



Practice Points

Relative Resource Home Placements

The purpose of this Practice Point is to provide a reminder to staff regarding utilizing kin and relatives as placement providers for children placed in CD Custody. Section 210.565, RSMo, requires the Division to give preference and first consideration for foster care placement to a relative of a child.

A child may be placed in a kinship/relative home prior to licensure, but only after the following is completed:

- A safety inspection of the home,
- Child Abuse/Neglect screening, and
- MULES check (emergency CODE X if not a planned placement)

All adults in the household 17 years of age and older must submit fingerprints within 15 days of emergency MULES check. If they do not comply, the child must be removed immediately from the home.

The relative/kin can choose to become licensed as a relative/kinship resource provider. They do not have to become licensed for the child to remain in their home; however, they will only be eligible for maintenance payments if they become licensed. The relative/kin have to meet the same licensing standards and training requirements as non-relative foster parents.

The resource worker has 90 days to complete the relative/kinship licensing process. The resource provider can receive maintenance payments during the 90 day licensure process. After licensure is complete and the PP contract is signed and entered in the system, the relative/kinship provider will be eligible for Professional Parenting Payments as long as they meet the training requirements.

Placement with relative or kinship/close personal friend should be considered continually, not only during initial placement.

For further reference:

[Foster/Kinship Family Assessment - Resource Family Assessment and Licensing Process - Section 6 Chapter 3 CWM , Resource Development](#)