

# AM I NOTIFIED WHEN MY RELATIVE IS PLACED IN FOSTER CARE?

During the first 30 days that a child is in the custody of the Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS), the agency works hard to find and provide notice to all grandparents, aunts, uncles, and siblings ages 21 and over who are related to the child by blood, adoption, or marriage.

DCFS also will mail a notice to any other adult relatives named by the parents of the child or the child. DCFS also may notify "fictive kin." Fictive kin are people who know the child well and have a positive role in the child's life, like a coach, neighbor, or close family friend.

## HOW CAN I LEARN MY RELATIVE IS IN FOSTER CARE?



A DCFS worker will notify identified relatives via a mailed letter that explains the child has been removed from the parent. The letter also will give you the steps to become a provisional foster home or regular foster home for the child, as well as other options to remain in the child's life.

If you do not receive a letter but find out the child is in foster care, then you should call the DHS office in the county the child was living in. You will need to provide ID and explain how you are related to the child. Background checks will be run to confirm the relationship.

You also have the option of visiting the DHS office in the county the child was living in. The same information will be needed, and the same steps will be taken to confirm your relationship to the child. The worker also will ask the child if it is OK for you to be involved, if the child is old enough to ask.