

---

# Care 4 Kids Program

## POLICY TRANSMITTAL



DIVISION OF FAMILY SERVICES-CHILD CARE TEAM


---

Transmittal Number: C4K-POL-07-02

Date: October 17, 2002

---

To: Lou Gettis, Program Director  
Care 4 Kids

From:   
Rita M. Pacheco, Deputy Commissioner of Programs  
Department of Social Services

CC: Policy Distribution List

Subject: Foster Children who are Parents

**Program Issue:** Child care regulations require Care 4 Kids to establish a separate family unit for children who receive foster care payments from the Department of Children and Families (DCF). A question has been raised concerning the composition of the family when the foster child is a minor parent and his or her child does not receive foster care payments from DCF.

**Background:** The rules governing family composition are contained in section 17b-749-03 of the Child Care Assistance Program Regulations. They require parents of the children for whom assistance is requested to be included in the family together with his or her minor dependents. The term parent is defined broadly to include guardians, parents by blood, marriage or adoption and individuals acting in place of the parent (*in loco parentis*). Subsection (h) establishes an exception for children who receive foster care payments from the Connecticut Department of Children and Families. It requires Care 4 Kids to establish a separate family when assistance is requested for a foster child(ren), thus excluding the foster parent and other household members from the same family as the foster child(ren).

The case in question is a three generation household comprised of a foster parent, a DCF foster child who is a minor parent under the age of 18 and the child of the DCF foster child who does not receive DCF foster care payments. The foster parent is employed. She is requesting assistance for the minor parent's child to support her work activity. DSS has been asked to clarify if the foster parent is included in the family or if a separate family unit should be established comprised only of the foster child and his or her own child.

**Policy Clarification:** The family composition rules for three generation households are contained in Subsections 17b-749-03 (f) and (g) of the regulations. Subsection (f) states that when a minor parent lives with someone acting *in loco parentis* who is not the parent or legal guardian of the minor parent that the this person must be included in the family if care is requested to support his or own activity. Subsection 17b-749-03 (h) of the regulations applies only to parents who request assistance for a child who receives foster care payments from DCF. In this case, the child for whom assistance is requested is not a foster child. Therefore, the requirement to establish a separate family unit does not apply. The foster parent is included as a member of the family. The foster child is also included because she is the minor parent of the child who needs care.

RMP:db

Department of Social Services, 25 Sigourney Street, Hartford, CT 06106-5033

*Connecticut's Lead Agency for Child Care Services*