

RFA Facts

Once approved, Resource Families may be considered for placement of related or unrelated child(ren) for foster care, adoption or legal guardianship, depending on the Resource Family's goals and the child's case plan. Resource Family Approval does not guarantee placement of a child. These decisions are determined by the child's social worker and the courts.

During an emergency situation, a child, youth or young adult can be placed in a relative home prior to approval if certain requirements are met.

- ◆ A home and grounds inspection
- ◆ Criminal record and Child Abuse Central Index check
- ◆ Initiation of RFA process within 5 business days if continued placement is desired including:
 - ◆ Completion of Live Scan background check within 10 days
 - ◆ Completion of RFA process within 90 days of placement



For more information, contact us at
Kern County Department Human Services
3711 Columbus Street
Bakersfield, CA 93306
661.631.6204

Kern County Probation Department
Placement Unit-RFA
5121 Stockdale Highway Suite #100
Bakersfield, CA 93309
661.396.4560

Relatives call **661.873.2800** and ask to
speak with the Family Finding
Social Worker of the day
resourcefamilies@kerndhs.com
www.KCDHS.org



100 E. California Ave. Bakersfield, CA 93307
Tel 661.631.6600 Fax 661.631.6631
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KCDHS 834-RFA (6/17)

KCDHS is an equal opportunity agency

Important Information for Relatives Considering Placement of a Child



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What are the laws regarding relative placements?

When a child is placed in foster care by Child Protective Services, relatives, followed by nonrelated extended family members (NREFM), will be considered for placement before Resource Family Homes, Foster Family Agency Homes or Group Homes. (This does not include temporary or emergency placements, which may occur in a resource family home pending relative or NREFM approval).

Who is considered a relative?

Any adult who is related to the child by blood, adoption, or marriage within the fifth degree of kinship, including stepparents, stepsiblings, and all relatives whose status is preceded by the words “great”, “great-great”, or “grand”, or the spouse of any of those persons even if the marriage was terminated by death or dissolution.



Do relatives have special consideration in terms of placement?

Yes. Certain relatives such as, but not limited to (grandparents, aunts, uncles and siblings) have what is called “**Preferential Consideration.**” This means that if these particular relatives apply for placement of a child, **before the Disposition Hearing**, the county must **consider** and assess them before any other potential placement.

What happens if I decide to delay the decision to become a relative caregiver?

Sometimes relatives feel that they are not able to provide care for children at the time of removal. In those cases, if there are no other available relatives or nonrelated extended family members to care for the children, the children are placed with Resource Families.

Often, once the relatives realize that the parents are not going to reunify with the children, they decide to seek placement. But by then, it might be too late.

Once children have been in a Resource Family Home for several months and developed a bond with the resource parents, there is no guarantee that the social worker or the court will agree to change the placement.

What happens to my “Preferential Consideration” once parental rights are terminated?

Depending on the age of children, parents are generally given 6, 12, or 18 months to show the court that they are making good progress in completing their reunification plan. If they are not making good progress, the court will terminate services and set a 366.26 Hearing. It is at this hearing, that the court will decide a permanent plan for the child. If adoption is the plan, the court will terminate parental rights. Once parental rights are terminated, the child’s ties to their biological family, including grandparents is severed. This means that the social worker and the court can no longer consider any of the biological relatives for **preferential consideration**, as your status of relative is severed. You may still be considered for placement of the child, but as a non related extended family member.

