

Policy: Death of a Child in Care

Policy Purpose

To ensure that following an adverse event, Territory Families Care and Protection statutory obligations and standards of care are met in a professional and timely manner, with consideration and concern for those affected.

Policy Statement

In an emergency, including a suspected death, **immediately dial 000** and report the incident.

In the event of the confirmed death of a child in care, the child's Carer or person having knowledge of the death is to immediately report the matter to the Case Manager, Team Leader or Manager. It is then the responsibility of Care and Protection staff to take further action to inform family and authorities and to make funeral arrangements.

Territory Families Care and Protection services have statutory obligations in responding to the death of a child in care and these must be met in a timely manner and with due consideration to the impact of the child's death on the child's family, Carers, other children and staff. In addition to the administrative tasks that must be undertaken the family, Carers, other children and staff must be offered, and provided with, appropriate support and counselling services.

Legislative Basis and Related Documents

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

[Coroners Act](#) s12

Practice Standards

[DCF Standards of Professional Practice](#) – 2 and 6

Authorised by:

Executive Director, Service Development and Policy on:	16/03/2015	Active from:	16/03/2015
Version 1.0	To ensure that staff are provided with information about statutory obligations following the death of a child in care.		
Review due:	March 17	Maintenance:	Policy TF.Policy@nt.gov.au

Current Version V 1.01

Active from:	6/02/2017	Authorised by:	Director, Policy
Update:	Rebranded and updated links		