

# HOW DO I BECOME A PROVISIONAL FOSTER HOME?

We want to keep children connected to their families while they are in foster care. In an effort to preserve families' connections and placement of children, a child may be placed in foster care with a relative or fictive kin if one has been identified and is appropriate. This type of placement is classified as a "Provisional Foster Home". The purpose of opening a provisional foster home is to help DCFS make a quick and safe placement for the child with a relative or person, like a coach or godparent, with whom a bond already exists.

1

The caseworker will ask the parent/guardian of the child or the child (if old enough) to name relatives or fictive kin who they think can care for their child to be evaluated for placement.

2

The caseworker will then contact the identified relatives or fictive kin to ask if they are interested and willing to foster the child. The worker will help them complete the required forms.

3

Another worker, known as the resource worker, will conduct: (a) an expedited Child Maltreatment Central Registry Check, (b) an expedited State Police Criminal Record Check, (c) a vehicle safety check, and (d) a visual inspection of the home.

4

The resource worker also will submit an FBI Criminal Record Check. Results do not have to be received before opening the provisional foster home, but results must be received and clear within six months.

5

The caseworker will ask the child (if old enough) how he or she feels about the placement and consider whether the child will thrive as a part of the relative's or fictive kin's family.

6

If it is determined that placement with the family is in the best interest of the child, the caseworker will place the child in the provisional home for a maximum of six months.

7

The relative or fictive kin must work with the resource worker to become a regular foster home within six months of the child being placed in their home. Otherwise, a new placement must be found.