

Code of Conduct

for Approved Carers



Child Protection Services Tasmania

1. The home

An approved carer must ensure that the home where the child or young person will reside in out-of-home care is kept safe, clean and in good repair and is properly ventilated, lit and heated.

2. Furniture, furnishings and equipment

The home must have:

- (a) adequate furniture, furnishings and equipment for use by the children who reside at the home, having regard to their ages and physical and intellectual development and
- (b) adequate facilities for the preparation, refrigeration and hygienic storage of meals and refreshments, and
- (c) adequate facilities for the storage of equipment and bedding and for the safe keeping of the children's outdoor clothes and other personal belongings, and
- (d) sufficient equipment suitable for the indoor and outdoor recreational needs of the children, having regard to their ages and physical and intellectual development, and
- (e) access to a telephone.

3. Swimming pools

Any swimming pool at the home must be adequately fenced in accordance with Australian Standards and Tasmanian legislation.

4. Care of children

The approved carer must, in relation to each child or young person in out-of-home care, ensure that:

- (a) the health, welfare and progress of the child or young person are promoted in accord with Care Plans developed by the Agency, and
- (b) the child or young person is encouraged to participate, as far as is reasonable practicable, in the ordinary life of the community, and
- (c) the observance by the child or young person of his or her religion (if any) and the preservation of the child's or young person's cultural identity are encouraged, and
- (d) the same standards of care and discipline are applied to all children and young people residing in the home, and
- (e) significant others, including birth family, staff and other professionals are positively promoted, and
- (f) there is compliance with all conditions in the document "Building Child Safety Together : A Code of Conduct for Care and Protection", and
- (g) the personal space and privacy of children and young people are respected

5. Bedrooms

The approved carer:

- (a) must provide adequate sleeping accommodation for each child or young person who resides in out-of-home care, and
- (b) must ensure that sleeping accommodation that is provided for a child or young person in out-of-home care is appropriate for the age of the child or young person and takes into account the child's or young person's requirement for privacy, and
- (c) must ensure that:
 - each such child or young person is provided with a separate bed or cot, equipped with a clean and comfortable mattress and bed clothing that is appropriate to the climate, and
 - linen on each such child's or young person's bed or cot is changed weekly (or more frequently if necessary) and
 - adequate facilities are provided for the storage of each such child's or young person's clothing and personal belongings.

6. Study

The approved carer must ensure that each child or young person who is in out-of-home care and who is attending school or undertaking studies is provided with facilities for quiet study that are adequate, having regard to the age of the child or young person.

7. Health and medical attention

- (1) The approved carer must ensure that each child or young person in out-of-home care is supplied with such medical and dental treatment as is necessary, with permission of the Department of Health and Human Services, and
- (2) An approved carer must, as soon as possible (and, in any case, within 24 hours) after a child or young person who is in out-of-home care is admitted to hospital, notify the Department of Health and Human Services. The primary worker will ensure that each person who has parental responsibility for the child or young person (who can be reasonably located) is notified, and
- (3) If a medical practitioner recommends to the approved carer that the care or treatment of a child or young person in out-of-home care should be varied for reasons of health, the carer must use his or her best endeavours to give effect to the medical practitioner's recommendation, with the permission of the Department of Health and Human Services, and
- (4) The approved carer is not permitted to provide cigarettes, alcohol or other illegal drugs to a child or young person in the home, and
- (5) The approved carer should consult the agency before administering any medication, where it is reasonable to do so.

8. Children and young persons not to perform unreasonable duties

An approved carer must not require a child or young person in out-of-home care to perform duties that are unreasonable, having regard to a child's or young person's age and physical and intellectual development.

9. Discipline of children and young person

An approved carer must comply with the behaviour management policy of the Department of Health and Human Services.

10. Animals

An approved carer must ensure that any animal kept in the home is kept clean and well cared for.

11. Discharge of children and young people

An approved carer in whose care a child or young person has been placed must not discharge the child or young person into the care of any other person other than:

- (a) into the care of:
 - (i) a member of staff of the designated agency having the supervisory responsibility for the child or young person, or
 - (ii) an authorised carer of the designated agency having supervisory responsibility for the child or young person, or
 - (iii) a designated educational facility
- (b) with the written and/or verbal consent of the Department of Health and Human Services or the primary worker of the designated agency having supervisory responsibility for the child or young person, or
- (c) pursuant to an order of the courts having jurisdiction to make orders with respect to parental responsibility for children and young persons.

11. Confidentiality

The Approved Carer must follow confidentiality guidelines as determined by the Department of Health and Human Services

12. Review of Approval

An approved carer must agree to participate in regular review of their approval as a carer, as determined by the Department of Health and Human Services.

Agreement

As approved carers for the Department of Health and Human Services, I/we agree to abide by this Code of Conduct in respect of any child or young person placed in our care.

Signature of Applicant (1) ----- Date -----

Signature of Witness ----- Date -----

Signature of Applicant (2) ----- Date -----

Signature of Witness ----- Date -----