

Relative/Fictive Kin Service Array Tip Sheet

The agency is implementing an enhanced service array to better support relative and fictive kin caregivers. The service array has been developed in order to allow relatives and fictive kin caregivers to make informed decisions surrounding their role in the caretaking of children involved in the child welfare system. The service array provides legal options for the relative/fictive kin caregiver surrounding custody, financial support, option for foster care approval, and ongoing services. The SSW will educate relative and fictive kin caregivers about the service array along with short-term and long-term implications, including permanency. Relatives and fictive kin caregivers provide care to children placed outside of their home of origin, and therefore require ongoing supportive services and case management to promote placement stability, permanency outcomes, and child well-being.

- A relative or fictive kin caregiver is identified as a potential placement for the child.
- The SSW will complete initial background checks and Section 1 of the [DPP-1277 Safety Check and Review](#) (located in TWIST) to ensure there are no immediate safety concerns with the placement prior to any prevention plan being developed with the identified caregiver.
- The SSW will discuss upon placement or the next working day, the legal options available to relatives and fictive kin caregivers. These options include:

Option 1:

- o Relatives and fictive kin caregivers have the option of pursuing custody and receiving benefits ONLY from the Division of Family Support which include child only KTAP (however note that fictive kin caregivers are not eligible for child only KTAP), childcare assistance, medical insurance/Medicaid, or SNAP (food) benefits (based on income eligibility).
 - NOTE: Also, explore if the child is receiving other benefits (such as SSI/disability) as those benefits may be greater than the options available within the service array.

Option2:

- o Relatives and fictive kin caregivers have the option to pursue approval as a foster parent. A new approval type, child specific foster home, has been developed that has reduced requirements for relative and fictive kin caregivers. If the caregiver chooses foster parenting, the child must come into DCBS custody from the home of removal. If the family is pursuing foster parenting AND the child is in DCBS custody, the caregiver is eligible for a \$6.00 per day per diem. The [DPP 179 Relative Fictive Kin Caregiver Agreement](#) will be signed upon the child entering DCBS custody. The SSW will attach this agreement to the

court orders and relative resource directory form that is completed when the OOHC screens are completed.

- NOTE: If the relative/fictive kin caregiver chooses to pursue becoming a foster parent, the R&C worker will explain the different requirements and fostering options of either the child specific foster home or a DCBS basic foster home.
- NOTE: The \$6.00 per day per diem will continue until the relative/fictive kin caregiver is approved as a foster home at which time the per diem will increase based on the approval type.

Option 3:

- The options above will likely be the primary resources considered by relative and fictive kin caregivers currently involved in the child welfare system. However, there are other custodial options available to relative and fictive kin caregivers, such as guardianship and power of attorney (POA). These other options should be discussed with the relative/fictive kin caregiver as part of the service array and full disclosure process.

The SSW will discuss the full service array with the relative/fictive kin caregiver utilizing the:

- [Kentucky Relative Caregiver Program Brochure](#)
- [Relative and Fictive Kin Service Array Worksheet](#)

Next Steps and other Considerations:

- The SSW will provide the caregiver(s) copies of the brochure and worksheet and notify the family that they need to make a decision regarding their legal options before the first court date.
- If the relative/fictive kin caregiver chooses to pursue foster care approval, the SSW will ensure that the child enters DCBS custody and custody is not given to the relative at any time during the foster care approval process.
- If the relative/fictive kin caregiver chooses to pursue temporary custody, the SSW will assist the family in understanding the court process and refer them to the Division of Family Support.
- Upon the relative/fictive kin caregivers' decision regarding the service array, they will sign the [DPP-1278 Relative Placement and Fictive Kin Support Benefit Acknowledgement Statement](#), form indicating their choice. The SSW will also sign the form.
- If the caregiver's decision is to pursue foster care approval, the SSW will submit section 1 of the [DPP-1277 Safety Check and Review](#) (located in TWIST) to the recruitment and certification (R&C) supervisor within three (3) working days.

- The SSW will discuss the [DPP-1278 Relative Placement and Fictive Kin Support Benefit Acknowledgment Form](#) with the relative/fictive kin caregivers
- Relative/fictive kin caregivers are eligible for childcare whether they are seeking foster parent approval or pursuing temporary custody.
 - o If the caregiver is pursuing approval as a DCBS foster parent, then the R&C SSW will complete the childcare memo.
 - o If the caregiver is pursuing temporary custody then the child protective services (CPS) SSW will complete the authorization.
- The SSW will complete the remainder of the [DPP-1277](#) within thirty (30) calendar days.
- Case management with these caregivers will correspond with their chosen legal option and the respective SOP.