



RELATIVE/KINSHIP CAREGIVING IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Whether you are a grandmother, aunt or uncle, older sibling, or a family friend, becoming a caregiver to a child or children can be a big undertaking. It may also be one of the most important decisions you make in life – to help a child and family in need.

The Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) is committed to ensuring that relative or kinship caregivers feel equipped and supported to provide a loving, stable home for a child in need that is part of their immediate or extended family.

Emergency Placements

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

- Inspection of your home for safety
- Criminal record check for all adults that reside in your home
- Check on any previous child abuse or neglect allegations
- Begin the Resource Family Approval process

Emergency funding may be available to help with the placement of the child in your home to assist with food and clothing needs.

Requesting Placement of a Child

If a child or children in your family or extended family are currently living in foster care and you would like to have them placed in your home, you may request a placement through the following process, in this order:

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

Relative Support Services

If you are a relative caregiver or nonrelated extended family member in need of support, there are community organizations in your area that can help you meet the needs of the child or children in your care. Some services include:

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

For more information, call (888) 694-7263 or visit dcfs.lacounty.gov/caregivers.