



Frequently Asked Questions/Tips for Relative Caregivers

1. Make contact with your Foster Care Navigator! The service is free and we are here to help. 1.855.MICHKIDS (855.642.5437), or our website www.fcnp.org
2. If the children in your home were placed in your home by a Children's Protective Services worker, the children are most likely in foster care and you will be REQUIRED to become a licensed foster parent to continue to care for them.
3. Relatives are NOT required to take in other children once they become a licensed foster parent. Some families do consider taking in other non-related foster children at a later time, but this is YOUR choice.
4. If you are in need of emergency resources after the placement of a child in your home such as: clothing, food, bedding, how to find a doctor or dentist, transportation to a child's school, educational resources, how to enroll a child in school, developmental screenings for your child, etc., please contact the Foster Care Navigator Program and we will assist you.
5. If you have a barrier to becoming a licensed foster parent (for instance, items that need to be purchased, home repairs, difficulty communicating with your agency or social worker, difficulty getting to/finding a training, finding resources for low cost physicals/TB tests) talk to your licensing worker or Foster Care Navigator and they can assist you.
6. Talk with the foster care worker if you are unsure about Medicaid coverage for the child(ren) placed in your home, as soon as possible.
7. Develop a close relationship with your licensing worker. Make sure you have phone and email contact information for him/her.
8. There are lots of social workers and services providers in your life now. Children's Protective Services (CPS) workers' main job is to investigate cases of alleged abuse and neglect. CPS workers are involved at the beginning of the case and then transfer the case to a foster care worker. The foster care worker (case manager) may either work for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) or a private child placing agency. The foster care worker is responsible for making sure the needs of the children, parents and caregivers involved in a case are being met. The foster care licensing or foster home certification worker will assist you in becoming a licensed foster parent. If you are confused about who is who, do not be afraid to ask!
9. For additional support and advocacy, connect with the Kinship Care Resource Center @ (800) 535-1218 or (517) 355-9600, Website <http://www.kinshipcare.msu.edu>
10. Seek counseling/support for yourself if you feel overwhelmed. There are many support groups for families caring for relatives as well as resources for individual counseling.