



BECOMING A RELATIVE CAREGIVER TO DCFS YOUTH

Whether you are a grandmother, uncle, older sibling, or family friend, becoming a caregiver to a child is a big undertaking. DCFS is committed to ensuring families feel well-equipped to provide a loving and stable homes for a younger member of their family.

Emergency Placements

In many instances, relatives are asked to care for a family member's child because of emergency situations. These unexpected circumstances can be challenging. If you receive a call from DCFS about placing a young family member in your care, the following steps will be taken:

1. An in-home inspection
2. Criminal records check for all adults residing in the home
3. Prior child abuse or neglect check
4. Begin the Resource Family Approvals Process

Requesting Placement of a Child

If a child in your family or extended family is currently living in foster care and you would like them placed with you, you may request a placement through the following process:

1. Inform the social worker
2. Begin the Resource Family Approval Process
3. Attend the child's court hearing

Relative Support Services

If you are a relative caregiver or nonrelated extended family member who could use some extra support, there are community organizations in your area that can help. These organizations can provide services to help you better meet the needs of the children in your care.

Some of these services include:

- Support Groups
- Caregiver Mentoring
- Child Care Referrals
- Respite Care Referrals
- Tutoring Referrals
- Legal Assistance Referrals
- Educational Opportunities
- Recreational Activities & Special Events
- Food and Clothing Referrals
- General Counseling
- Need-Based Financial Assistance
- Help with DCFS Questions

To learn more about the process of becoming a relative caregiver and the resources available to you, call (888) 694-7263 or visit www.dcfs.lacounty.gov.