

You are identified by a parent or caregiver as a relative or fictive kin who might provide a resource home to help keep a child safe.

Kinship Resource



Relatives

Grandparents, stepparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, siblings, and half-siblings over 21.

Fictive Kin

Adults over the age of 21 who had a close, positive relationship with a child before the child needed to come into care.



You are contacted by DCFS & a home visit is scheduled



Background Check

DCFS brings forms for your background checks to see if you or your family members have a history that would prevent you from becoming a resource parent.

Visual Inspection

DCFS does a visual inspection of your home to see what minimum standards you meet and where you might need to make changes to come into compliance.



At the home visit



Placement

If background checks and visual inspections are okay, the child is placed in your home.

If an area does not meet standards DCFS may ask for an "alternative compliance."

Approval

State-level checks with results can be completed same day.

FBI Checks Initiated – may take several weeks for results but placement can still occur before these results are back.



You are now a Provisional Resource Home

You will get a monthly board payment for each child. The amount varies based on child's age. You will also receive:

Child Care

Medicaid

Clothing Voucher

Next Steps



You are referred to the 12-hour ARKinship Connect training through MidSOUTH or another training provider.



A detailed home study is initiated while you are in training. The goal is that training and the home study are completed within 30 days of when you start training.



If DCFS approves the home study, there is a final walk through to open your home as a fully approved relative or fictive kin resource home.



If all steps are completed in 6 months, board payments go until the child leaves your home. If not done in 6 months, board payments stop until steps are complete.

Monthly board payments can be expected no later than the 15th of the month following approval. Payments will be pro-rated based on the child's time in your home. Consider signing up for direct deposit to access your board payment more quickly!

Board payment amounts:

Ages 0-5	\$451
Ages 6-11	\$484
Ages 12-14	\$517
Ages 15+	\$550



Last Step

You will also need to complete First Aid/CPR Training within six months of being opened as a provisional resource home but this does not have to be completed in order for you to start receiving your monthly board payment for the children placed in your home.

