PROVISIONAL FOSTER HOMES

Relatives may be able to become a provisional foster home after DCFS conducts:

- A health and safety check, including background checks
- A visual inspection of the relative’s home to make sure it is a safe place for the child and that it meets certain rules called licensing standards

Provisional foster homes do not receive financial assistance to help care for the child. However, the child will have medical insurance provided by the State.

The child is still in DCFS custody (foster care) even if you become a provisional foster home. You must follow court orders, and the child’s DCFS worker should come to visit the child at least once a week during the first month and at least once a month after that.

During your time as a provisional foster home, you must work to become an approved foster home within six months of the child being placed with you. As soon as your home is approved as a foster home, you will be entitled to all services and supports available to every child in foster care, such as monthly payments for each child.

TEMPORARY CUSTODY

You may request that the judge award temporary custody of the child to you to keep the child from being in foster care. Even if you receive temporary custody, the court and DCFS will still be involved in the decisions related to the child’s case. DCFS will try to reunite the child with his or her parents.

If temporary custody is granted, you will not get monthly financial support from DCFS for the child, although additional support like daycare or Medicaid for the child are available. You will not be eligible to later become a provisional foster home for the child.

Source: 2017 DCFS Annual Report Card