

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
Chapter 8: Out-of-Home Care Section 49: Funeral Services		
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026	Version: 6

POLICY OVERVIEW

The Department of Child Services (DCS) considers the wishes of the family, along with Acceptable Standards, when planning funeral and burial services for a child in out-of-home care.

POLICY STATEMENT

If Child Abuse or Neglect (CA/N) is suspected as the cause of death, a report should be made immediately to:

1. The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) Child Abuse Hotline (Hotline) at 1-800-800-5556; and
2. The Local Law Enforcement Agency (LEA).

DCS will work with the child's family, or others listed in IC 29-2-19-17, to plan the funeral, burial, or cremation.

If the child's family is able and willing to pay for the funeral, burial, or cremation, they should be encouraged to do so.

If the child's family is unable to pay for the funeral, burial, and/or cremation, DCS may:

1. Give financial assistance to the family; and/or
2. Contact local funeral homes and cemeteries to arrange a basic service and burial.

DCS may provide financial assistance up to:

1. \$4,000.00 for funeral and burial costs for children not eligible for Medicaid; or
2. \$2,150.00 for funeral and burial costs for children eligible for Medicaid benefits.

Note: If costs go over the approved amount for financial assistance, a request for additional funding must be made. DCS staff will let the family know if any funding amounts are approved. All approved vendors must fill out an Automated Direct Deposit Authorization Agreement form to receive payment.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 12-14-17-2\(b\): Application of section; funeral expenses payment; preferred claim](#)
- [IC 12-14-17-3: Cemetery expenses payment; preferred claim](#)
- [IC 29-2-19-17: Priority among individuals as to right to control disposition of decedent's body and make other arrangements](#)
- [IC 29-3-5-3: Findings; appointment of guardian; limited guardianship; protective orders](#)