







CLASS COURSE STRUCTURE

Two consecutive days
3-hour classes

Transfer-of-Learning (TOL) after
class

Survey completed at the end of class

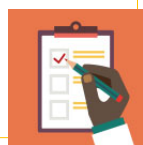
YOUR COURSE HANDOUTS

- Learner Handouts
- Learner Power Point Handout
- Resources
- Transfer-of-Learning (TOL) Day 1



TODAY'S AGENDA

- Introduction
- Kinship Care overview and benefits
- Cultural Context
- Engaging Families
- Family Search and Engagement



Where did your name
come from?

IDENTITY

Youth in out-of-
home lose an
important part
of their identities



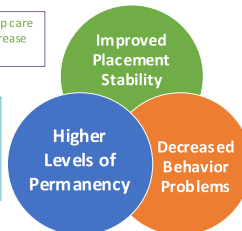
KINSHIP CARE | Overview and
Benefits

"KINSHIP CARE IS THE FULL-TIME NURTURING AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN BY RELATIVES, MEMBERS OF THEIR TRIBES OR CLANS, GODPARENTS, STEPPARENTS OR ANY ADULT WHO HAS A KINSHIP BOND WITH THE CHILD."

KINSHIP CARE IMPROVES OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN

"Being placed in kinship care has been found to decrease the risk of disruption."

"Children initially placed in kinship care as compared to family foster care were more likely to reunify or exit to guardianship."

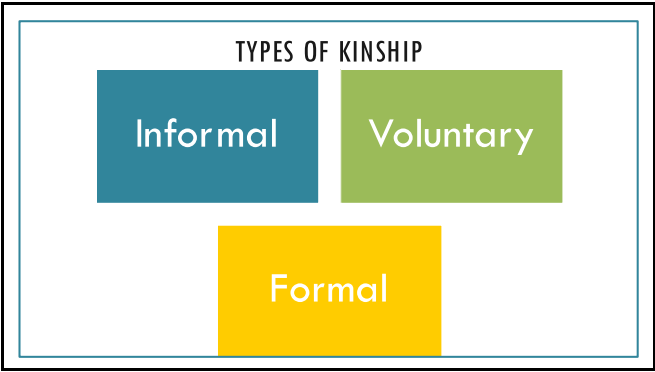


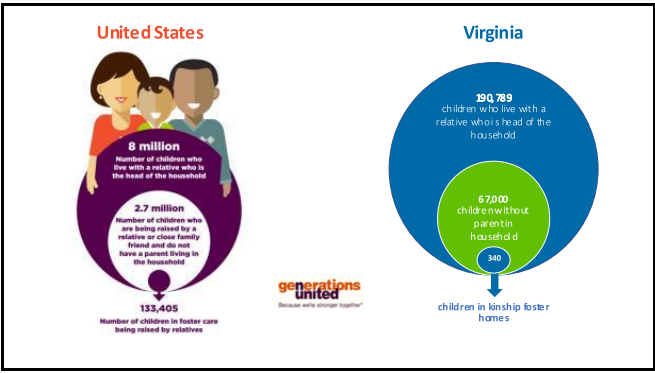
"Children placed in to kinship care had fewer behavioral problems three years after placement than children who were placed into foster care."

- Like those with whom they live ~ **93%**
- Want their current placement to be their permanent home ~ **61%**
- Less likely to have tried to run away ~ **6%**
- Report they have "always felt loved" ~ **94%**
- Report fewer behavioral problems

NRC-PFC Toolkit







KINSHIP CARE BROCHURE

Exploring options for relatives and close family friends of children in foster care

*In English and Spanish

The brochure cover features a photograph of an elderly woman with grey hair and a young child with dark hair, both smiling. The title 'Kinship Care' is prominently displayed, along with the subtitle 'Exploring options for relatives and close family friends of children in foster care'.

FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATION



KINSHIP CARE CONTINUUM

Grandfamilies.org

Children raised by
kin without VDSS
involvement

Children come to
attention of VDSS
and it facilitates
placement with kin

Children in legal
custody of VDSS
and it facilitates
transfer of legal
custody (TLQ) to kin

Kinship caregivers
approved to care
for kin in VDSS legal
custody

FICTIVE KIN



Individuals who are not
related to a child by blood or
adoption but have a **close
relationship with the child
and/or their family**

§ 63.2-900.1. Kinship foster care



KIN-FIRST CULTURE
MINIMIZES TRAUMA



KINSHIP CARE IMPROVES
WELL-BEING FOR CHILDREN
AND YOUTH

WHEN KIN SAFELY
CARE FOR CHILDREN
AND YOUTH, IT
INCREASES
PERMANENCY



KINSHIP
PLACEMENTS CAN
IMPROVE BEHAVIOR
AND MENTAL
HEALTH OUTCOMES



KINSHIP
PROMOTES
SIBLING TIES



KINSHIP CARE
PROVIDES A
BRIDGE FOR
OLDER YOUTH





KINSHIP PLACEMENTS

- Honor traditions of communities of color
- Prevent family separation, a process historically used by systems to oppress low-income families and families of color
- Often halt group care placement and overrepresentation for youth of color





Who is included in
your definition of
family?

IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO
RAISE A CHILD

CULTURE...DEFINITION

Culture goes beyond a traits perspective.

Culture can also include the issues or experiences that many individuals from a group have lived through due to historical factors. These shared experiences influence the collective identity of a group and have an impact on individual identity.



“Culture is the dynamic pattern of learned behaviors, values, and beliefs exhibited by a group of people who share historical and geographical proximity.

It's not just historical and geographical but beliefs and personal experiences.”

Culturally competent

Consider:

- What makes a worker culturally competent?
- What knowledge and skills are necessary for us to achieve cultural competence when working with relative caregivers?

THREE MAIN COMPONENTS OF BEING CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE:

1. Recognize cultural differences, without imposing a stereotype on an individual.
2. Acknowledge one's own personal biases towards different cultures or backgrounds.
3. Transcend the differences in order to work productively.

STEREOTYPES

"Stereotypes are generalized statements about the presumed characteristics of a particular group of people."

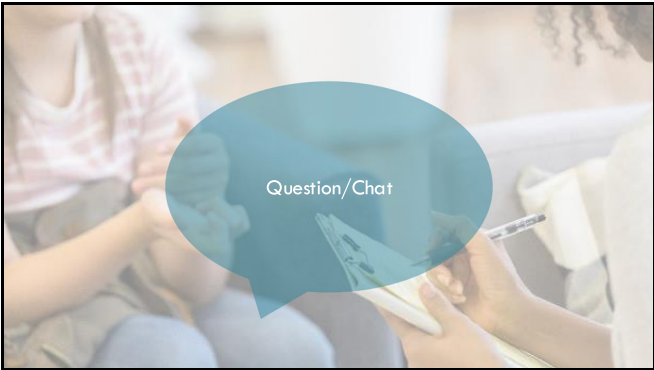
Stereotypes also blind us from seeing an individual or group's strengths.

BREAKOUT GROUP ACTIVITY- MYTHS

In child welfare, stereotyping prevents the objective observation and individualized assessment that are so essential to child welfare services.

Stereotypes can seriously interfere with the development of a trusting casework relationship and with the worker's ability to communicate with the client.

Exploring culture, stereotyping, and cultural competence is important when working with relatives.







ENGAGING FAMILIES

- Respect
- Empathy
- Genuineness

ENGAGING WITH KIN

- ❖ Explore all possible supports that kin can provide for a child
- ❖ Kin can offer emotional and concrete supports to the child and family that may allow the family to remain safely together
- ❖ Involving kin can prevent children from entering foster care or encourage support of children in the event that they do enter foster care
- ❖ Kin can support a child's sense of stability, belonging, and connectedness should an out-of-home placement be necessary

ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES



- ***Mutual respect***
- Empathy
- Genuineness

ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES



- Mutual respect
- ***Empathy***
- Genuineness

ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES



- Mutual respect
- Empathy
- **Genuineness**



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT GUIDANCE SECTION 2.2.2

TIPS TO SUCCESSFUL ENGAGEMENT WITH KIN

Document all efforts

- Include evidence of interactions with kin, efforts to engage, why kin were denied as placement options or their stated desire to serve as placement or supportive resources
- Document in case file (OASIS) and Diligent Search screen

Avoid the late arriving relative

- Good identification, notification, and engagement practices will avoid difficult decisions later
- Prevent the situation where a late-arriving but interested relative states they were never contacted by the agency

Widening the
pool of
potential
family
connections

FAMILY SEARCH AND ENGAGEMENT

Relative search and engagement is an evidence-based best practice used to identify a child's family members and other significant adults, who may be involved in developing and carrying out a plan for establishing emotional and legal permanency for the child.



It includes establishing or reestablishing relationships between the child, family members, and natural supports.



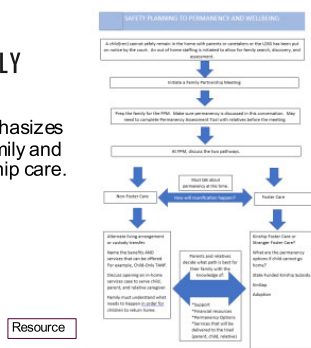
It also determines whether the child is at risk of entering foster care or has entered foster care and then engages the family members in the decision-making process.



Relative search and engagement begins at the first stage of the family's involvement with the child welfare system and should continue throughout the process.



Kin-First Now practice emphasizes safety-planning with the family and discussing options for kinship care.



MOBILITY MAPPING

It is important to recognize that when a family tells their story in their own words, it can lead to better searches, and better outcomes.

[Kevin Campbell video #1](#)

[Video #2](#)

Handout E-1



CASE MINING TOOL

"Case Mining" is designed to assist the Family Services Specialist when reviewing the child's and family's case record for potential placement resources or individuals who would assist in identifying placement resources.




Resource

FATHERS AND PATERNAL FAMILY

The networks of the father and paternal family should be examined as thoroughly as those of the mother and maternal family, even if the father is currently absent from the child's life.

Within 30 days of a child whose father is unknown entering foster care, request a search of the *Birth Father Registry* to determine if any man has registered as a putative father of that child. If a man has registered, the LDSS shall contact the man to begin the process to determine paternity.





YOUTH INVOLVEMENT

Youth 12-years-old and older shall be a part of the planning team

FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS

Federal and state laws require the involvement of both parents and extended family for children who are at-risk of entering or have entered foster care.

The LDSS shall diligently search for adult relatives and other individuals who have significant relationships with the child, including those adult relatives suggested by the child, birth parents or prior custodians



VIRGINIA CODE CONTACTING RELATIVES

CPS may contact relatives without the family's consent, written release, or court order when the LDSS determines that disclosure of information is in the child's best interest and the person has a legitimate interest.

The LDSS has authority to contact parents, grandparents or any other individuals that the LDSS considers a potential caretaker for the child who is involved with child protective services if the child has to be removed from the parent or custodian

(§ 63.2-105; 22 VAC 40-705-160 B; 22 VAC 40-705-10).

The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 requires local agencies to identify and locate family members within 30 days of removing a child.

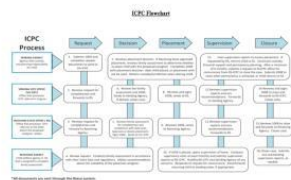
LDSS must exercise **due diligence to identify and notify in writing all adult relatives that the child has been removed within 30 days of the child being placed in the custody of DSS.**

22VAC40-201-40

At a minimum, the service worker shall search for relatives at the time the child enters foster care, annually, and prior to any subsequent placement changes for the child.

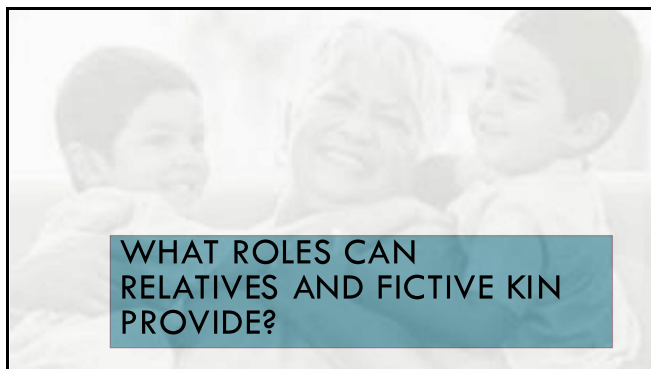
Code of Virginia (§ 63.2-901.1).

INTERSTATE PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN



Resource

[illegible]




**WHAT ROLES CAN
RELATIVES AND FICTIVE KIN
PROVIDE?**

[illegible]

TRANSFER-OF-LEARNING (TOL) ASSIGNMENT

1. Watch the videos associated with TOL
2. Complete other assignments and submit Day One TOL Worksheet
3. Save and send by 6 pm to your trainers.
4. Be prepared to discuss the results of the activity.





TODAY'S AGENDA

- Review and Transfer-of-Learning
- Kinship Family Assessment process
- Kinship placement
- Provide support

A KIN-FIRST CULTURE

A kin-first culture spans the entire continuum of child welfare.



- Prioritize family connections
- Promote connectedness
- Empower families to develop supportive relationships
- Never make decisions without those who love and care for them involved
- Focus on removing barriers

TRANSFER OF LEARNING DAY 1 REVIEW

[illegible][illegible]

PERMANENCY ASSESSMENT TOOL (PAT)

Effective July 1st, 2024
Tool revised Jan 2025

 		Permanency Assessment Tool	
Child's Name: _____ Child's Address: _____ Child's Birth Date: _____		Assessment Date: _____	
<p>Objective: _____</p>			
<p>Assessment: _____</p>			
<p>It is crucial that children are immediately placed with either a foster care family when it is not possible to return them to their biological family, or a permanent placement. It is also important that the child's caregiver have the skills it is used for the placement assessment. The purpose of this assessment is to determine the child's current living arrangement and living conditions. The purpose of this assessment is to determine the child's current living arrangement and living conditions.</p>			
Parent or Guardian Information		Child's and Family Risk Factors	
<p>Parent or Guardian Name: _____</p> <p>Parent or Guardian Address: _____</p> <p>Parent or Guardian Phone: _____</p> <p>Parent or Guardian Email: _____</p> <p>Parent or Guardian Occupation: _____</p> <p>Parent or Guardian Education: _____</p> <p>Parent or Guardian Marital Status: _____</p> <p>Parent or Guardian Health Status: _____</p> <p>Parent or Guardian Substance Use: _____</p> <p>Parent or Guardian Criminal History: _____</p> <p>Parent or Guardian Financial Status: _____</p> <p>Parent or Guardian Social Support: _____</p> <p>Parent or Guardian Cultural Background: _____</p> <p>Parent or Guardian Religious Beliefs: _____</p> <p>Parent or Guardian Language: _____</p> <p>Parent or Guardian Ethnicity: _____</p> <p>Parent or Guardian Race: _____</p> <p>Parent or Guardian Sex: _____</p> <p>Parent or Guardian Age: _____</p> <p>Parent or Guardian Marital Status: _____</p> <p>Parent or Guardian Health Status: _____</p> <p>Parent or Guardian Substance Use: _____</p> <p>Parent or Guardian Criminal History: _____</p> <p>Parent or Guardian Financial Status: _____</p> <p>Parent or Guardian Social Support: _____</p> <p>Parent or Guardian Cultural Background: _____</p> <p>Parent or Guardian Religious Beliefs: _____</p> <p>Parent or Guardian Language: _____</p> <p>Parent or Guardian Ethnicity: _____</p> <p>Parent or Guardian Race: _____</p> <p>Parent or Guardian Sex: _____</p> <p>Parent or Guardian Age: _____</p>		<p>Child's Name: _____</p> <p>Child's Address: _____</p> <p>Child's Birth Date: _____</p> <p>Child's Health Status: _____</p> <p>Child's Substance Use: _____</p> <p>Child's Criminal History: _____</p> <p>Child's Financial Status: _____</p> <p>Child's Social Support: _____</p> <p>Child's Cultural Background: _____</p> <p>Child's Religious Beliefs: _____</p> <p>Child's Language: _____</p> <p>Child's Ethnicity: _____</p> <p>Child's Race: _____</p> <p>Child's Sex: _____</p> <p>Child's Age: _____</p> <p>Child's Marital Status: _____</p> <p>Child's Health Status: _____</p> <p>Child's Substance Use: _____</p> <p>Child's Criminal History: _____</p> <p>Child's Financial Status: _____</p> <p>Child's Social Support: _____</p> <p>Child's Cultural Background: _____</p> <p>Child's Religious Beliefs: _____</p> <p>Child's Language: _____</p> <p>Child's Ethnicity: _____</p> <p>Child's Race: _____</p> <p>Child's Sex: _____</p> <p>Child's Age: _____</p>	
<p>Notes: _____</p> <p>Comments: _____</p> <p>Recommendations: _____</p> <p>Next Steps: _____</p> <p>Follow-up: _____</p> <p>Assessment Date: _____</p> <p>Assessment Location: _____</p> <p>Assessment Method: _____</p> <p>Assessment Results: _____</p> <p>Assessment Summary: _____</p> <p>Assessment Conclusion: _____</p> <p>Assessment Signatures: _____</p> <p>Assessment Date: _____</p> <p>Assessment Location: _____</p> <p>Assessment Method: _____</p> <p>Assessment Results: _____</p> <p>Assessment Summary: _____</p> <p>Assessment Conclusion: _____</p> <p>Assessment Signatures: _____</p>		<p>Notes: _____</p> <p>Comments: _____</p> <p>Recommendations: _____</p> <p>Next Steps: _____</p> <p>Follow-up: _____</p> <p>Assessment Date: _____</p> <p>Assessment Location: _____</p> <p>Assessment Method: _____</p> <p>Assessment Results: _____</p> <p>Assessment Summary: _____</p> <p>Assessment Conclusion: _____</p> <p>Assessment Signatures: _____</p> <p>Assessment Date: _____</p> <p>Assessment Location: _____</p> <p>Assessment Method: _____</p> <p>Assessment Results: _____</p> <p>Assessment Summary: _____</p> <p>Assessment Conclusion: _____</p> <p>Assessment Signatures: _____</p>	

The importance of open, honest, respectful and mutual communication with potential kin caregiver to arrive at a decision about who will be able to provide for the care and protection of the children does not end with the initial contact and must continue throughout the assessment process.



DEFINITIONS:

Parental Child Safety Placement:

A voluntary, pre-court protective intervention in which the care and supervision of a child is temporarily provided by an alternate caregiver.

Kinship Foster Care:

A relative or fictive kin who is approved by LDSS to provide 24-hour substitute family care to specific children with whom they have a relationship, room and board, and services for children and youth committed or entrusted to a child placing agency.

SAFETY ASSESSMENT

The first page of the Permanency Assessment Tool begins with the safety assessment for the background checks and the home visit (which includes the household safety assessed)

PARENTAL CHILD SAFETY PLACEMENT

Parental Child Safety Placement

Background Checks

- Every adult 18+ in the home will need criminal history inquiry completed in Account.
- Every adult 18+ in the home will need child welfare history inquiry completed in OASIS.

Home Visit

- Complete home visit prior to placement.

Household safety

- Guns (need to be locked/stored separately from ammunition)
- Prescription/alcohol/controlled substances
- General safety



RELATIVE AND FICTIVE KIN RESOURCE FAMILY

Background Checks

- Every adult 18+ in the home will need criminal check/Control Registry
- Every adult will need to do background criminal checks within 72 hours of placement. All household adults will need current ID for Fieldprint
- Anyone transporting child will need DMV check (ensure about any recent driving offenses/number of points on license)

Home Visit

- Complete home visit prior to placement.

Household safety

- Guns (need to be locked/stored separately from ammunition)
- Pets (need to be up to date on vaccinations)
- Smoke alarms (must have them and be functioning)
- Prescription/alcohol/controlled substances
- General safety

Health Examinations (within 6 months of placement)

- Resource parents must have a physicals completed (physical is no older than 12 months from approval)
- All household members must have TB screens completed (no older than 12 months from approval)

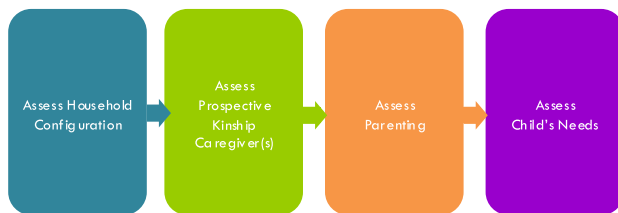
Training/expectations (within 6 months of placement)

- Mandatory pre-service resource parent training (Tradition of Caring preferred)
- Mandated Reporter online training
- 3 personal references required
- Home study interviews (minimum of 3)

Monthly home visits

- Agreement to not use corporal punishment with child in foster care
- Divorce/marriage documents
- Copies of paychecks/income verification

KINSHIP FAMILY ASSESSMENT PROCESS



AREAS PRIORITIZED TO ASSESS FIRST:

Make-up of family

Discuss/consider impact of placement on current household members

Condition and layout of home

Discuss bedrooms/sleeping arrangements

Daily routine

Discuss schedule and how caregiving of child in will fit into routine. Discuss transportation needs.

ADDITIONAL AREAS TO ASSESS PRIOR TO 5-DAY FPM

Financial stability

Discuss financial resources/budget and related stress. Inform kin of financial supports/benefits available, if approved or not while caregiving.

Housing stability

Rent or own? Length of time at address.

Neighborhood

Describe resources, support and culture

Traditions/Culture

Holidays, birthdays, special celebrations

Upcoming family changes or needs

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS FOR HOUSEHOLD CONFIGURATION

Assessment addresses:

What are the activities of family residents?

Are their activities disruptive to the child or relative?

Is the relative able to provide the child consistent and stable routines, schedules and caregivers?

Additionally, information about the family's current needs and how they are being met is helpful in assessing the family's ability to meet any special needs of the child who may come to live with them.





Section 2:

Prospective Kinship Caregiver

<p>Relationship with the child(ren) How do you feel about the child(ren) you are caring for? How do you feel about the child(ren) you are caring for?</p>	
<p>Conflict management How do you handle conflict? How do you handle conflict with others generally?</p>	
<p>Natural supports Who do you turn to for support? Any family/friends/community members who could help them?</p>	
<p>Boundaries with the birth family How do you feel about the birth family? How do you feel about the birth family? How do you feel about the birth family?</p>	
<p>Physical and emotional health How do you feel about your physical and emotional health? How do you feel about your physical and emotional health?</p>	
<p>Financial stability How do you feel about your financial stability? How do you feel about your financial stability?</p>	
<p>Parental strengths</p>	

MS-20-004-01 (page 3 of 5)

Permanency Assessment Tool, page 4

<p>Physical and emotional health How do you feel about your physical and emotional health? How do you feel about your physical and emotional health?</p>	
<p>Financial stability How do you feel about your financial stability? How do you feel about your financial stability?</p>	
<p>Parental strengths</p>	

MS-20-004-01 (page 3 of 5)

Permanency Assessment Tool, page 5

AREAS PRIORITIZED TO ASSESS FIRST:

Relationship and history with birth parents and with the child(ren)

Boundaries with the birth family- Discuss how they will handle parent coming to home/asking for time outside of approved LDSS family time

Conflict management- How do you handle conflict within your intimate relationship? How do you handle conflict with others generally?

Natural Supports- Who do you turn to for support? Any family/friends/community members who could help them

AREAS PRIORITIZED TO ASSESS FIRST (CONT'D)

Alcohol and Substance Use- Assessment: - Does anyone in the home have a history of or currently use drugs, whether illegal, prescription meds and/or marijuana? Amount and Frequency of using?
- If the assessment indicates testing/screening is needed, discuss the potential need for substance use testing/screening - Discuss findings and impact of findings on caregiving ability and child safety

Physical and mental health stability- Ask them about any diagnoses or medications (both for physical and mental health needs)

Criminal and child welfare history inquiry- Discuss findings and impact of findings on caregiving ability and child safety

ADDITIONAL AREAS TO ASSESS

***Primary caregivers**

***Views on supporting and being a part of family time/visitation**

***View of current case goal** - Discuss all permanency options. Would they consider being a permanent option if needed?

***Relationship stability-** What is your marital/relationship status and history?

***Professional and DSS Supports-** What kind of supports would you need from DSS?

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS FOR PROSPECTIVE RELATIVE CAREGIVER(S) -

Prospective Kin Caregiver:

Motivation

Family Legacies

Relationship with the Birth Parents

Access to Resources



[illegible]

[illegible][illegible]

AREAS PRIORITIZED TO ASSESS FIRST

Trauma-responsive parenting

Briefly explain the impact of trauma on development and behaviors and that behaviors are communication.

How will you alter your parenting/discipline?

ADDITIONAL AREAS TO ASSESS

*Parenting experience

*Discipline used- Will they comply with Discipline Agreement?

*Parenting this child- Provide examples of child's current/past behaviors and ask "How would you respond to these behaviors?"

*Standard of normalcy- What is your attitude towards a child having friends over/participating in extracurricular activities?

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS FOR PARENTING

Assessment evaluates:

Are providers consistent in their approaches (i.e., discipline, nurturance and supervision)?



Parenting this child: Are you the child's primary caregiver? If not, who is?	
Number of siblings: How do you manage a household with multiple children?	
Understanding of child's needs: How do you respond to your child's needs?	
Managing discipline: What discipline do you use?	
Legal barriers to services: What barriers do you face in getting services for your child?	
Reliability and availability to get: Child's needs met (e.g., transportation, food, clothing, housing, etc.)	

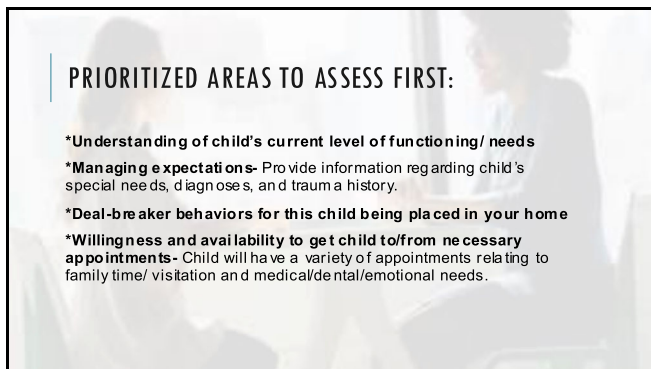
402-22-000-01 page 6/10



Section 4: Child's Needs

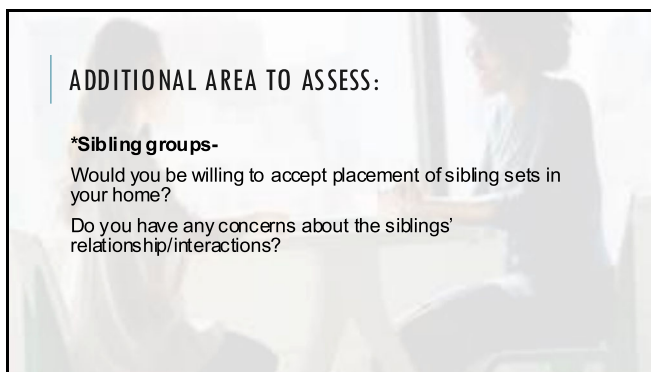
Pernanency Assessment Tool, page 6

The screenshot shows a document titled "Permanency Assessment Tool" with a header box. The header box contains the title "Permanency Assessment Tool" and a large empty box for a date. The main body of the document is a large empty box. The footer of the document contains the text "Permanency Assessment Tool, page 7".



PRIORITIZED AREAS TO ASSESS FIRST:

- ***Understanding of child's current level of functioning/ needs**
- ***Managing expectations-** Provide information regarding child's special needs, diagnoses, and trauma history.
- ***Deal-breaker behaviors for this child being placed in your home**
- ***Willingness and availability to get child to/from necessary appointments-** Child will have a variety of appointments relating to family time/ visitation and medical/dental/emotional needs.

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ADDITIONAL AREA TO ASSESS:

***Sibling groups-**

Would you be willing to accept placement of sibling sets in your home?

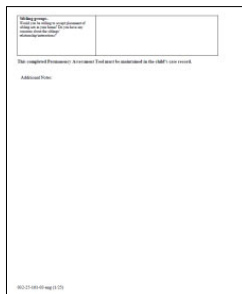
Do you have any concerns about the siblings' relationship/interactions?

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION FOR CHILD'S NEEDS

Readiness for Placement
Permanency Planning
Loyalties and Guilt



New!
Permanency
Assessment
Tool
Micro-Learning



Permanency Assessment Tool, page 7

Time
for a
Break



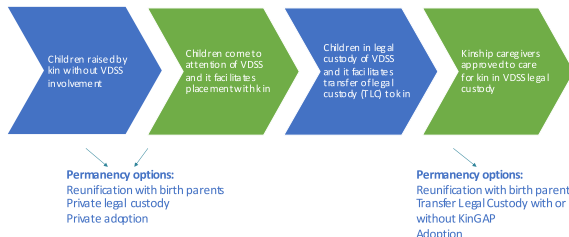
KINSHIP PLACEMENT

Options for
consideration



KINSHIP CARE CONTINUUM

Grandfamilies.org



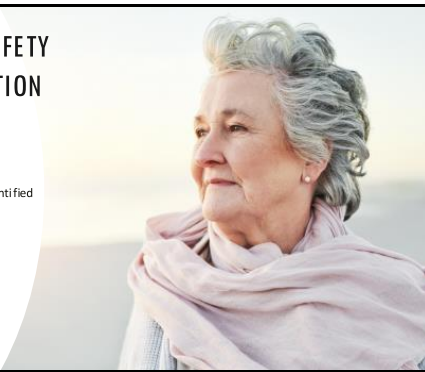
Explore permanency of the placement

- A good first placement should be the child's only placement
- Help kin make informed decisions - use written materials and charts to help kin understand their options and review with them often
 - VDSS - Kinship Care brochure
 - VDSS - Kinship Assistance throughout the Child Welfare Continuum
 - VDSS - Relative Guide to Services Post Custody Transfer
- Engage all parties in decision-making: parents, child, and kin caregivers at Family Partnership Meetings
 - Clearly explain and discuss all possible permanency options
 - Consider including benefits workers at meetings

PARENTAL CHILD SAFETY PLACEMENT- EXCEPTION

5-day exception pathway

Parent can remedy safety factor(s) identified within 5 business days and child can return home.



VOLUNTARY PARENTAL CHILD SAFETY PLACEMENT PROGRAM

The Voluntary Parental Child Safety Placement Program is established to prevent unnecessary entry into foster care by promoting and supporting living arrangements with relatives and fictive kin and requiring accountability for pre-court living arrangements of children.



VOLUNTARY PARENTAL CHILD SAFETY PLACEMENT PROGRAM

Parent Pamphlet:

- Overview
- Benefits
- Parent's Role
- Parent's Rights

Resource



VOLUNTARY PARENTAL CHILD SAFETY PLACEMENT PROGRAM

Caregiver Pamphlet:

Overview
Caregiver's Role
Support
Additional considerations

Resource



COURT ORDERED LIVING ARRANGEMENTS



Resource

Relative Maintenance Support Payment

RELATIVE MAINTENANCE SUPPORT PAYMENT

Relative Maintenance Support Payment is a financial benefit that provides support to eligible relatives who are caring for a child who is in the custody of the Department of Social Services (DSS). This benefit is available to eligible relatives who are providing care for a child who is in the custody of DSS and who are not receiving other financial support from DSS. The benefit is intended to help cover the costs of caring for the child, such as food, clothing, and shelter. To be eligible for this benefit, the relative must be a blood or legal relative of the child, be at least 18 years old, and be a resident of the state of Virginia. The benefit is paid monthly and is subject to a maximum amount of \$500 per month. For more information, please contact the DSS office in your area.



FUSION
A VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAM

<https://fusion.dss.virginia.gov/DFS-Home/KIN-FIRST-RESOURCES>

Placing youth with kinship foster parents

As a result of House Bill 716 & Senate Bill 307, relatives and fictive kin **MUST** be notified of the approval process **within 15 calendar days** of when they express interest in becoming a kinship foster parent whether the child is in foster care or at risk of entering care.



Section 2.2 Resource Family Guidance

BECOMING A RESOURCE FAMILY

Identify key areas which can be barriers to approval for kinship care providers as well as to further assess the families' strengths, resources and areas where support would be needed should they be approved.



NEW- EXCEPTION REPORT

EFFECTIVE JAN 1, 2025

A report must be filed *within 72 hours* anytime a child enters foster care into a **non-relative placement** or **moves to a non-relative placement at any point in a foster care case.**

The exception report will be an electronic report, with links available on the Resource Family and Parental Child Safety Placement Program Fusion Pages.



SHARE THE EFFORTS TO ENGAGE, ASSESS, AND PLACE WITH KIN AND FICTIVE KIN

Was an Out of Home Staffing held?
Has an FPM been held?
Describe ALL efforts made to identify, assess, and engage family members prior to placing the child in a non-relative setting.
Besides the parents in the removal home, how many relatives/fictive kin have you discovered (to include parents not in the removal home)?

KINSHIP
KINGAP ASSISTANCE
PAYMENTS

Foster Care Guidance Section 10



ADOPTION
ASSISTANCE
PAYMENTS

Adoption Guidance Section 2



Kinship Assistance throughout the Child Welfare Continuum					
Primary Prevention to prevent child welfare involvement	Prevention of Unnecessary Foster Care when there is child welfare involvement	In Foster Care	Permanency from Foster Care		
Kinship Navigator Programs <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assist to give through contracts to providers and does not provide direct money supports to families• Kinship families receive information and referral services, including: information about local, state, and federal benefits, mental health services, medical services, and advocacy, including face-to-face assistance in applying for benefits• Services through the provision of outreach, training and/or supportive activities, including case management, support groups, and social support activities• Kinship navigator programs do not provide services needed by kinship families; instead, they improve kinship families' knowledge of services and assist them in being able to identify and access the services needed• For additional info: https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/kinshipnavigator.htm	Relative Maintenance Support Payment <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monthly Payments: - Basic Maintenance: \$503-\$836 by age - Also be eligible for monthly Enhanced Maintenance (\$224-\$2016)• Additional Child Maintenance: - Basic Maintenance: \$503-\$836 by age - Also be eligible for monthly Enhanced Maintenance (\$224-\$2016) & non-recurring costs, as needed• Funded with state and federal funds (D+H)• Kin provider must be approved as foster parent for a child to be placed in their home while in foster care• Kinship care is not eligible for approval for immediate placement• Youth/family are eligible for services through CSA• Youth are eligible to remain in home in extended foster care age 16-21	Placement in Kin Foster Home with Maintenance <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monthly Payments: - Basic Maintenance: \$503-\$836 by age - Also be eligible for monthly Enhanced Maintenance (\$224-\$2016)• Additional Child Maintenance: - Basic Maintenance: \$503-\$836 by age - Also be eligible for monthly Enhanced Maintenance (\$224-\$2016) & non-recurring costs, as needed• Funded with state and federal funds (D+H)• Kin provider must be approved as foster parent for a child to be placed in their home while in foster care• Kinship care is not eligible for approval for immediate placement• Youth/family are eligible for services through CSA• Youth are eligible to remain in home in extended foster care age 16-21	Custody Transfer with Kinship Care/Adoption Assistance (KACAP) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monthly Payments: - Basic Maintenance: \$503-\$836 by age - Also be eligible for monthly Enhanced Maintenance (\$224-\$2016) & non-recurring costs, as needed• Funded with state and federal funds (D+H)• Kin provider must be approved as foster parent for a child to be placed in their home while in foster care• Kinship care is not eligible for approval for immediate placement• Youth/family are eligible for services through CSA• Youth are eligible to remain in home in extended foster care age 16-21	Custody Transfer with State-Funded Kinship Subsidy <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monthly Payments: - Basic Maintenance: \$503-\$836 by age - Also be eligible for monthly Enhanced Maintenance (\$224-\$2016) & non-recurring costs, as needed• Funded with state and federal funds (D+H)• Kin provider must be approved as foster parent for a child to be placed in their home while in foster care• Kinship care is not eligible for approval for immediate placement• Youth/family are eligible for services through CSA• Youth are eligible to remain in home in extended foster care age 16-21	Adoption with Adoption Assistance <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Negotiated Monthly Payments for children with "special needs" - Basic Maintenance: \$503-\$836 by age - Also be eligible for monthly Enhanced Maintenance (\$224-\$2016) & non-recurring costs, as needed• Kin provider must be approved as foster parent for a child to be placed in their home while in foster care• Kinship care is not eligible for approval for immediate placement• Youth/family are eligible for services through CSA• Youth are eligible to remain in home in extended foster care age 16-21
Resource					





Strategies for Supporting Grief/Loss:

Address losses of the caregiver and create room for the grieving process



Strategies for Supporting role/boundary confusion:

GOAL:

Reframe and redefine roles, responsibilities, interactions and relationships



Strategies for Supporting guilt:

GOALS:

- Learning to live with the guilt.
- Learning to forgive themselves.
- Learning to accept new roles without guilt present.



Strategies for Supporting
difficult protection or
interference:

GOALS:

Empower the caregiver to
become trigger detectives for
themselves and for the children.

Help them to believe that the
child can make positive choices.



Strategies for Supporting
loyalty:

GOALS:

Prioritizing loyalty and
responsibilities

How the professional can
support



Strategies for Supporting
stress management and
physical limitations:

GOAL:

Identify limits and
support



Strategies for Supporting bonding and attachment:

GOAL:

Establish new attachments or strengthen existing one.



Strategies for Supporting intrusion:

GOAL:


Help the relative caregiver to withstand the process/intervention(s)





A KIN-FIRST CULTURE IN VIRGINIA

KIN-FIRST CULTURE BEST PRACTICE GUIDES



<https://fusion.dss.virginia.gov/wds/LTD-Home/Supervision-and-Coaching-Corner>

Resource


FUSION New kinship job aids and resources

[FUSION Kinship site](#)

- Click on "Kin First Resources" at the bottom of the Family Services page

[Permanency Assessment Tool](#)

- Required tool for assessment



<https://fusion.dss.virginia.gov/dfs/DFS-Home/KIN-FIRST-RESOURCES>

TOL And Next Steps

- Please complete your post-class **survey**
- Complete your post-class TOL assignment with your Supervisor

