

# Department of Children & Families

## Kinship Foster Parent Quick Reference Sheet

DCF would like to welcome you as a Kinship Foster Family. As a Kinship Foster Family you will face many new experiences. The Department is available to provide you with information, services and support. We believe that a strong partnership between Kinship Foster Families and DCF is essential. We are committed to this partnership. This quick reference sheet will help you generate conversation with your DCF social work team as you start your journey.

### Home Licensing Process:

- Application and Initial Eligibility
- Home safety check
- Interviews
  - all family members
- Background Record Check (BRC)
  - all family members
- Fingerprinting
  - all family members 15 and older
- References (personal, medical, employment and school)
- Home visits with the family resource social worker
- Annual evaluations
- Bi annual license renewal

### Meetings & Documentation:

#### Foster Parent attends:

- Initial placement meeting at your home or DCF office
  - Child placement agreement is signed
  - MassHealth temporary card is provided to you
- 6 week placement review, 6 weeks after placement
  - Placement is reviewed
  - Medical passport is reviewed
- Foster Care Reviews every 6 months
  - Action plan is reviewed
  - Bring all relevant documents for reference including but not limited to medical/dental records

### Child Medical Care:

#### Foster Parent and child attend:

- Medical screening with pediatrician within 7 days of placement
- Full physical within 30 days of placement
- All regularly scheduled and emergency medical, dental, and mental health appointments

### Travel, Visits with Parents & Babysitters:

- All out of state travel must be preapproved in writing by the child's social worker and supervisor
- DCF will schedule the child's supervised visits with biological parents
- All babysitters/caregivers must be preapproved by your family resource social worker and supervisor
- Contact with biological parents and other biological family members will be approved through the child's social worker and supervisor

### Child's Personal Care:

- All haircuts, piercings, and tattoos must have prior social worker and parental knowledge/consent



### DEFINITIONS:

#### Family Resource Social Worker (FRW)

This social worker is your primary DCF contact. They regularly visit your home, approve babysitters for your foster children and assist you in problem solving as foster parents.

#### Child's Ongoing Social Worker

This social worker is also known as the "ongoing" social worker and is assigned to the child in your home. The ongoing social worker will also visit the child at your home monthly.

#### Initial Placement Meeting

When a child is placed in your home, the ongoing social worker will provide you with a copy of the child's placement agreement, MassHealth number, action plan and medical passport.

#### 6 Week Placement Review Meeting

Occurs 6 weeks after a child enters placement in your home. The meeting includes the child's team to review current information about the child and family, the current foster care placement and the child's needs around safety, wellbeing and permanency.

#### Foster Care Reviews

Held every 6 months that a child is in placement. A team of social workers, managerial staff, and a community representative will review whether foster care placement remains necessary for the child; the progress being made toward the child's goal of reunification with family or adoption; compliance with the action plan; and recommendations for the case.



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## Frequently Asked Questions

### Financial Supports

#### **Will I receive a stipend?**

Checks are issued twice a month  
see foster care payment  
schedule for details.

#### **Daily rates:**

- Ages 0-5: \$24.52
- Ages 6-12: \$27.79
- Ages 13+: \$28.76

#### **Will I receive a clothing allowance for my foster child?**

Yes, quarterly in Aug, Nov, Feb, May

#### **Rates:**

- Ages 0-5: \$243.53
- Ages 6-12: \$251.18
- Ages 13+: \$302.18

#### **What paperwork do I need to fill out to receive the above stipend?**

You will receive a W9 form that your FRW will provide (also available on FosterMA Connect). Direct deposit forms will be provided by your FRW, direct deposit is the most reliable method to receive your foster care payments

#### **Is my foster child eligible for free lunch at public school?**

Yes, the school should be notified when the child is registered. The child's ongoing social worker can assist you.

#### **Is my foster child eligible for WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) services?**

All foster families with children under the age of 5 are eligible to receive WIC benefits. Call 800-942-1007 to find your local WIC office.

### Visitation/Childcare

#### **When will visits with biological parents occur?**

A visitation schedule will be set up by the child's social worker. A typical visitation schedule is once a week at the designated DCF Area Office

#### **Will the visits with bio parents be supervised?**

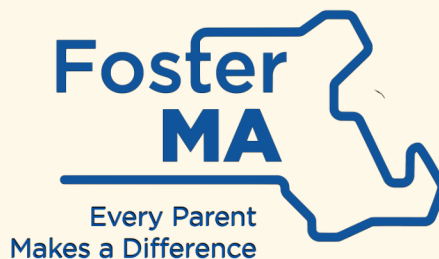
Usually visits will be supervised by DCF staff.

#### **Can I approve friend playdates and sleepovers?**

In collaboration with DCF, you can make prudent parental decisions to allow the foster child to participate in normal childhood activities

#### **What is the process to get a babysitter approved?**

If you plan to use a babysitter, you must inform your FRW. A background record check will be completed for any caretaker for the child



### Medical/Dental Coverage

#### **Will my foster child receive medical insurance?**

Yes, all children in foster care are eligible to receive MassHealth benefits through DCF.

### General

#### **Can I post pictures of my foster child on social media?**

No. Confidentiality of foster child(ren) is mandated by Federal and Massachusetts state law.

#### **Who do I call if I have questions?**

For questions about changes or updates in your home, call your FRW. If your FRW is not available, contact your FR supervisor or FR area program manager.

For questions specific to the child placed with you, contact the child's ongoing SW if they are not available contact their supervisor or area program manager.

If a serious situation arises after hours, call the Kids Net Helpline for assistance: 1-800-486-3730

