



TITLE	POLICY NUMBER	
Responding to Cardiac Emergencies	DCS 02-16	
RESPONSIBLE AREA	EFFECTIVE DATE	REVISION
Risk Management and Learning & Development	09/19/19	1

I. POLICY STATEMENT

The Department of Child Safety (DCS) offers cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training to provide employees with the skills needed to render immediate assistance to individuals who have experienced sudden cardiac arrest. CPR is a critical first step in improving a victim's chances for survival. It is the Department's expectation that DCS employees implement the CPR skills they have acquired when a client or co-worker experiences sudden cardiac arrest.

II. APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all DCS employees who have successfully completed Department-sponsored CPR training.

III. AUTHORITY

[A.R.S. § 8-453](#)

Powers and duties

[A.R.S. § 32-1471](#)

Health care provider and any other person; emergency aid; nonliability

IV. DEFINITIONS

Automated External Defibrillator (AED): A medical device used to treat victims who experience sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) and guide a rescuer by using a combination of voice prompts, audible alerts, and visible indicators.

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR): A combination of emergency techniques, including chest compressions, designed to restore the flow of oxygenated blood to the brain and other organs of a person who is in cardiac arrest until further measures are taken to reestablish spontaneous blood circulation and breathing.

Conventional CPR: CPR featuring chest compression and rescue breathing.

CPR Training: Training that is certified and approved by the Arizona Department of Health Services, American Heart Association, American Red Cross, or an equivalent entity.

Department or DCS: The Arizona Department of Child Safety.

Hands-Only CPR: CPR that features chest compression but not rescue breaths.

Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA): A condition that occurs when the electrical impulses of the heart malfunction, causing an interruption of blood flow to the brain, lungs, and other organs. The cause may be a heart attack or other acute event such as respiratory arrest, electrocution, choking, or trauma.

V. POLICY

A. General Standards

1. The Department shall include CPR training in the list of required trainings for DCS Case Aides and all Statewide Placement Administration employees.
2. The Department's expectation is that employees who have participated in CPR training shall administer CPR when the need arises.
3. Any DCS employee who provides CPR is protected against liability under the Good Samaritan Law defined in [A.R.S. § 32-1471](#) as long as their actions do not amount to willful misconduct or gross negligence.

4. An [Unusual Incident Report](#) shall be submitted whenever CPR is administered by a DCS employee.

B. Training

1. The Department shall include CPR training in the list of required trainings for DCS Case Aides. A mandatory component of the training is an in-person assessment to ensure that the employee has acquired the skills necessary to perform CPR.
2. Refresher training shall occur every two years.

VI. PROCEDURES

A. Responsibilities for DCS Employees Trained in CPR

1. When an individual experiences sudden cardiac arrest, DCS employees shall activate the community emergency medical response system by calling 9-1-1.
 - a. The employee shall begin uninterrupted chest compressions.
 - b. If an automated external defibrillator (AED) is available, it shall be deployed by following the instructions attached to the apparatus.
2. For Adults:
 - a. If a DCS employee is confident in their ability to provide rescue breaths with minimal interruptions in chest compressions, the DCS employee should provide conventional CPR. The rescuer should continue CPR until an AED arrives and is ready for use, or emergency medical responders take over the care of the victim.
 - b. If a DCS employee is not confident in their ability to provide conventional CPR, the DCS employee should provide hands-only CPR. The rescuer should continue hands-only CPR until an AED arrives and is ready for use, or emergency medical responders take over the care of the victim.

3. For Infants and Children:
 - a. It is imperative that conventional CPR including rescue breaths be administered.
 - b. The rescuer should continue CPR until an AED arrives and is ready for use, or emergency medical responders take over the care of the victim.
4. DCS employees shall submit an Unusual Incident Report as soon as possible after an incident involving the administration of CPR.

B. Risk Management Responsibilities

1. Review the Unusual Incident Report.
2. Compile data on the use of CPR, noting any conditions or deficiencies that may have impaired the performing of CPR.
3. Report to DCS Leadership regarding the data collected.

VII. FORMS INDEX

[Unusual Incident Report \(DCS-1125A\)](#)