebranded, internal links reset, Caseworker to Case Manager		
<b>Review due:</b>	March 19	<b>Maintenance:</b>	Policy TF.Policy@nt.gov.au