



Arkansas Department of Human Services Division of Children and Family Services

Notice to Fictive Kin that a Child Has Been Taken into DCFS Custody

To: _____

Address: _____

From: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Date: _____

Dear _____,

You have been identified as an individual having a strong, positive, emotional tie to _____ and a positive role in _____'s life. Pursuant to A.C.A. §9-28-107, this is your notice that this child is now in the custody of the Arkansas Department of Human Services' Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS). DCFS has removed or is removing the above-named child from the home of _____. We believe that relatives and other individuals with whom a child shares a positive, meaningful relationship play an important role in a child's life, especially a child who must be temporarily cared for by someone other than a parent. Children do better when they can temporarily live with or stay connected in other ways to people who know and care about them.

We are contacting you as someone who could offer services needed by _____ and/or his or her family such as offering a temporary home for or otherwise supporting _____ by staying in contact while he or she is in custody. In the next few days, I or someone from my agency will call you to review your options for helping to care for _____.

If you would like to temporarily bring the child into your home, you may ask to become a Provisional Foster Parent. DCFS may approve your home as a Provisional Foster Home after conducting (1) a health and safety check, which includes background checks, and (2) a visual inspection of your home. Requesting to be considered as a possible Provisional Foster Home, does not guarantee that you will be asked or approved to ultimately serve as a Provisional Foster Home for _____.

If your home is opened as a Provisional Foster Home, you may receive benefits if you qualify after the child is placed in your home, such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP—formerly known as food stamps). DCFS may also provide daycare assistance if appropriate. The child will receive medical insurance.

Within six months of becoming a Provisional Foster Home, you must meet all other foster home requirements including attending foster parent training. If you are approved as a Regular Foster Home, DCFS will provide all services and supports available to every child in foster care, such as monthly board payments for the child.

If you are not approved as a Regular Foster Home within six months of becoming a Provisional Foster Home, then one of the following must take place: (1) You must receive permanent custody of the child, or (2) Your Provisional Foster Home must be closed and the child must be removed.

If you are not able to provide a temporary home for _____, there are other ways for you to stay involved in his or her life and maintain important connections.

We will call you in the next few days to explore your options, but feel free to contact me sooner. My phone number and email address are listed above. We need to communicate with you at your earliest convenience by phone, mail, email, or in person, to determine if you are interested in (1) Participating in the care and placement of the child, (2) Becoming a foster parent, and/or (3) Visiting the child. Contacting me will help ensure that you do not lose the opportunity to connect with _____ now or in the future.

Signature