

FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES
KINSHIP CARE PROGRAM FACT SHEET

<p>WHO CAN BE A KINSHIP CAREGIVER?</p>	<p>Relatives or non-relative extended family members (NREFMs) may become kinship caregivers. "Relative" means an adult who is related to a child by blood, adoption, or affinity within the fifth degree of kinship, including step-parents, step-siblings, and all relatives whose status is preceded by the words "great", "great-great", or "grand", or the spouse of any of these persons, even if the marriage was terminated by death or dissolution.</p> <p>A NREFM is defined as any adult caregiver who has an established familial or mentoring relationship with the child. If you are 21 years or older, in good health, and demonstrate an ability and interest in caring for children, you may become approved by Family & Children's Services. Single, married, divorced, and gay individuals are encouraged to apply. Same sex couples are also eligible and encouraged to apply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You do not need to own a home. • You may own or rent a house, condominium, or apartment. <p>The important thing is that you have room for a child in a safe living environment and that you can meet the child's needs.</p>
<p>WHAT IF I HAVE NEVER PARENTED A CHILD BEFORE?</p>	<p>It is not a requirement for you to have parented a child before. You must show an interest and ability to care for children. Whether you have parented a child or not you are required to attend training.</p>
<p>HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO RECEIVE APPROVAL?</p>	<p>Relative homes are exempt from some of the foster family licensing requirements, but they must go through a similar approval process. You must complete the application process. You will be required to attend an orientation. Depending on the timing of orientation, and your own motivation to complete the necessary processes; you could become approved within a few days.</p>
<p>WHAT ABOUT TRAINING?</p>	<p>Kinship caregivers are required to attend an orientation. In addition, 27 hours of PRIDE training is provided free of cost and all prospective kinship caregivers may attend. If you want to care for children under the age of 5 years who have been exposed to either drugs or alcohol (which a lot of children in our system are) you may also attend Options For Recovery classes. These are also free and total 20 hours.</p>
<p>HOW LONG BEFORE A CHILD IS PLACED WITH ME?</p>	<p>That depends on the needs of child you want to care for and the condition of your home. Foster children are entering or being moved in the foster care system on almost a daily basis. If your home needs some adjustments to accommodate a child in need, a social worker will work with you to ensure the home meets the required standards.</p>

WHAT SUPPORT WILL I RECEIVE?	<p>A social worker will make visits to see how the child is adjusting and to provide an opportunity to answer questions and discuss any concerns. Kinship caregivers are also invited to attend Coffee Connections, an informational meeting to help caregivers adjust to having a new child in the home.</p>
HOW LONG WILL A CHILD NEED KINSHIP CARE?	<p>They may need care for a few hours or a few months. Some children may need care until they are returned to their families, adopted, or until they turn 18.</p>
WHO DO I CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION?	<p>Contact the Foster Parent Recruiter at: (831) 345-2700 or e-mail primavera.art@gmail.com</p>

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