Provisional Foster Care 101

A relative or fictive kin can become a provisional foster parent -- during or after office hours -- once a 72 hour hold has been taken by DCFS. The provisional relative or fictive kin must agree to ensure the child’s health and safety needs will be met.

Relatives are grandparents, step parents, half siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins, or siblings ages 21 and older

Fictive kin are people 21 and older who are not related to the child, but have a strong and positive emotional tie to the child such as a teacher, neighbor, or godparent

Immediately upon taking a 72 hour hold, the Family Service Worker will ask the parent and child who they think would be the best placement for the child

The parent and/or child should provide contact information for the relative or fictive kin so the Resource Worker can immediately begin the process to pursue them as a provisional home*

Relative/Fictive Kin Steps to Become a Provisional Foster Home

Provide information to the Resource Worker for background checks on all applicable family members in the home

Allow the Resource Worker to assess the appropriateness of the relative or fictive kin and conduct a visual inspection of the family home

Allow the Resource Worker to make sure licensing standards are met or waived if a non-safety standard

Read and understand "Keeping Families Together: Serving as a Foster Parent for Your Relative"

Financial Assistance

The child may be eligible for day care and other services while the family remains provisional

Relatives & fictive kin may apply for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and TEA

The child will have Medicaid as long as the family remains provisional and once the family becomes a fully approved foster home

Provisionals are not eligible for board payment assistance until they become a fully approved foster home

If you would like to become a fully licensed foster home all of these requirements must be completed within 6 months of the child’s placement in your provisional home

Complete 30 hour foster parent training

Complete CPR and First Aid Training

Submit to FBI fingerprints

Participate in a SAFE home study

*After hours contact the Area Director to run the background checks