



COLORADO

Office of Children,
Youth & Families

Division of Child Welfare

KINSHIP CARE AGREEMENT

Name(s) of Child(ren)/Youth: _____

Name(s) of Kinship Caregiver(s): _____

Relationship of Kinship Caregiver(s) to Child(ren)/Youth: _____

Address of Kinship Caregiver(s): _____

Date of Placement/Living Arrangement: _____

Placing worker: _____

THIS AGREEMENT PROVIDES GENERAL REQUIREMENTS AND INFORMATION. COUNTY DEPARTMENTS OF HUMAN/SOCIAL SERVICES MAY HAVE ADDITIONAL COUNTY SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS.

Purposes:

- To address the needs of the child(ren)/youth, family and kinship caregiver(s) and to achieve the goals of safety, permanency, and well being for the child(ren)/youth.
- To provide kinship caregivers with information about their options, possible services, and the expectations of the county department of human/social services.

When a child(ren)/youth cannot safely remain at home, the first preference is to consider relatives and adults with a significant relationship for placement. The county departments of human/social services conduct a search for relatives or others with a significant relationship to the child(ren)/youth as possible placement options.

Part A: Kinship Caregiver Options

1. Children/youth may reside with a kinship caregiver temporarily while short-term and long-term plans are developed. There is no guarantee the child(ren)/youth will remain with the kinship caregiver for a longer period of time. In partnership/consultation with the family, the county department of human/social services will make recommendations regarding placement for the child(ren)/youth if needed.
2. If out-of-home placement is required and the kinship caregiver wants to continue as a placement option, kinship caregivers must decide whether to apply to be a certified kinship foster home or remain a non-

certified kinship caregiver, with the goal of assuming custody of the child(ren)/youth through the court with jurisdiction of the case.

The requirements and possible benefits for certified kinship foster care and non-certified kinship care are as follows:

Kinship Foster Care Home (the county department of human/social services retains legal custody of the child(ren)/youth and the kinship caregiver meets all requirements for a foster care home):

The county department of human/social services will assist kinship providers in the certification process. Below are some of the requirements:

- An application to provide foster care
- Background checks for all adults age 18 or older living in the home:
 - Fingerprint-based criminal history with the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
 - Child abuse/neglect records in every state where each adult has resided in the five (5) years preceding the date of application
 - Colorado Court Access database
 - CBI Sex Offender Registry and the National Sex Offender Public Website
- Structured Analysis Family Evaluation (SAFE) home study
- Home inspection
- 27 hours of pre-certification training
- CPR/First Aid
- Health evaluations for all residents in the home
- Ongoing compliance with certification requirements
- 20 hours of training annually

Possible Benefits (subject to eligibility):

- Foster care reimbursement when the kinship foster care home is provisionally or fully certified
- Medicaid for the child(ren)/youth
- TRICARE Standard military benefits for the child(ren)/youth (as applicable)
- Core services (including but not limited to home-based services, intensive family therapy, life skills, special economic assistance and county designed services)
- IV-E or state adoption assistance if there is termination of parental rights and the kinship caregiver adopts the child(ren)/youth
- Relative Guardianship Assistance Program (assistance and legal permanency)

Non-Certified Kinship Home (the kinship caregiver obtains temporary legal custody of the child(ren)/youth through the court of jurisdiction):

Requirements:

- An application to provide kinship care
- Background checks for all adults age 18 or older living in the home:
 - Fingerprint-based criminal history check with Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
 - Child abuse/neglect records in every state where each adult has resided in the five (5) years preceding the date of application
 - Colorado Court Access database
 - CBI Sex Offender Registry and the National Sex Offender Public Website
- Evaluate the non-certified kinship family addressing the areas of: safety, parenting skills, potential for permanency, needs of the kinship family, a support system, strengths and any

other areas deemed necessary by the county department. A walk through/inspection of the home to assess safety.

Possible Benefits (subject to eligibility):

- Child support from the absent parent(s)
- Social Security and/or death benefits
 - Supplemental Security income (SSI)
 - Supplemental Security for Disability Income (SSDI)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Medicaid (for the child(ren)/youth)
- TRICARE Standard military benefits (for the child(ren)/youth) (as applicable)
- Core services (including but not limited to home-based services, intensive family therapy, life skills, special economic assistance and county designed services)
- Child Welfare Child Care (dependent upon county department policy and funding)
- Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP-based on kinship caregiver's income)

Part B: Expectations of Kinship Caregivers

The kinship caregiver is expected to work with and under the supervision of the county department of human/social services. This includes participation in case planning and activities that promote reunification for the child(ren)/youth, and other responsibilities including but not limited to:

1. Transporting the child(ren)/youth to therapy; visitation with parents; school/daycare; medical appointments; or other transportation requests that may be necessary, depending on the specific needs of the child(ren)/youth.
2. Scheduling a medical examination with an Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) approved provider within 14 calendar days of placement of the child(ren)/youth and a dental examination within 8 weeks of placement for the child(ren)/youth.
3. Participating (if requested) in therapy for the child(ren)/youth and/or follow through with therapeutic recommendations for the child(ren)/youth in the home.
4. Keeping the caseworker informed about the progress and needs of the child(ren)/youth, needs or challenges of the kinship caregiver, and any other information that may impact the safety, permanency, or well-being of the child(ren)/youth.
5. Permitting telephone calls and visits to the home by the caseworker and the Guardian ad Litem.
6. Allowing parent access to the child(ren)/youth as directed by the caseworker or court order.
7. Documenting information for the caseworker regarding the visitation (when applicable), including the reaction or behavior of the parent(s) and/or the child(ren)/youth related to the visits. This responsibility occurs on a case-by-case basis.
8. Permission must be obtained from the county department or the court with jurisdiction in advance in order for a child(ren)/youth to travel outside of Colorado.
9. Complying with any and all court orders pertaining to the child(ren)/youth's needs.
10. Completing any other requirements specific to the county department of human/social services.

Part C: Discipline Policy

Discipline must be constructive or educational in nature and may include talking with the child(ren)/youth about the situation, praise for appropriate behavior, diversion, separation from the problem situation, and withholding privileges.

Discipline:

1. Children/youth have the right to basic necessities including, but not limited to food, clothing, adequate rest, and shelter.

2. Spanking and cruel/unusual punishment are not permitted. This includes but is not limited to:
 - Any punishment that is intended to cause physical pain or is inflicted upon the body of a child/youth, and/or
 - Any humiliating or frightening discipline intended to control the actions of a child/youth.
3. Punishment for toileting accidents is not permitted.
4. Verbal abuse or derogatory remarks about the child(ren)/youth, their family, race, religion or cultural background is not permitted.
5. Children/youth are allowed communication (including visitation or telephone) privileges with their family, clergy, attorney or caseworker.
6. If the discipline is to separate a child/youth from others or an activity, it must be brief and appropriate for age and circumstances.

Disregard of the discipline rules outlined in Section 7.708 of Staff Manual Volume VII is grounds for denial of the kinship application and/or may result in the removal of the child(ren)/youth from the home. Discipline or lack of supervision that results in physical injury or abuse to a child/youth may result in criminal charges and/or removal of the child(ren)/youth from the home.

Acknowledgement:

I/We have been informed of our options and their requirements, services that we may be eligible for, and expectations of the county department of human/social services including the discipline policy. I/We agree to comply with any policies that the county department of human/social services requires and all laws of the State of Colorado.

Additional Agreement(s) or Requirements from the County Department of Human/Social Services: Requirements may be outlined below or entered on an addendum and attached to this agreement.

Provider _____ Date _____

Provider _____ Date _____

Witnessed by Caseworker (or other placing party named above):

_____ Date _____