

## *Policy: Children in Care during Emergency Events*

### Policy Purpose

To provide guidance on measures to be taken in relation to children in the care of the Chief Executive Officer during an emergency, such as a cyclone or flood.

### Policy Statement

For the purpose of this policy

- Children are children in the care of the Chief Executive Officer
- Carers include foster carers, kinship carers, service provider staff and Territory Families residential care staff.

Regional Executive Directors are responsible for ensuring children are accounted for during emergencies.

Carers should be advised that they remain responsible for the care and supervision of children in their care during an emergency and to call Central Intake on 1800 700 250 if they have evacuated from their normal place of residence, to ensure they remain in contact with Territory Families. Carers must advise the local office if they are unable to continue providing care during or following an emergency.

### Pre-Disaster Phase

Carers are required to develop a household plan to prepare for emergencies. The plan should be consistent with Northern Territory Emergency Services advice to the public.

Children should be moved to an emergency shelter at the appropriate time if the carer home is not coded to withstand an impending emergency event.

The Regional Executive Director is responsible for ensuring a list of all children currently in care in their region (including details of the child's current placement) has been created in the lead up to an emergency event.

### Impact Phase

Children are to shelter safely with their carers during an emergency event –in the carer's home, the residential care facility, or at a public emergency shelter. Children should be moved to an emergency shelter by the carers if their place of shelter is damaged during an emergency event. Carers should use their own judgement whether they can safely move to an emergency shelter, or require the assistance of emergency services personnel.

### Post Disaster Phase

The Regional Executive Director will identify an appropriate officer to contact all carers to determine that children in care are safe following an emergency event. If carers cannot be contacted, the children must be visited to confirm their safety.

The Chief Executive Officer is to be notified if a child is injured during an emergency.

The Chief Executive Officer is to be provided with the details of all children who cannot be accounted for within 48 hours of an emergency event.

## Legislative Basis and Related Documents

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

## Standards

[Standards of Professional Practice-5 & 6](#)

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>	Guidance on measures to be taken in relation to children in the care of the Chief Executive Officer during an emergency.		
<b>Update:</b>	Rebranded. Caseworker to Case Manager. Links updated.		
<b>Review due:</b>	March 19	<b>Maintenance:</b>	Policy TF.Policy@nt.gov.au