

Welcome to
Resource
Family
Orientation



RESOURCE
FAMILY
APPROVAL



KERN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF
**Human
Services**
Opportunity. Options. Empowerment.





Families
Formed With
Love

Handprint Artwork by Kern Foster Children ©

**If this slideshow does not begin automatically, please press F5 to begin.
View this slideshow by clicking your mouse to advance forward or by using
your arrow keys.**

Kern County Department of Human Services

Opportunities, Options & Empowerment

Our Vision:

We create remarkable experiences building resiliency, safety, value and respect. We are passionate and committed to transforming the lives of those we serve and those who serve.



Our Mission:

We partner with children, individuals, families and the community to provide customer centered services.

We work to ensure safe, protected and permanent homes for children.

We actively assist individuals as they prepare for employment.



What is the Purpose of Foster Care?



- The purpose of foster care is to keep children safe while in out-of-home care with a **Primary** goal of returning them safely to their parent/guardian.
- Concurrently, child welfare services are provided to ensure a child has a permanent home **IF** they cannot return to their parent/guardian.
- **Unlike Adoption Agencies that focus solely on matching families.**

Annually about 89.11% of children in our care are reunified with their parents (Statistics from the last six years)

Who can foster or adopt?

- Single or Married
- All races, ethnicities, ages or gender identities
- Related or unrelated



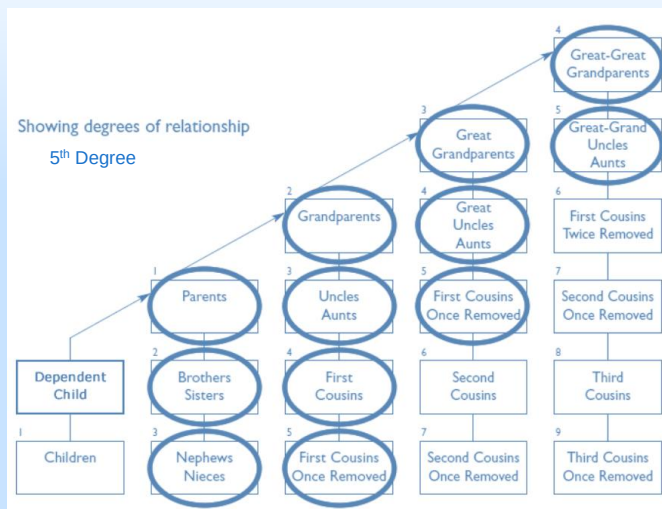
What about relatives?

Related

Preferential Relatives (within 5th degree)

- Grandparents, aunts & uncles, and adult siblings have **PRIORITY** for placement until disposition of case
- After these relatives, the preference is for family friends or others that the child has a relationship with
- If placement with a relative/family friend is not possible the goal is for children to maintain contact with family if possible.

The Department attempts to place with relatives first



What is a Resource Family Home?



- **Specialized Care**
 - Mental, Physical & Behavioral Needs
 - Additional training & funding may be available

- **Emergency Foster Care**
 - Immediate, short term care, children ages 0-17 years
- **Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)**
 - Children with tribal affiliation placed with members of the tribe
- **Ongoing Care**
 - Children, youth & sibling sets of all ages, especially older youth
 - Temporary or Permanent



Why be a Resource Parent?

- Being a resource parent is as challenging as it is rewarding
- Opening your family to a child, youth or sibling group may make a positive difference in their lives
- **If this sounds interesting to you, then it's time to explore the idea of becoming a resource parent...**



Why are Children in Foster Care?

Dependent Children of the Court (Under WIC 300)

- 👤 Removed due to child maltreatment by parent or guardian
- 👤 Goal is reunification with parents or maintain stable placement for permanency

Wards of the Court (Under WIC 600)

- 👤 Removed due to delinquent behavior and the home is not suitable
- 👤 Goal is rehabilitation, reunification and permanency

Both agencies want the same outcome:

Permanency

Only when a child cannot reunify with their parents



KERN COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

TR Merickel
Chief Probation Officer



Who are the Youth in Foster Care?

Probation Foster Youth

- Youth are typically 13-17 years old
- Similar to Child Welfare, if these youth do not have a suitable home, care, custody and control can be vested with the Probation Department.
- When this happens, the youth is identified as a foster youth and is eligible for all foster care services and support.
- While deemed a Ward of the Court, most just need a Resource Family for stability and success.



If you are interested in being a Resource Family for a Probation Youth, please let the Social Workers or Deputy Probation Officer know

KERN COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

TR Merickel
Chief Probation Officer



Juvenile Probation

Placement-Foster Care

- Placement Officers are responsible for the supervision and placement of Wards of the Court whose care has been vested with the Probation Department. These youth reside in out-of-home care including; STRTP and Resource Family Approval homes. In addition to ensuring that the orders of the Court are followed, Placement Officers are responsible for adhering to state and federal policies and procedures in assuring the placement and safety of the youth. Our Mission is rehabilitation, reunification and/or Permanency.



Who are the Children in Foster Care?

- 👤 Children who may have experienced:
 - Neglect or abandonment
 - Physical, emotional or sexual abuse
 - Victims of Human Trafficking
- 👤 All age groups: 0-17 & non minor dependents
- 👤 Teen parents with their babies
- 👤 Babies born with prenatal drug or alcohol exposure
- 👤 Special Medical Needs children



There are over 1,000 county approved resource families. Families open to placement of older youth and children with special needs are particularly in need.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8UXm1M0tGxo>

Who are the Children in Foster Care?

Cultural Considerations

- 👤 Race & Ethnicity
- 👤 Religion
- 👤 Nationality
- 👤 LGBTQ Youth
 - Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender & Questioning
- 👤 Native American & Eskimo
 - ICWA (Indian Child Welfare Act)



Who are the Children in Foster Care?

Youth Preparing to Live Independently

Independent Living Program – Transitional Living Plans

Foster Youth need your help to prepare for Independent Living!

- Employment
- College
- Self Reliance
- Ongoing Positive Relationships



Transition to Adult Living

Non-Minor Dependents (NMD)

Assembly Bill (AB) 12

- Young adults may leave foster care at age 18, but receive services until age 21
- NMDs need your help!
 - Mentoring/family connections
 - Housing
 - Guidance with college or vocational training



Dream Center Services

What do Children in Foster Care Want?

Foster Children & Youth want to stay connected to family and . . .

- ✿ Love their parents and want to be together as a family
- ✿ Need a caring home with unconditional love
- ✿ Want to feel safe in an environment that supports personal growth and identity (cultural sensitivity & religious freedom)



Roles of Resource Parents and Agencies

- *Resource Parent*
- *Child Protective Services (CPS) Social Worker*
- *Juvenile Probation Officer*
- *Resource Family Approval Social Worker*

What is the Role of a Resource Parent?

- ✓ Encourage reunification with parents/guardians
- ✓ Be ready to provide a permanent family when reunification is not possible
- ✓ Give children/youth a safe, stable and nurturing environment
- ✓ Encourage and supervise school participation & attendance



What is the Role of a Resource Parent?

- ✓ Help children/youth cope with trauma of abuse and separation from his/her home
- ✓ Mentor the child's birth parents
 - When possible and appropriate
- ✓ Maintain family connections
 - When in a child's best interest
 - Encourage and support visits with birth family
 - Even after adoption is finalized



What is the Role of a CPS Social Worker (SW) Juvenile Probation Officer (PO)



Each child is assigned a CPS SW or PO:

- Arrange and make placement decisions
- Monitor a child in foster care
- Case manager for the child and family
- CPS SW/PO is Resource Parent/Family's link to the agency and court.

What is the Role of a Resource Family Approval Social Worker (RFA SW)?

Each Resource Family has an RFA SW:

- Process Applications
- Make Approval Decisions
- Monitor for Compliance with State Regulations
- RFA SW is your link with California Department of Social Services (CDSS).



Checking the smoke alarm

Applicant Qualifications & Requirements

- Must be at least **18** years of age
- Must be in good physical and mental health
- Willing to assist youth in preparing for adulthood
- Use effective parenting skills with children who have been victims of abuse/neglect.



Juvenile Court Process

Child Protective Services: Child Dependency
Juvenile Probation: Wards



Child Welfare Court Process

- A youth is removed from his/her parent(s) or guardian(s) due to substantiated allegations of child abuse or neglect.
- Detention Hearing – Court decides if a child will remain in foster care while it is determined if allegations are true and what the plan for the family will be.
- Jurisdictional/Dispositional Hearing – Allegations are found true, found partly true, or found untrue. If any are found true then it is determined whether Family Reunification, Family Maintenance, Another Planned Permanency Living Arrangement (AAPLA) or Adoption is the appropriate plan for the family
- Review Hearings – Every 6 months to evaluate progress of the parents in their case plan or the child in his/her permanency plan if parents are not receiving services
- 366.26 Hearing – Determine the appropriate permanency plan of Adoption, Guardianship, Fit and Willing Relative, or AAPLA

KERN COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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Juvenile Probation Court Process

What is different for care vested wards?

- A youth is arrested for committing an offense and temporarily detained in Juvenile Hall
- W&IC 600 Detention Hearing – Continues detention in Juvenile Hall
- W&IC 600 Dispositional Hearing – Care, Custody and Control is taken and youth is ordered a rehabilitation plan. An appropriate placement for the youth is sought.
- W&IC 600 Permanency Hearings – Every 6 months to evaluate progress of youth's rehabilitation and progress toward reunification and/or permanency.



What are a Child's Permanency Options?

- Goal is for a child to reunify with their parent/guardian(s) whenever possible.
- If a child cannot be returned home after 12-24 months, the law requires that a permanent plan be made for the child.
- You may be given the option of providing a permanent family for a child or assisting a child in moving to a permanent family.

Permanency Options:

- Adoption
- Legal Guardianship
- APPLA
(Another Planned Permanency Living Arrangement)
- AB-12 placement for ages 18-21



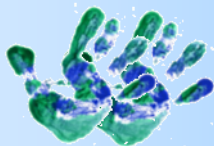
81.5 million Americans have considered adoption.

**If just 1 in 500 of these adults adopted, every waiting child in foster care would have a permanent family.-
Dave Thomas Foundation*

Resource Family Approval

Comprehensive Assessment

From Orientation to Written Report



State of California's Written Directives for Resource Family Approval (RFA)

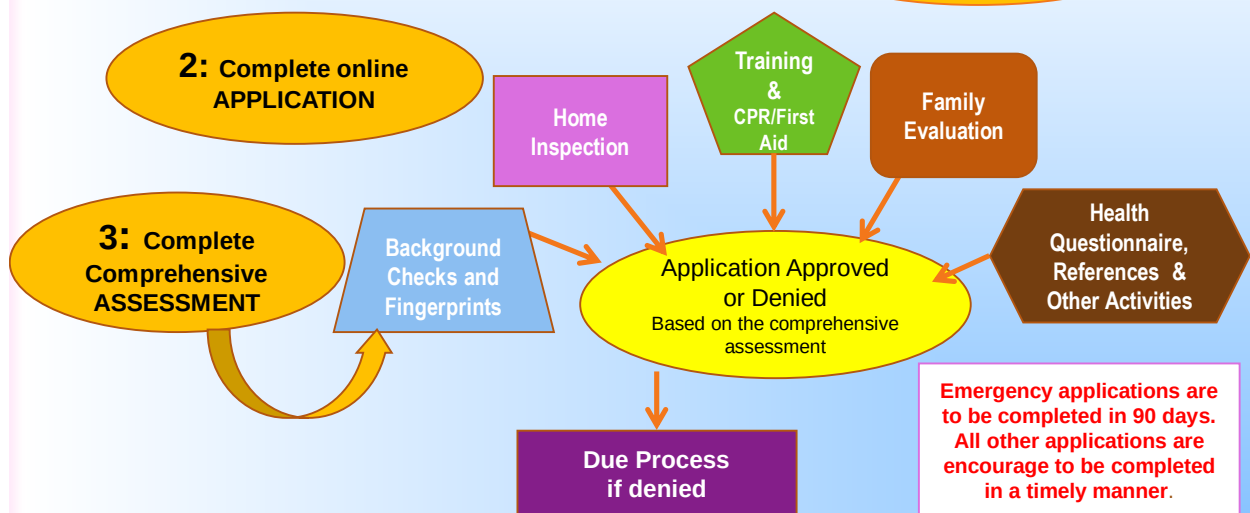
- California Department of Social Services (CDSS) is the state authority responsible for establishing and maintaining standards for resource family homes and child care institutions. <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/Resource-Family-Approval-Program>
- Resource Families are approved per the CDSS Written Directives.
- Once approved, a Resource Family is eligible to care for related and unrelated children in out-of-home placement.
- An approved Resource Family is approved for adoption or legal guardianship as well as ongoing fostering.

RFA Comprehensive Assessment Process ...Starts with

1: ORIENTATION

2: Complete online APPLICATION

3: Complete Comprehensive ASSESSMENT



RFA Comprehensive Assessment Process

HOME ENVIRONMENT ASSESSMENT



BACKGROUND CHECKS

- All adults (18 years and older) residing, or regularly present, in the home must complete a background check.
- A review of an individuals state and federal criminal record information will be completed.
- All substantiated allegations of child abuse and severe neglect listed on the Child Abuse Central Index (CACI) will be reviewed and assessed.
- All adults residing or regularly present in the home that have lived in another state within the last five years will be required to complete an Adam Walsh clearance.
- Additional Clearances:
 - CPS Clearance, Megan's Law registered sex offender clearance, Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) check for an applicant or any adult residing in the home.
- Clearance of prior licensing history and criminal record exemption denial or rescissions maintained by other agencies.
- Criminal Exemptions are subject to review and are granted or denied.
- The Resource Family Approval **"RFA Background Assessment Guide"** is available as a resource for the RFA background check procedures. <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/Resource-Family-Approval-Program>

RFA Comprehensive Assessment Process

Home Environment Assessment

The home health and safety inspection is a health and safety assessment of the home, grounds, outdoor activity space, and storage areas. In addition, a review of the applicants ability to care and supervise children.

The home inspection consist of but not limited to:

- Living area (fireplace/heater, carpets, and furniture clean and in good repair)
- Bedrooms (linens, lighting, furniture, closet/drawer space)
- Kitchen area (food, knives, cleaning supplies)
- Bathrooms (safe, clean, & operating)
- Yard (free from hazards & debris)
- Guns/weapons & ammunition (safely stored)
- Pool/bodies of water (made inaccessible)
- Capacity limited to 6 children in the home including adopted, biological, guardianship, and children of a Non-Minor Dependents (18 years - 21 years old) per home
 - Capacity will be determined by your RFA social worker in consultation with you



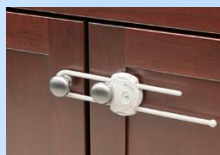
RFA Comprehensive Assessment Process

Home Environment Assessment

Preparing for a Home Inspection

Child Proof Your Home

- Install safety devices
- Prevent access to dangerous items!



First Aid Kits

- First Aid Kit
- First Aid Manual



PET Recommendations

- Vaccinations
- License



RFA Comprehensive Assessment Process

Home Environment Assessment

Preparing for a Home Inspection

To help you prepare for the Home Inspection...

The following slides provide:

1. Examples of homes with hazards to a child's health/safety.
2. Examples of homes ready for inspection.



How to prepare for the home assessment?

The following slide help you prepare for the home assessment.

Is your home clean, safe, sanitary, and in good repair?



Think – SAFETY!

Unsafe items in child's reach, counters & tables too cluttered to clean or use

What should a prospective child's bedroom have?



1. Applicant(s) should ensure that each prospective child's bedroom have an operable window or door that ensures a safe, direct emergency exit to the outside
2. Applicant(s) shall ensure there is appropriate bedding for each individual child.
3. Applicant(s) shall ensure each child has sufficient storage space.

How to store cleaning solutions, poisons, and dangerous weapons?

Resource Families shall ensure that all poisons such as pesticides, paint products, antifreeze and other dangerous items are stored in a locked storage area or out of the child's reach

Resource Families shall ensure that firearms and other dangerous weapons are stored in locked container such as lock box or gun safe.
Note: In lieu of Locked storage resource families may use trigger locks or cable locks as described in penal code section 16860.



All Household items such as knives, medications, and cleaning solutions should only be accessible to children if age appropriate and monitored.



Ammo must be stored in a locked container, separate from firearms.

NOT Acceptable



Blocked door, items hanging or stored in child's reach

ACCEPTABLE



Clean/safe access to sports items and recycling.

What about the outdoor activity space?



What are the safety regulation for swimming pool?

Examples of Covers



Resource families or applicant(s) shall ensure that swimming pools, fixed-in-place wading pools, hot tubs, spas, and similar bodies of water are secured and inaccessible to: Children under 10 years of age; a child/NMD and parents of a child/NMD who is developmentally, mentally or physically disabled. Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard shall be taken into consideration as well.

Example of Pool Enclosure



Resource families or applicant(s) shall ensure pool safety using of the following:

- 1. Pool enclosure (Fences)
- 2. Certified Safety pool cover. (All pool enclosures and covers are subject to health and safety codes 115921,115922,115923.)

Note: Exit alarms may only be used if it is not structurally possible to use an enclosure or cover.

What about ponds, creeks, or fountains?



Resource families or applicant(s) shall ensure secure and creeks, ponds, fountains, lakes etc. using of the following:

1. Enclosure or cover
2. Certified Safety pool cover. (All pool enclosures and covers are subject to health and safety codes 115921,115922,115923.)

A resource family shall apply the reasonable and parent prudent standard, as set forth in Written Directive section 11-12, when securing any body of water and the level of access a child has to it.

Note: Exit alarms may only be used if it is not structurally possible to use an enclosure or pool cover.

RFA Comprehensive Assessment Process

Training Requirements

- CPR & First Aid* (661-319-1836)
- Initial and every 2 years for approved home/family
 - *CPR/First Aid must be completed within 90 days of RFA Approval
- FREE Pre-Approval Training (661-395-4991)
 - 12 Hour Course – Certificate provided upon completion
 - Mandated Reporter Training
- FREE Annual Training (661-395-4991)
 - 8 hours required annually

ALL training is offered online



RFA Comprehensive Assessment Process

Requirements for Applicants

✓ Health Questionnaire

- Each Applicant must submit a Health Questionnaire.
 - Applicants Medical History and Medications
- As deemed necessary, the county reserves the right to require an applicant to complete a health screening from a health professional to verify the applicant is in good physical health.
 - Health screening from a health professional may be used if not more than one year prior to the date of the application.



RFA Comprehensive Assessment Process

Family Evaluation

A minimum of 2 in-person interviews with applicants
(most often in the home):

- One individual interview of each applicant
- One joint interview with both applicants (if applicable)
- A minimum of one separate face to face interview with all other persons residing in the home (example: other adults and children).
- These conversations allow for more thoughtful matches of children and families

If an applicant refuses to participate in an interview, the County shall deny the application



RFA Comprehensive Assessment Process

Permanency Assessment

Willingness and suitability to provide permanency (foster, adoption, legal guardianship) to a child or non-minor dependent at the time of undergoing RFA process.

Please note: While RFA includes a general permanency assessment, when a specific child's case goes to adoptions, there may be additional requirements to assess suitability as a prospective adoptive parent for that child. You may collect the documents below and provide them to the RFA social worker for future use in an adoption.

➤ May include Health Screening, marriage certificate, and divorce decree

RFA Comprehensive Assessment Process

Reference Letter Requirements

- 2-3 Reference Letters
 - Criminal exemptions will require 3 reference letters
- Of your good character and ability to provide a safe environment
- From a co-worker, neighbor and close friends (can not be someone in the same household)
- We will contact your references by phone, mail and/or email



RFA Comprehensive Assessment Process

Final Written Report

- Summary and analysis of the comprehensive assessment and a determination of applicant's capacity to foster
- Agency and applicant receive a copy
- Provides approval or denial of application



Funding Benefits

- **Emergency Caregiver Funding:** Emergency Assistance is available for relatives that are caring for relative children on an emergency or compelling reason placement.
- **Foster Care** funding is reimbursement provided to a caregiver on a monthly basis to care for a child placed in a resource home. Medi-Cal is available.
- **Approved Relative Caregiver Funding Option** is a program for approved relative caregivers with whom an eligible child is placed that will be able to receive a payment equal to the basic foster care rate. Medi-Cal is available.
- **Adoption Assistance Program (AAP)** Payments provides financial and other supports to help adoptive families meet the basic and unique needs of children in care, including Medi-Cal and monthly payments until age 18. In some circumstances, if the youth has a disability, the AAP payments and Medi-Cal may continue to age 21.
- **Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment (Kin-GAP)** Program offers financial assistance and Medi-Cal for a child who is placed with an approved relative legal guardian. The payment cannot exceed the amount the child would have received if he/she remained in foster care.

For funding to care for a specific child, please speak to the child's assigned social worker/primary worker.

Resource Family Application

If Your Application is Denied

- You will receive a notice of action and instructions for appealing the decision.
 - If the decision is not appealed on or before the due date, the action will be final.



Reasons to deny may include, but are not limited to:

- Inability to cooperate or failure to meet requirements.
- Non-exemptible criminal record or child abuse allegations of a serious nature.
- Home did not meet Buildings & Grounds standards, per RFA Written Directives and Health & Safety Codes.



Adoptions Process

Court Process

Finalization



At any point in time there are more Resource Families interested in pursuing adoption than the number of children in foster care in need of adoption.

Adoption Court Process

- **Disposition or Reunification Review Hearing**

- Court terminates **REUNIFICATION SERVICES** to Parents
- Sets Selection and Implementation 366.26 Hearing within 120 Days

- **120 Day Child Assessment**

- Prior to 366.26 hearing, Adoption social worker determines child's best interests for permanency (adoption, guardianship, or another planned permanent living arrangement)
- Visitation with parents continues
- Court report supports recommendation to terminate parental rights and identifies prospective adoptive parent or legal guardian

- **Selection and Implementation 366.26 Hearing (Adoption/Guardianship)**

- Court terminates **PARENTAL RIGHTS** & visitation (for adoption cases)
- Court orders legal guardianship to be established and case is closed
- Parents may appeal within 60 days

- **Post Permanency Review every 6 months**

- Court continues dependency & services until adoption is finalized
- Placement and child's needs are monitored

- **Adoption is Finalized**

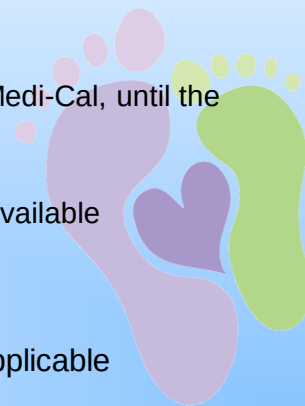
- Court dependency is terminated and the case is closed



Adoption Process

Caregiver requirements needed to finalize adoption

- Must be at least 10 years older than child (exceptions)
- Pre-adoption/post adoption services are available
 - Including Adoption Assistance Program assistance, and Medi-Cal, until the child is 18 (or up to age 21 if certain conditions are met)
 - Social Worker remains assigned
 - Counseling, case management, and support groups are available
- Must provide verification of all marriages & dissolutions
- Must address child support, inheritance issues, etc.
- Must address plan for post-adoption sibling visitation, if applicable



Adoption: Questions You Should Ask

To ensure the child coming into your home has the best possible chance of adoption, ask these questions before accepting a foster care placement:

1. **Have the parents lost previous children to adoptions?**
 - Often the court will not order reunification.
 - These children usually have a greater likelihood of adoption.
2. **Have relatives come forward requesting placement of the child?**
 - The Department always attempts to place with relatives initially
 - Relatives have preferential consideration if they apply for placement before the disposition hearing.
3. **Did the parents claim Native American Heritage & Does ICWA apply?**
 - Agency will make **ACTIVE EFFORTS** to place the child with a relative or Native American family/Tribe.

****Anyone only interested in adoption should look into Private Adoption Agencies which have less risks, but are also costly. Feel free to contact Foster Family Agencies that may be of assistance and a good fit for your interests.****



Adoption Process



Finalization Process

- All of children's records are given to adopting parents
- Caregiver signs adoption assistance documents
- Legal documents are signed and approved
- Child may have new legal name
- Child now has a forever home!
- You may be contacted about participation at Child Family Team Meetings if child's siblings come into care after adoption finalization

POST-APPROVAL



- Overview of important regulations from California Department of Social Services' Written Directives

Post Approval Responsibilities

Biennial Updates

Approved Resource Families are assessed every 24 months

RFA Social Worker will remain your ongoing worker and will schedule:

- Home environment check
- Annual Training Completed
- RFA Written Report update

Other Updates: Relocation or New Person in the home

- Always notify RFA Social Worker AND Placement Social Worker when planning to move and provide new address
 - Home inspection must be approved in advance, and no more than 30 days from date of address change, or funding may be terminated
- Always notify RFA Social Worker of any significant changes in your home such as: Someone moving in or moving out



Post Approval Responsibilities

Post Approval Training (661-395-4991)

- 8 hours annually (online, virtual and in-person)
- CPR & First Aid (every 2 years)

Resource Parent must report:

- ✓ Injury or illness requiring emergency medical attention or hospitalization
- ✓ Report any suspected child abuse/neglect (661-631-6011)
- ✓ ANY unusual incident or absence (including runaway)
 - Contact RFA social worker **AND**
 - Contact child's primary social worker



Post Approval Responsibilities

General Requirements

- Ensure children receive ongoing medical, dental and educational services
- Maintain first aid supplies
- Maintain children's records and keep confidential
- Two telephone numbers and, if available, two email addresses for 24-hour contact. Telephone service must be working at all times:
 - Can be cellular, internet, or landline
 - Shall be accessible to a child/NMD unless prohibited by court order (reasonable restrictions must be approved by the placement worker)
- Emergency telephone numbers in a prominent location in the home



Kern County is committed to the Quality Parenting Initiative and ensuring all children receive excellent parenting, which includes collaboration and partnerships with everyone in the child's team.

Post Approval Responsibilities

General Requirements

- Maintain a hard copy emergency binder in the home containing
 - Child/NMD's information, including, name, date of birth and any medical conditions;
 - As applicable, a child/NMD's current health care and mental health care provider names and contact information, including 24-hour contact numbers;
 - Contact information for the child/NMD's social worker and placement agency;
 - 24 hour contact information for the county child welfare agency or probation department.
- You may ask the child/NMD's social worker for a "My Journey" binder for each child/NMD placed in your home.

Post Approval Responsibilities

General Requirements

• Comfort Calls

- Per Welfare and Institutions Code Section 308(a) the bio- parents SHALL be given a phone number the child can be reached at
- The phone number listed as your primary contact will be provided, unless you provide an alternate
- Goal: To make a connection and work as part of the same team for the child.
 - Ask about child's medical needs, allergies, favorite foods, routines, favorite shows, nicknames, etc...



Post Approval Responsibilities

ABSOLUTELY NO CORPORAL PUNISHMENT!

- Spanking another parent's child is physical assault!
- Foster children have suffered physical and emotional abuse; spanking repeats the abuse!

PROHIBITED

- Spanking,
- hitting,
- slapping,
- hair pulling,
- pinching,
- kicking, etc.
- No corporal punishment of birth child *in front of foster child.*



Post Approval Responsibilities

Discipline is necessary!

Consider other approved strategies:

- Time out
- Remove Privileges
- Positive Discipline
- Behavioral Management
- Counseling – Whole Family



Post Approval Responsibilities

OCCASIONAL SHORT-TERM BABYSITTER

- Resource parent may arrange for the occasional use of a short-term babysitter (less than 24 hours at a time)
- For care exceeding 24 hours at a time:
 - On an occasional basis only
 - Caregiver must be 18 or older
 - Cannot exceed 72 hours without social worker or probation officer approval
- Respite care, temporary care of the child in another home, can occasionally be provided but must be approved, in advance, by the child's social worker or probation officer.



Post Approval Responsibilities

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Provide opportunities for and encourage a child's participation in group sports, clubs, school activities, etc.

- Include your foster child in family vacations and weekend trips
- Create a Life Book
 - *Scrapbook a child's stories, photos, artwork*
- Encourage journaling
- Allow your foster child to dream!



Post Approval Responsibilities

PERSONAL RIGHTS OF FOSTER CHILDREN

A Resource Parent shall ensure that each child is accorded the following personal rights:

- Safe, healthful and comfortable accommodations
- Independence appropriate to the child's age, maturity and capability
- Free from corporal or unusual punishment
- Unless prohibited by a court order, or placement agency, a child may acquire, possess and use their own cell phone

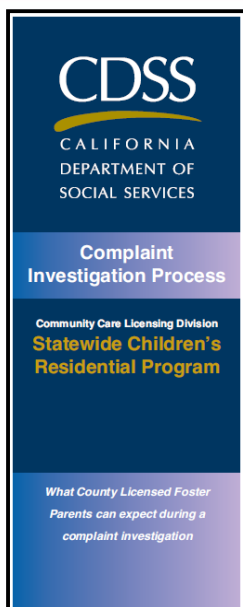


In Packet

Post Approval Responsibilities

Resource parents are held to the “Reasonable and prudent parent standard”

- Making sensible decisions that protect the child while at the same time encouraging their emotional and developmental growth.
- Encourages considering the best interest of the child at all times.
- In making decisions about the child consider the following:
 - (1) Age, maturity, and developmental level of a child.
 - (2) Nature and inherent risks of harm of the activity.
 - (3) Best interests of a child based on information about the child such as their developmental level or behavioral tendencies.



Brochure in Packet

Post Approval Responsibilities

A County shall monitor Resource Families as follows:

1. Conduct biennial updates and be available to answer questions or address concerns.
2. Investigate complaints against, or made by, a Resource Family.
3. When needed, work with a Resource Family to develop plans to correct identified concerns.
4. Ensure Resource Families are treated with dignity and respect.

Post Approval Responsibilities

Approval may be rescinded for:

- False or misleading statements to maintain approval
- Violation of any applicable law or the Written Directives
- Conduct threatening the health and safety of child/NMD
- Using Child/Youth/NMD funds/property/services for personal benefit or in a way not consistent with the child's best interests

If your approval is rescinded:

- You will receive a notice of action and instructions for appealing the decision
 - If the decision is not appealed on, or before, the due date, the action will be final





RFA Application

- eAdopt Online Application
- 5 Step Process
- Important Information
- Due Process
- Assistance Available

Resource Family Application Process

Kern County uses the eAdopt web based system

- Online application process
- Assigned via email
- Assigned to an RFA social worker who will assist you through the process

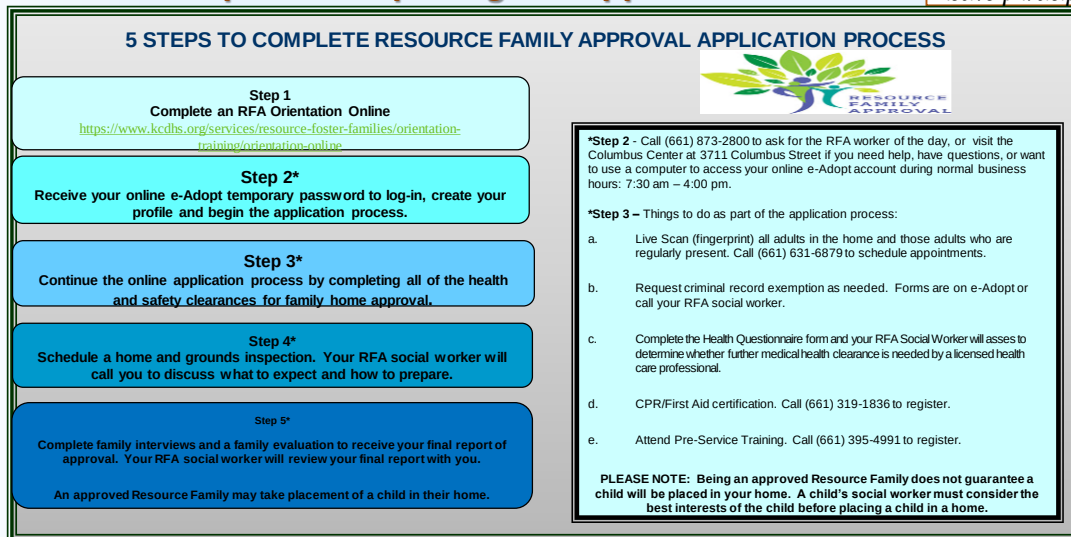


Options for assistance:

- If no computer, or internet access, your assigned RFA social worker will assist you with the process
- A worker of the day is also available to help with the application

Resource Family Application Process 5 Steps to Completing the Application Process

The application process times vary and are dependent upon your active participation.



Resource Family Application Process Online or Paper Application

- Provide your email address to RFAinbox@kerndhs.com after completing the online orientation.
- You will receive a link to access and set up your personal account. You have 48 hours to access the link before it expires. You may have your password resent by asking your RFA Worker or email RFAinbox@kerndhs.com.
- Complete and submit an online application. A Social Service Worker will be assigned to further assist with your application.
- Email RFAinbox@kerndhs.com to request a paper application.

Resource Family Application Process

E-Adopt web based system

- Provide your e-mail address during the Orientation
- You will be emailed a temporary password
- Create your profile
- Complete the application
 - State requires an original signature on the application
- Follow your application progress online
- If no computer access, a paper copy will be made available or a computer kiosk is available at Columbus Center
- If you have any questions you can call 661-873-2800.

State of California - Health and Human Services Agency California Department of Social Services

RESOURCE FAMILY APPLICATION

County Use Only
County: _____

Instructions: This is an application for Resource Family Approval by a County. Please type or print clearly.
☐ Application ☐ Other (Specify): _____

I. APPLICANT(S): EACH APPLICANT MUST COMPLETE A CRIMINAL RECORD STATEMENT RFA 918.

Applicant One:		Applicant Two:	
First	Middle	First	Last
Previous Name Used: *Including maiden name		Highest Level of Education Completed	
Date of Birth	Gender	Race/Ethnicity	Driver's License Number
Email Address (Optional)	Cell Phone Number	Home Phone Number	
Name/Address of Employer	Work Phone Number	Occupation	Annual Income

Applicant Two:		Applicant Three:	
First	Middle	First	Last
Previous Name Used: *Including maiden name		Highest Level of Education Completed	
Date of Birth	Gender	Race/Ethnicity	Driver's License Number
Email Address (Optional)	Cell Phone Number	Home Phone Number	
Name/Address of Employer	Work Phone Number	Occupation	Annual Income

If more than one applicant, what is your relationship? Please check one
☐ Married ☐ Domestic Partnership ☐ Related (Family Member) ☐ Cohabitants ☐ Other _____

RFA 21A (7/18) (Mandatory) (Confidential) Page 1 of 8

eAdopt Application Process

- Printing forms at your convenience. (i.e. LiveScans, Health Questionnaire etc.)
- Scanning and uploading all required documents (i.e. Picture ID, income verification, etc.)
- View important documents (i.e. Home Health & Safety Assessment etc.)
- Have access to documents that can be useful (i.e. Tips on how to prepare for your home assessment)
- Receive important emails regarding your application status and reminders of yearly trainings.
- Keep track of your application status.

For additional information please contact your Resource Family Social Service Worker

Paper Application Process

- Provide your mailing address to RFAinbox@kerndhs.com
- A paper application and required forms will be mailed out to you with a self addressed envelope.
- You can mail your signed application in the self addressed envelop or drop it off in person at the drop box located at 3711 Columbus Avenue Bakersfield, Ca 93306.
- Once an application is completed and received you will be assigned a Resource Family Approval Social Service Worker.

State of California - Health and Human Services Agency California Department of Social Services

RESOURCE FAMILY APPLICATION

County Use Only
County: _____

Instructions: This is an application for Resource Family Approval by a County. Please type or print clearly.
☐ Application ☐ Other (Specify): _____

I. APPLICANT(S): EACH APPLICANT MUST COMPLETE A CRIMINAL RECORD STATEMENT RFA 918.

First		Middle		Last	
Applicant One:					
Previous Name Used: *Including maiden name				Highest Level of Education Completed	
Date of Birth	Gender	Race/Ethnicity	Driver's License Number		
Email Address (Optional)		Cell Phone Number	Home Phone Number		
Name/Address of Employer		Work Phone Number	Occupation	Annual Income	

First		Middle		Last	
Applicant Two:					
Previous Name Used: *Including maiden name				Highest Level of Education Completed	
Date of Birth	Gender	Race/Ethnicity	Driver's License Number		
Email Address (Optional)		Cell Phone Number	Home Phone Number		
Name/Address of Employer		Work Phone Number	Occupation	Annual Income	

If more than one applicant, what is your relationship? Please check one:
☐ Married ☐ Domestic Partnership ☐ Related (Family Member) ☐ Cohabitate ☐ Other

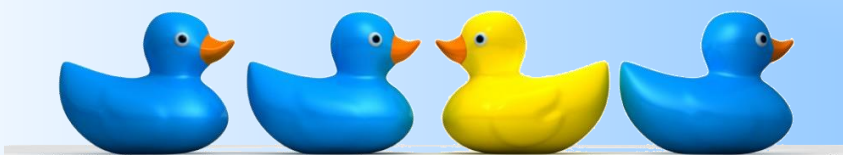
RFA 918 (7/18) (Mandatory) (Confidential) Page 1 of 8

Resource Family Application Process

Every application is unique!

Time frames for completion and approval vary . . .

- Some applications are processed faster...
- Some go more slowly...
- Timelines may depend on an applicant's circumstances and how quickly they complete the required steps such as training or providing required documentation
- If you have any questions please feel free to email RFAinbox@kerndhs.com or call 661-873-2800.





Resource Family Application

What you need to know!

- **Approval is not automatically granted.**
 - An applicant's comprehensive assessment must meet Written Directives to be approved.
- **Receiving approval does not guarantee a child will be placed in your home.**
 - A child's social worker or probation officer makes placement decisions.
 - Placement decisions are made in the child's best interests.
 - Application process times vary
 - Emergency placements follow a more strict timeline due to California State Requirements

Resource Family Application

DUE PROCESS

If a Resource Parent, applicant, or individual receives a:

1. Notice of denial or rescission of approval,
2. Notice of exemption denial or rescission,
3. Notice of exclusion,

that person may **appeal** the decision by **requesting a state hearing**.

If the decision is not appealed on, or before, the due date, the action will be final



Resource Family Application Process

*If this seems
overwhelming,
we are here
to help you!*

RFA staff are available to answer your questions and help you access eAdopt on a visitor computer.

- Call (661) 873-2800 to ask for the RFA worker of the day.
- Call ahead before visiting the Columbus Center at 3711 Columbus St.



Our Children Are All Unique!

Siblings want to stay together, to reside in the same resource family.

Children with medical needs require specialized care.

Older children & youth need permanent families
as much as younger children!

Juvenile Probation youth need support!

Thank you for attending Resource Family Orientation!



