



PA20-RD-01

# Practice Alert

## Relative Resource Placement Consideration

According to Missouri Revised Statute 210.565 a **“Relative”** for the purpose of providing foster care services is a grandparent or any other person related to another by blood or affinity **or a person who is not related to the child but has a close relationship with the child or the child’s family.**

The following shall be the order or preference for placement of a child under RSMo, section 210.565

- (1) Grandparents;**
- (2) Adult siblings or parents of siblings;**
- (3) Relatives related by blood or affinity within the third degree;**
- (4) Other relatives; and**
- (5) Any foster parent who is currently licensed and capable of accepting placement of the child.**

When identifying a potential “relative” resource placement provider, who is not related by blood or affinity, consideration shall include the following factors:

1. Who would the parent and foster youth most want to care for the foster youth;
2. Who does the parent and foster youth most often turn to in time of crisis;
3. Who has cared for the foster youth in the past when parents were unable to; and
4. With whom does the foster youth have a close relationship?

After identifying a potential “relative” resource placement provider, who is not related by blood or affinity, the worker should ask the family (parents and child, if appropriate based on age and maturity level) to describe the relationship with that individual/family to ascertain the familiarity of the relationship and ensure a close family-like relationship does exist. These discussions should include exploration of the following:

- Provider’s relationship to the foster youth and length of involvement with the family;
- Description of the provider’s involvement with the family, i.e., provided care for the foster youth and/or parent, assisted the family through crisis, provided moral support, member of church or community organization, neighbor, etc.; and

- Whether the potential provider ever resided in the home with the parent or foster youth and, if so, how long and when.

If it is determined the potential “relative” placement, who is not related by blood or affinity, while committed to providing care for the child(ren), does not have a close family-like relationship, the non-related potential placement resource must be fully assessed as a non-relative resource parent placement completing the required training and home assessment.

Policy regarding relative placements is located in [Section 4, Chapter 2 \(Placement\)](#) of the Child Welfare Manual.

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