

What are the Differences Between the Types of Placement?

	PROVISIONAL	TEMPORARY CUSTODY	PERMANENT CUSTODY	GUARDIANSHIP	ADOPTION
Eligibility Requirements	Applicant must pass background checks and a home inspection for space and safety. Applicant must complete full home study requirements and PRIDE training within 6 months and become a fully approved standard foster home.	Applicant must participate in completion of a home study that will include review of financial stability, adequate space in the home, presence of any environmental concerns, criminal history, child abuse history and driving records.	Applicant must participate in completion of a home study that will include review of financial stability, adequate space in the home, presence of any environmental concerns, criminal history, child abuse history and driving records.	If home study has already been completed when becoming a foster home or temporary custodian, there are no additional requirements for a standard guardianship once the child's permanency goal has been changed to guardianship. To qualify for guardianship subsidy both reunification and adoption must be ruled out and the child must have lived with the relative as fully approved foster home provider for at least 6 months (i.e. temporary custodians do not qualify for a guardianship subsidy). TPR is not required for a standard or a subsidized guardianship.	If a home study has already been completed when becoming a foster home or temporary custodian, there are no additional requirements for adoption once the child's permanency goal has been changed to adoption and TPR for both parents has occurred. Only relatives and fictive kin who previously served as a foster home provider for the child qualify for an adoption subsidy assuming the child meets the special needs definition for an adoption subsidy.
Goal	Child is able to achieve residential stability in a familiar environment. Provisional placement must be willing to support reunification efforts such as weekly visitation with parents and DCFS staff visiting the provisional home routinely.	Child is able to achieve residential stability with a temporary legal custodian. Temporary legal custodian must be willing to support reunification efforts such as weekly visitation with parents and DCFS staff visiting the legal custodian's home routinely.	Child is able to achieve permanency and is no longer in state custody. Child has an opportunity to stay connected with biological family.	Child is able to achieve permanency and is no longer in state custody. Child has an opportunity to stay connected with biological family.	Child is able to achieve permanency and is no longer in State custody. Child has an opportunity to begin a new life with a forever family.
Financial Assistance	Board payment begins monthly after provisional becomes an approved foster home. Provisionals must be able to care for the child during the interim. Board payment amount is based on the	Temporary legal custodian is ineligible for any subsidy or board payment. Temporary legal custodian does not have the option of reassessing financial ability after obtaining temporary legal custody. All current and	Legal custodian is ineligible for any subsidy. Legal custodian does not have the option of reassessing financial ability after obtaining legal custody. All current and potential subsidies are forfeited once custody is	If eligible, the guardianship subsidy is given at a rate equal to the foster care board payment, unless a special subsidy is already in place or requested.	If eligible, the adoption subsidy is given at a rate equal to the foster care board payment, unless a special subsidy is already in place or requested.

	age of the child. Provisionals are eligible for daycare vouchers.	potential subsidies are forfeited once custody is transferred.	transferred.		
Financial responsibility	The provisional placement has full financial responsibility for the child until the home is approved as a standard foster home. DCFS provides a monthly board payment upon approval as a standard foster home.	The temporary legal custodian is legally and financially responsible for the child.	The legal custodian is legally and financially responsible for the child.	The legal guardian, whether receiving a subsidy or not is legally and financially responsible for the child.	The adoptive parents, whether receiving a subsidy or not is legally and financially responsible for the child.
Eligibility of Medicaid	Child is eligible for foster care Medicaid and all medical needs are the financial responsibility of DCFS during the provisional placement.	Temporary legal custodian must add children to private insurance or assess other medical coverage through the Marketplace. All Marketplace eligibility (including Medicaid) is based on the resources of the temporary legal custodian.	Legal custodian must add children to private insurance or assess other medical coverage through the Marketplace. All Marketplace eligibility (including Medicaid) is based on the resources of the legal custodian.	IV-E eligible children and siblings receive coverage. Guardian must apply for coverage at the local county office for non IV-E eligible children. All Marketplace eligibility (including Medicaid) is based on the resources of the guardian.	IV-E eligible children and siblings would receive coverage. Adoptive parent must apply for coverage at the local county office for non IV-E eligible children. All Marketplace eligibility (including Medicaid) is based on the resources of the adoptive parent.
Eligibility for other services	Provisionals may contact specialized agencies in community for additional services outside of daycare vouchers. DCFS may provide information on community services available.	Temporary legal custodian may contact specialized agencies in community. No subsidy or other form of support is available. DCFS may provide information on community services available.	Legal custodian may contact specialized agencies in community. No subsidy or other form of support is available. DCFS may provide information on community services available.	Guardian may contact specialized agencies in community. If receiving a subsidy, the guardian may contact the permanency specialist regarding post-guardianship services.	Adoptive parents may contact specialized agencies in community. If receiving a subsidy, the adoptive parent may contact the local adoption specialist regarding post-adoptive services.
Agency Involvement	Provisional must continue to meet yearly foster home licensing requirements after becoming a fully approved foster home to continue receiving a board payment. Provisional will also have routine contact from DCFS staff.	Temporary legal custodian agrees to routine contact by DCFS staff in their home for the duration of an open DCFS case.	Legal custodian agrees to routine contact by DCFS staff in their home for the duration of an open DCFS case.	Once guardianship is awarded, DCFS does not continue visits to the home. If receiving a subsidy, the guardian must submit an annual report in order to continue receiving payments.	Once adoption is finalized, DCFS does not continue visits to the home. The adoptive parents are not required to submit an annual report.
Relationship with birth parents	The birth parents have continued rights to weekly contact with the child	The birth parents have continued rights to weekly contact with the child unless	The birth parents can petition the court to have visitation or have the child	The birth parents can petition the court to have visitation or have the child returned to	The adoptive parents have the right to determine if the child will

	unless there is a Court order to the contrary.	there is a Court order to the contrary.	returned to them.	them.	have any relationship with the birth parents. Legally all ties with the birth parents are severed.
Rights of the caregiver	DCFS maintains the legal right to make decisions regarding school, health care and other major life decisions. If TPR has not occurred the birth parent has a right to consent to adoption.	Temporary legal custodian will have the right to make decisions regarding school, health care and other major life decisions. If TPR has not occurred the birth parent has a right to consent to adoption.	Legal custodian will have the right to make decisions regarding school, health care and other major life decisions. If TPR has not occurred the birth parent has a right to consent to adoption.	Guardian will have the right to make decisions regarding school, health care and other major life decisions. If TPR has not occurred the birth parent has a right to consent to adoption.	All decisions are made by the adoptive parents.
Documentation	CFS 452 (provisional foster home verification) and the child's medical passport establishing the provisional as the physical caregiver for the child.	The court order granting temporary legal custody.	The court order granting legal custody.	The court order granting legal guardianship.	The court decree finalizes the adoption.
Consent of the child	Child is consulted as age and developmentally appropriate regarding the provisional placement though consent is not required.	Child is consulted as age and developmentally appropriate regarding the custody arrangement, though consent is not required.	Child is consulted as age and developmentally appropriate regarding the custody arrangement, though consent is not required.	Child is consulted as age and developmentally appropriate regarding the guardianship. Each child 12 and older must consent to the guardianship.	Child is consulted as age and developmentally appropriate regarding the adoption. Each child 12 and older must consent to the adoption.
Duration of subsidy	N/A	No subsidy is available for temporary legal custodians. Eligibility for services through specialized agencies is based on the temporary legal custodian's resources and applicant information. Any party choosing to become a temporary legal custodian is ineligible for use of any DCFS provided resource after taking temporary legal custody (cannot return and ask for financial assistance from DCFS later).	No subsidy is available for legal custodians. Eligibility for services through specialized agencies is based on the legal custodian's resources and applicant information. Any party choosing to become a legal custodian is ineligible for use of any DCFS provided resource after taking legal custody (cannot return and ask for financial assistance from DCFS later).	If guardianship was finalized for a child 16 years or younger then subsidy ends at 18. If the guardianship is finalized for a child 16 years or older, then the subsidy may extend until 21 if eligibility requirements are met. Subsidy may be extended to age 21 if the child has a disability that warrants subsidy continuation regardless of when guardianship was finalized.	If adoption was finalized for a child 16 years or younger, then subsidy ends at 18. If the adoption is finalized for a child 16 years or older, then the subsidy may extend until 21 if eligibility requirements are met. Subsidy may be extended to age 21 if the child has a disability that warrants subsidy continuation regardless of when adoption was finalized.
Legal name	The child retains his/her own legal name.	The child retains his/her own legal name.	The child retains his/her own legal name.	The child retains his/her own legal name.	The adoptive parents determine the child's legal name.

Death of adoptive parent/guardian or termination of adoption / guardianship	N/A	N/A	N/A	A child for whom a guardianship subsidy was received may not remain eligible for a guardianship subsidy when he/she is orphaned due to the death or incapacity of his/her guardians unless a successor guardian was named in the initial guardianship agreement.	A child adopted with adoption assistance remains eligible for adoption assistance when he/she is orphaned due to the death of his/her adoptive parent/s parental rights. He or she can continue to receive adoption assistance if adopted by someone else.
Inheritance	N/A	N/A	The child has no rights of inheritance from the legal custodian unless the child has been included in the legal custodian's will.	The child has no rights of inheritance from the legal guardian unless the child has been included in the legal guardian's will.	An adopted child has all the same rights as birth children when the adoptive parent does not have a will.

This document was created to provide a general summary of differences and similarities between placement and permanency types. The information is not inclusive of all requirements for each placement and permanency type. For a complete list of all requirements for each type please see the DCFS Policy Manual.