

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P. O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

March 21, 2019

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: CHILDREN'S DIVISION AND CONTRACTED STAFF  
FROM: DAVID B. KURT, DIRECTOR  
SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR RELATIVE RESOURCE PROVIDERS

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this memorandum is to introduce a new tool, *A Guide for Relative Resource Providers*, which is to be provided to relative resource providers at the time a foster youth is moved into their home.

Work is ongoing to explore and understand the challenges encountered and supports necessary for stable relative placements. Relative providers are often asked to provide care for relative children without prior consideration of this possibility or after having provided care in the role of grandparent or family member on an infrequent or temporary basis. As a result of becoming the full-time caregiver, the relative has numerous new expectations imposed on them by the Children's Division and the court resulting in a shift in their relationship with the child. Additionally, the relative must maneuver a different and often challenging relationship with the biological parent of the children. Comprehensive support to relative providers results in their feeling valued, sustaining and preserving the relative placement.

*A Guide for Relative Resource Providers* equips relative providers with basic information about foster care by providing information about the most common questions asked by individuals who have no prior knowledge of the Children's Division's practice, policy and requirements. The tool provides contact information for the child's worker and supervisor, licensing worker and supervisor, the Guardian ad litem, as well as other local resource information such as schedules and locations for support groups, child care and medical/dental provider information and clothing closet information. The tool provides relative providers with concise information in the form of a checklist regarding the requirements to become licensed and the expectations of the Children's Division and court and prompts them to ask questions about benefits provided to them and the children they are caring for.

Anticipate additional changes to the relative support policy and practice forthcoming as this essential work in promoting and engaging relatives continues to be a priority.

**NECESSARY ACTION**

1. Review this memorandum with all Children’s Division staff.
2. Review revised Child Welfare Manual chapters as indicated below.
3. All questions should be cleared through normal supervisory channels and directed to:

**PDS CONTACT**

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573-522-9306  
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**CHILD WELFARE MANUAL REVISIONS**

(List or put N/A if not applicable.)

**FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS**

[CD-70 A Guide for Relative Resource Providers](#)

**REFERENCE DOCUMENTS AND RESOURCES**

(List or put N/A if not applicable.)

**RELATED STATUTE**

(List or put N/A if not applicable.)