

Information Regarding Relative Placement/Support

Q1: I don't know if or how I am related to a child who is in need of foster care so what should I do?

A1: If you don't know how you might be related to a child, please contact the relative search specialist. They will be able to help you understand how you're related.

Q2: I am interested in being a placement resource for the child. What will I need to do?

A2: To ensure a safe and suitable home for a child placement, the following is required:

- Each person age 18 and older living in the home must pass a national background check.
- A caseworker will complete an initial home visit to ensure the health, safety and well-being of a child.
- A Home Study will be completed to assess each caregiver's abilities to meet the needs of the child.

Q3: A household member has criminal history. Does that mean I would not be approved?

A3: Criminal history is reviewed carefully to determine child safety. Some crimes are permanently disqualifying, but others can be considered. This can occur through looking at factors such as: how much time has passed, the age you were at the time of offense, your life as it is today, and other objective factors.

Q4: If I reside out of state, could I still be chosen for placement?

A4: There is a process in place that allows relatives who reside in another state to be considered for placement. This is called the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children, and can be explained in more detail by the child's assigned social worker.

Q5: If approved for placement and the child comes to live with me, what support is available?

A5: There are different supports available for relatives who are approved to have a child in their care. To learn more about supports for relative caregivers, visit: <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/foster-parenting/kinship-caregivers>

- Relatives can become a licensed foster parent, and while this is not required to have a child placed in your care, there is a financial benefit to becoming licensed. As a licensed foster parent, you qualify for foster care reimbursement, which is often higher than other financial aid available if you are unlicensed.
- Relatives who choose not to become a licensed foster parent can apply for Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) to access financial supports and benefits.
- Foster children may be eligible for the "Passport to College Promise Scholarship" program if they meet certain criteria. A licensed relative who later becomes the permanent placement through a guardianship may be eligible for a subsidy through Washington's Relative Guardianship Assistance Program (R-GAP).

Q6: I am unable to be a placement. Are there other ways I can help?

A6: There are many ways relatives can offer support to a child or parent if you cannot be a placement option. Please consider whether you could:

- Provide transportation for the child to visit parents, siblings or extended family.
- Provide respite (short break) for foster parents or other relatives caring for the child.
- Help provide background information or family medical history for the child.
- Help provide family pictures so we can make a picture book for the child, his/her family, or the extended family.

Relative Inquiry

Please return in the envelope provided within 10 days or submit online at
<https://bit.ly/3N1ejTT>

The case name and number will be required.

OFFICE

If you need additional space to provide relative information, please use the last page of form.

CASE NAME	CASE NUMBER	PARENT'S NAME(S)
CHILD(REN)'S NAME(S)	DCYF WORKER'S NAME	
	RESPONDING RELATIVE	

1. I wish to be a placement option or provide support in the following ways:
- Placement now Placement in the future Respite care (temporary, time limited relief for caregiver)
 - Supervising visitations Providing transportation for: Child(ren) Parents
 - Mentoring/Supports Staying in contact with child(ren) through cards, letters, phone calls, texts, emails
 - Sharing family history and culture Celebrating milestones and holidays
 - Other (provide family / medical information: _____) I do not wish to help at this time

How are you related to the child (check a box below)?

- Maternal (Mother's side) Paternal (Father's side)
- Grandparent Aunt / Uncle Cousin Step Relative
- Other Not related

NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER (WITH AREA CODE) OF PERSON SUBMITTING FORM	EMAIL ADDRESS
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2. Other family members who may be willing to help:

NAME	RELATIONSHIP TO CHILD(REN)	EMAIL ADDRESS
ADDRESS	CITY	STATE ZIP CODE
TELEPHONE NUMBER (AREA CODE)		

NAME	RELATIONSHIP TO CHILD(REN)	EMAIL ADDRESS
ADDRESS	CITY	STATE ZIP CODE
TELEPHONE NUMBER (AREA CODE)		

NAME	RELATIONSHIP TO CHILD(REN)	EMAIL ADDRESS
ADDRESS	CITY	STATE ZIP CODE
TELEPHONE NUMBER (AREA CODE)		

3. Does the child(ren) have an existing relationship with you? Yes No
 With anyone listed above? Yes No
 If yes, please explain:

4. Does this child(ren) or parents have Native American ancestry / Indian heritage? Yes No
 If yes, please explain and list possible tribal affiliations:



Relative Inquiry

Extra space if needed