

**CLINTON COUNTY JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES  
FOSTER CARE PROGRAM  
POLICY ON RELIGIOUS PARTICIPATION**

**POLICY:** The agency has established the following policy in accordance with Rule 5101:2-5-16 of the Administrative Code. Consideration to be given to child's religion.

- A. Every child has the right to enjoy freedom of thought, conscience, and religion. Accordingly, an agency shall demonstrate consideration for, and sensitivity to, religious background of a child in out-of-home care and of families receiving agency services.
- B. Opportunity shall be provided to each child in out-of-home care for practicing the chosen religious beliefs and faith of the child or his family unless it is determined and documented in the child's caseplan by the custodial agency that practicing the child's or family's chosen religious beliefs and faith is not in the child's best interests. A child may be encouraged to participate in religious activities, but shall not be coerced to do so.
- C. An agency shall not require a child in an out-of-home care setting to receive non-emergency medical treatment that conflicts with the religious tenets or practices of the religion of the child or parent without the specific written consent of the parent, guardian or custodian.
- D. When a child in an out-of-home care setting requires emergency medical treatment and such treatment conflicts with the religious tenets or practices of the child, parent, guardian or custodian, the out-of-home care setting shall immediately transport or arrange for the transportation of the child to a medical facility and contact the custodial agency or the individual who placed the child.

Submitted by:

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Approved by:

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John Hosler  
Director