

Policy: Family Contact Arrangements

Policy Purpose

Every child in care will have regular contact with their family, unless to do so would expose the child to a neglectful or abusive situation.

Policy Statement

Contact plays a vital role in helping children in care develop a strong sense of identity and increases the likelihood of family reunification. Case Managers must ensure that contact is not an isolated event and is part of the overall care planning and management for children in care.

When discussing family contact arrangements for children in care a broad definition of family applies to:

- include all parents and siblings, extended family and significant others and acknowledges cultural definitions of family;
- recognise the child's legal relationship with other people (for example via adoption) or through the blending of the child's biological family with others (for example step parents and siblings); and
- include past significant relationships (for example previous Carers).

The child's care plan must document the family contact arrangements, including the frequency, type of contact and details of any supervision required. Family contact arrangements will be reviewed on a regular basis as part of the case review process or if a significant event occurs requiring a reassessment of the contact arrangements.

Legislative Basis

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

Standards

[Standards of Professional Practice 1, 5, 6](#)

Authorised by:

Executive Director, Service Development and Policy on:	16/03/2015	Active from:	16/03/2015
Version 1.0	The purpose of the policy is to highlight the integral role contact plays in the life of a child in care. Contact should be planned and documented in each child's care plan.		

Current Version V 1.02

Active from:	21/07/2017	Authorised by:	Director, Policy
Update:	Rebranded and links updated.		
Review due:	December 17	Maintenance:	Policy TF.Policy@nt.gov.au