

Support for Kinship Caregivers

Grandfamilies of Utah County offers free support, advocacy, education and crisis intervention. Programs include classes for children and adults, "Friend 2 Friend" monthly social activities, and needs-based therapy and guardianship assistance. www.wasatch.org, 801-373-4765

Children's Service Society's Grandfamilies program provides free resources to those caring for grandchildren or other relatives. Programs include classes for caregivers, monthly support groups, and therapeutic counseling services. css.utah.org, 801-326-4409

Utah Foster Care provides initial training for licensed Resource Families, specific training on child development, grief and loss, and strategies for meeting children's special needs, and continued training and support as part of the Resource Family community. utahfostercare.org, 1-877-505-KIDS

Care About Childcare has information about daycare providers in your area and their qualifications. careaboutchildcare.utah.gov

United Way 2-1-1 is a statewide information and referral line that connects individuals and families to services and resources such as housing, food, childcare, transportation, financial assistance, and more. uw.org/211, or dial 211

Utah Division of Workforce Services can provide financial assistance and medical, food stamp and/or child care benefits through a Specified Relative Grant. You do not need to have guardianship or custody of the child to apply. jobs.utah.gov



Things to Know About Kinship Care

- During a child protective services case, the child's safety is our number one priority.
- It is important to understand that after a child is placed with kin, it is possible for another living arrangement to be found that is considered in the best interest of the child.
- Kin are involved with the family team in making decisions about the needs of the child, including placement.
- Our goal is for the child to return home with the parent or guardian whenever safely possible. However, a kinship caregiver may be asked to consider adoption or permanent custody and guardianship of the child if they cannot safely return home.
- Once DCFS becomes involved, the juvenile court determines whether a child will return to his or her parent/guardians, be placed in temporary custody with kin, or remain in state custody to be placed with a licensed foster family.

Your local DCFS Offices: Western Region



69 North 600 West
Heber City, UT
(435) 657-4200

1106 North 1200 West
Orem, UT
(801) 224-7820

150 East Center St
Suite 5100
Provo, UT
(801) 374-7005

44 South 350 East
Suite B
Delta, UT
(435) 864-3869

861 East 900 North
American Fork, UT
(801) 763-4100

609 N State Rd 198 S
Salem, UT
(801) 794-6700

1403 South Main
Nephi, UT
(435) 623-7207

55 West 100 North
P.O. Box 589
Fillmore, UT
(435) 743-6611

DCFS
PM 365
Aug. 2019

utah department of
human services
CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

A GUIDE TO KINSHIP CARE



YOUR CASEWORKER:

CONTACT #:

YOUR CASEWORKER'S SUPERVISOR:

CONTACT #:

YOUR KINSHIP WORKER:

CONTACT #:

YOUR KINSHIP WORKER SUPERVISOR:

CONTACT #:

Why Kinship Care?

When a child can stay within their community and culture, the trauma of removal is lessened, and outcomes for the child and family improve. This is why Kinship and Kinship Caregivers are so important to Utah children and families.

Who Can Be a Kinship Caregiver?

Kinship caregiver placements are determined by the following specific order of preference, and are subject to the child's best interest:

- 1. Non-custodial parents**
- 2. Relatives:** the child's grandparents, great-grandparents, aunts, great-aunts, uncle, great-uncle, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepparent, first cousin, stepsibling, sibling, parent's first cousins, and adults who are the adoptive parents of the child's sibling. For an Indian child, relative also includes an "extended family member" as defined by the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA).
- 3. Friends:** If relatives are not available, an adult identified by the parent or the child whom the child knows and is comfortable with may be considered. Friends must be willing to become licensed foster parents for the specific child.



Kinship Considerations

Before placing a child with you, it is important we assess the safety of the child in your home. For this reason, state statute requires that we provide information to show:

- The child is comfortable with you.
- You are committed to caring for the child as long as necessary and can provide a secure and stable environment for the child.
- A limited home inspection has been completed.
- A background screening for all persons in the home has been completed.
- Any history of abusive or neglectful behavior toward other children that may indicate or present a danger to the child.
- You recognize the parent's history of abuse, and are committed to protecting the child.
- You are able to resist inappropriate requests by the parent for access to the child, in accordance with court orders..

Questions to Ask Yourself

- Will I have family support?
- How will this impact my own children and spouse?
- Do I understand the circumstances surrounding this child's removal?
- Will I be able to let this child go back home when the time comes, or will I be able to offer this child a permanent home if necessary?
- Will I need financial assistance?
- Will I need assistance to meet the medical, dental, or emotional health needs of this child?

Options for Kinship Caregivers

Under both options, Kinship Caregivers are crucial members of the team providing for the needs of the child and family while working toward the child's safe return home.

Option A: The Kinship Caregiver becomes a Licensed Kinship Family (Foster Family Home)

- The state has temporary custody and guardianship while working with the parent(s) toward the child's safe return home.
- You will receive training to include trauma, childhood development, and how to navigate the child welfare system.
- You will receive a monthly reimbursement based on the child's needs.
- DCFS will facilitate access to specialized services and support, including Medicaid eligibility.
- Health care professionals will assist in ensuring that the child's medical, dental, and mental health care needs are met.
- Children in state custody may qualify for additional educational and therapeutic support.
- A friend designated by the parent or child must be willing to become licensed within 6 months of placement.
- Children in state custody may qualify for additional educational and therapeutic support.

Option B: The Kinship Caregiver has temporary custody and guardianship of the child

- As part of a child and family team, you will work with DCFS toward the child's safe return home.
- As the child's guardian, you may need to seek support from community resources including financial and medical assistance through the Department of Workforce Services.
- You will be responsible for ensuring the child's medical, dental and mental health needs are met, with support from DCFS.
- DCFS will assist you by making referrals to services for the child and family.
- Friends are not eligible for the Specified Relative Grant but may be eligible for Medicaid.

Steps to Becoming Licensed

- Participate in the child's family team where ongoing decisions regarding the child's placement will be made.
- Complete licensing requirements to become a Kinship Caregiver including a background check and home study.
- If approved by the Office of Licensing, you will receive a five month provisional license. A provisional license may allow the child to stay in your home while you complete additional requirements for full licensure.
- After you receive your provisional license, you must complete Kinship Foster Parent Training.
- If all the requirements for licensure are completed within 5 months of the time you receive your provisional license, you will be officially licensed as a foster parent specifically for this child.