

FOSTER CARE LICENSING FOR RELATIVES



While you do not have to be licensed to care for relatives, there are specific benefits.

The Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) along with our case management grantees recognize children placed with relatives and kinship caregivers experience less trauma and increased stability and wellbeing due to continued connections to their family and culture.

What are the benefits of getting licensed to care for my relative?

A license **is not required** to care for relatives, but caregivers who are licensed receive the following benefits:

- Freedom to choose a sponsoring agency.
- A home worker will be assigned to provide support through individual consultation, resource referral, training opportunities, and crisis intervention.
- Greater access to ongoing training opportunities.
- Exceptions to licensing requirements may be approved for many non-safety standards.
- Eligibility for respite care up to two days per month.

Why is relative placement best for children?

Research tells us the trauma children experience when being removed from the home can be lessened when placed with people they are familiar with and have emotional ties to. Children and youth placed with relatives/kin:

- Experience fewer placement changes and more school stability.
- Report better mental health outcomes
- Experience better permanency outcomes overall, as relatives/kin are likely to provide permanency through adoption, guardianship or custodianship.
- Decreased risk of reentry back into foster care.
- Are more often placed with their siblings or are better able to maintain connections with siblings if placed apart.
- More likely to maintain adult connections which help them launch into independence as they become adults.

