

Resources for caregivers

TANF (monthly payments to unlicensed caregivers for eligible children in their home): Apply online at <https://www.washingtonconnection.org> or visit your local Community Services Office.

Foster care licensing: Kinship caregivers can apply to become licensed foster parents and receive a monthly maintenance payment. www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fos/ becoming-a-foster-parent, or call 888-KIDS-414.



Concrete funds:

Funds to purchase needed goods and supplies to help unlicensed kinship caregivers meet the needs of children in their care. Access through the caseworker.

Child care: Employed caregivers may access child care through the assigned caseworker.

Medical/Dental Coverage: All children in out-of-home care have medical and dental coverage through Apple Health Core Connections: 844-354-9876.

Women, Infants and Children (WIC):

www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/WIC/Eligibility or Family Health Hotline at 800-322-2588.

Training: “Kinship 101” class and other classes for caregivers can be found at www.allianceforchildwelfare.org or 866-577-1915.

Clothing vouchers, mileage reimbursement: Access through the assigned caseworker.

Native American resources:

<http://washingtontribes.org>.

Contacts

Caseworker name, phone number and email:

Supervisor name, phone number and email:

Home study worker/Licensor name, phone number and e-mail:

Assigned CA caseworker: will assist with concerns about the children placed with you and provide services and placement support.

CA Hotline: Call 866-ENDHARM (866-363-4276) 24 hours a day/seven days a week to report child abuse or neglect.

CA Office of Constituent Relations: This office can work to resolve issues. They can be reached by phone at 800-723-4831 or by email at ConstRelations@dshs.wa.gov.

Office of the Family and Children’s Ombuds: This office receives and may investigate complaints about action or failure to act for children or families involved with CA. They can be reached by phone at 800-571-7321 or online at ofco.wa.gov.

Kinship Care: Relative and Suitable Other Placement



*Partnering with
Children’s Administration (CA)*

**“I have placement of relative
children or children who are close
to me. What comes next? What
resources are available to help?”**



Transforming Lives

DSHS 22-1765 (4/18)

A child has been placed with you, now what?

Within the first 10 days of placement

A Family Team Decision Making (FTDM) meeting:

An FTDM takes place within 72 hours of children being placed in out-of-home care. Safety concerns are shared and plan is made. Caregivers are notified and invited to participate.

Court: A shelter care hearing is held within 72 hours of children being placed in out-of-home care. You will be notified and may attend.

School: Enroll children in school within three days of placement. Use placement paperwork from the caseworker.

Medical: Children need to have an initial health screen within five days of placement and a well-child exam to before their 30th day of placement.

Health and safety visit: A caseworker will visit you and the children in your home during the first week.

Background checks: All household members age 16 and over must submit and pass a background check and those age 18 and older must submit fingerprints.



What to expect

The case may transfer to a new caseworker.

Home study: The CA caseworker will make a referral to the Division of Licensed Resources (DLR), which will complete the home study. You will be required to complete paperwork and participate in home visits. An approved home study is required for continued placement of the children in your home.

The following persons will visit your home:

CA caseworker: Will visit with you and the children placed with you at least once a month. Visits are a combination of scheduled and unannounced.

CA Child Health and Education Tracking (CHET) worker in the first 30 days of placement to help assess the child's needs.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA): advocates for children in court.

Child's attorney: Some children over age 12 may have an attorney.

Visits and Services

Make the children available for visits with parents and siblings. You may be asked to assist.

Stay up to date on medical, dental and other appointments, such as counseling.

Working with the caseworker and the children's parents

Caseworker's role: The CA caseworker partners with caregivers and families to keep children safe. The caseworker makes efforts to return children to their parent; partners with families to create a case plan; and reports progress and barriers to the court.



Family dynamics: You are a family member as well as a kinship caregiver; juggling these roles may be challenging. Talk to your caseworker at monthly visits, during shared planning meetings or in a phone call or email about concerns that arise. Plan together how to best communicate with all involved.

Help navigating: Liaisons and mentors can provide guidance and support for licensed and unlicensed caregivers:

Eastern Washington: <http://www.ewu.edu/css/fostering-washington> or 877-620-5748.

Western Washington: <http://fosteringtogether.org> or 866-958-5437.