

S-256 ASSESSMENT AND SUPERVISION OF KINSHIP AND KITHSHIP FOSTER FAMILIES



In this document, the non implicit gender applies to both men and women.

Version 4 effective October 20, 2008

(previously FA-08)

Policy

Despite the fact that the placement of a child in a kin or kith foster family is often done in an emergency situation, the foster family must be recognized as a safe place before or at the time a child is placed in care. The worker must have visited the residence to ensure that it conforms to the requirements of the physical and safety assessment. The worker must also have met with the parents to ensure that they are able to provide adequate care to the child.

Kinship and Kithship foster parents are the Agency's partners, as are regular foster parents. They have rights and obligations as outlined in the policies, guidelines and procedures for placement in a foster family.

In the event that a child must be placed in a kin or kith foster home for a period of more than three months, staff members must perform a complete assessment of the foster family as quickly as possible and in accordance with the current requirements of S-255 "Assessment of a Potential Foster Family". At that time, kin or kith foster parents may make a request to become a regular foster family. They must, of course, meet all of the requirements of the assessment of regular foster families.

Procedure

1. Assessment of a kin or kith foster family in case of emergency

Both the Supervisor and the Child Protection worker must recognize the residence as a safe place prior to approving the family as a kin or kith foster family. If the decision is made to take the child into our care (as opposed to supervision order) the potential foster family's file will subsequently be assigned to a Residential Services worker in order to complete the assessment following the requirements of the "Foster Care License".

To determine a safe place

Prior or at the time of placement, the worker must :

- The protection services worker must meet at least once with all members of the kin or kith foster family over six years of age;
- Visit the residence to ensure that it meets with the requirements of the physical inspection. The Housing Requirements Verification Form must be completed and signed by the kin or kith foster parents;

- Obtain the candidates' consent and verify whether they have a file with the Child Protection Services relating to child abuse or neglect;
- Obtain written consent from all adults in the family to perform a criminal record verification. The documents are to be forwarded as quickly as possible to the administrative assistant responsible for requesting criminal histories;
- Provide the foster parents with the phone numbers for the Agency and the 24/7 Emergency Service;

Following Approval as a Safe Place:

Following the designation of place of safety, if the child is taken in care, the Protection Services worker will create a referral for the family in the spectrum rating 83 (assessment). The worker will complete a *Child Data Form* or, in the event of a placement disruption if the child is already in care, an *Information Change Form* for the child. The allowances for clothing, spending money and other pre-approved expenses incurred for the child will be refunded at any time during placement.

During the assessment process, the family will receive a per diem at the rate of \$10/day to help with the cost of care.

Once the assessment is completed, the family will receive a per diem at the rate of \$20/day.

When the family will have completed the basic training, it will receive the per diem at the rate set on the first echelon of the regular per diem grid.

If the family refuses to undergo a complete assessment or if they do not meet the requirements of a foster family, other measures may be proposed and approved by the Supervisor.

2. Planned Assessment of a Kin or Kith Foster Family

When the placement of a child in a kin or kith foster family is planned, the worker may make a request for assessment to the Residential Services Supervisor. The assessment may be assigned to a Resource worker. The reference classification for this service will be 83A (application) if the protection worker has not begun the assessment process. A Resource worker will perform any assessment of a kin or kith foster family that is ordered by the Court.

3. Complete Assessment

Upon transfer of the file to Residential Services, the resource worker assigned to the file will complete the assessment of the kin or kith foster family within 60 days following the child's placement.

4. Training

Although kin and kith foster families are required to participate in the pre-service training program, the Ministry allows for some flexibility in the way it is offered.

5. Supervision and follow-up of kin and kith foster families

Policies and procedures such as the annual reassessment, quarterly contact, supervision and support, recognition, complaints by or about foster families all apply to kin and kith foster families.

6. Compensation

Kin and kith foster parents receive a per diem set by the Board of Directors. This per diem includes the majority of expenses related to child care. In addition, they receive monthly allowances for clothing, birthday and Christmas presents, and spending money for the child. The Agency will reimburse the cost of health-related expenses such as medical and dental directly to the health professional. The maximum per diem that the family can receive is at echelon A0 of the regular compensation grid.

In rare instances, the child's worker and his supervisor may authorize an additional per diem and/or reimburse other expenses. This decision is based on the child's needs and the financial situation of the kin or kith foster family.

7. Training for Child Protection Services staff and Supervisors

The Residential Services Supervisor and staff responsible for assessing foster families will offer the required training to Child Protection Services staff in order that they may complete all relevant requirements included in the policies and procedures concerning the assessment of kin and kith foster families.

Definitions, annexes and references

Definitions

Kinship (kin) or Kithship (kith) Foster Family: This family generally takes into care a child with whom they have a significant bond, such as a nephew/niece, neighbour or cousin. The requirements of the assessment take into consideration that the family is being approved for a specific child.

Parents : The term "parents" includes biological and adoptive parents, stepfathers, stepmothers and any other person who is responsible for a child before Valoris intervenes.

Annexes

- Kinship and kithship Forster Family Assessment Package;
- Assessment of Kinship or Kithship Foster Family.

References

- S-255 : Assessment of a Potential Foster Family
- Ministry Requirements :
C.F.S.A. article 1 (b)
The declaration of principles outlines preference to an action plan which is least restrictive or disruptive to help the child ore a family.

C.F.S.A. article 4

Before rendering an order of wardship, the Court must investigate the possibility of placing a child with relative, neighbour or another member of his community or his extended family, with their consent.