

Kinship Navigation: A Path to Permanency



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Development

Kinship Definitions

Connection by
blood, marriage, or
adoption; family
RELATIONSHIP.

The quality or state
of being kin:
RELATIONSHIP.

A family
relationship or
other close
RELATIONSHIP.

The web of social
RELATIONSHIPS
that form an
important part of
the lives of all
humans in all
societies.

Federal Expectation to Use Kin First

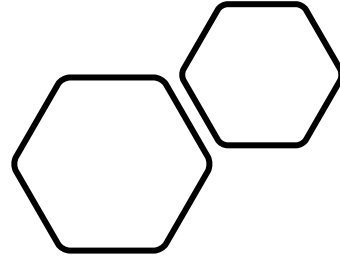
FFPSA is being implemented across the nation, with Indiana rolling out by September 2021

The Family First Act Vision:

- ▶ DCS will preserve families in their home when it is safe to do so, focus on improving outcomes, ensure residential treatment is used only when children demonstrate the need for such care.



Poll Everywhere



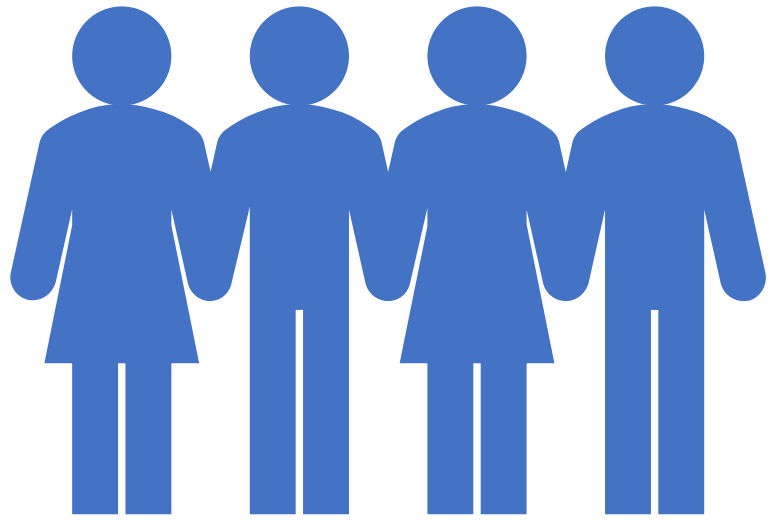
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The Long-
Lasting Impact
of Kinship Care



Foster Parents are a Resource To Kin

- Assist, role model, coach, support and give time to prepare and process
 - Encourage and assist with permanency options with Kin
 - Develop relationships with Kin caregivers
 - Fostering relationships with families and parents
- What are your fears?
 - What do you need as a foster parent to start building relationships with Kin?



Navigating Community Resources for Kin Caregivers

FORMAL Care Options



INFORMAL Care Options

FSSA Resources

Local DFR Office

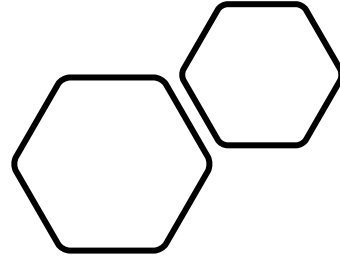
Portal Link

<https://www.indianafostercare.org/s/kinship-indiana-support-services>

Community Help

Churches
Schools
Community Partners
Head Start
Healthy Families

Poll Everywhere



- [https://www.polleverywhere.com/multiple choice polls/i5r2SejEi6yoqk0YTmsNQ?preview=true&controls=None](https://www.polleverywhere.com/multiple-choice-polls/i5r2SejEi6yoqk0YTmsNQ?preview=true&controls=None)



Educate Your
Community
about Kin Care

Importance of Educating about Kinship

- Keeping a Child's Connections
- 2.7 Million Nationwide being cared for by Kin



Key Stakeholders to Educate about Kinship

Schools

Churches

Foster Parents

Medical
Personnel

CASA/GAL

Courts/Attorneys

Law Enforcement

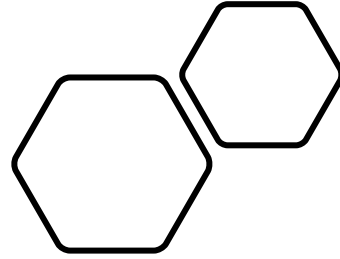
Others?

What's The Message?

- Achieve Permanency Quicker with Kin
- Experience more placement disruption with non-kin
- Less behavioral issues in Kinship care
- Mental health issues decrease
- Less scared and traumatic with kin



Poll Everywhere



- [https://www.polleverywhere.com/multiple choice polls/B5qlh5goV0x2JXCOTwYZ5?preview=true&controls=None](https://www.polleverywhere.com/multiple-choice-polls/B5qlh5goV0x2JXCOTwYZ5?preview=true&controls=None)



Work Through
the Daily
Obstacles of
Kinship Care

Identifying the Obstacles

Strained family relationships

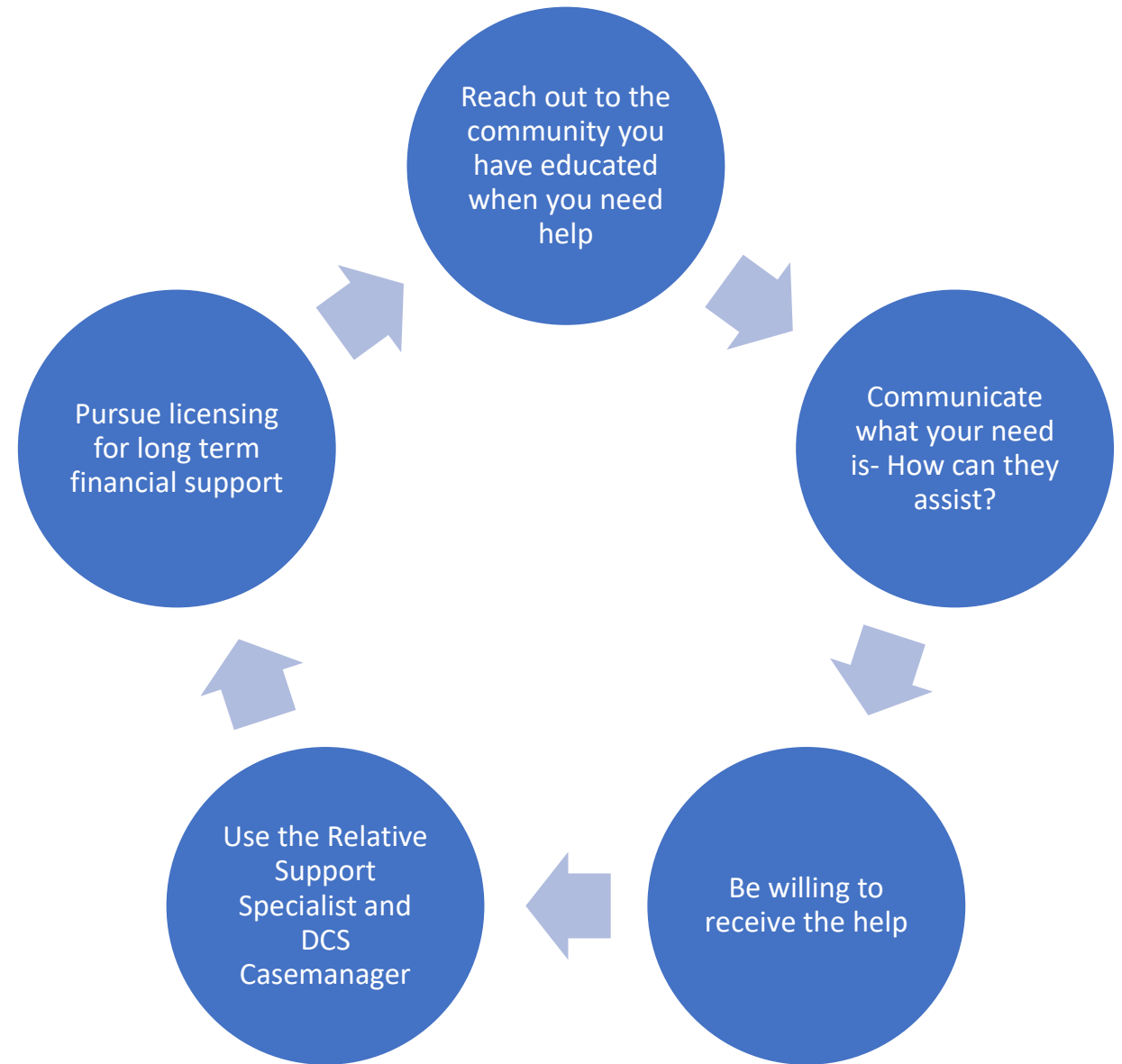
Unprepared to have children placed with no notice

Community bias about the family connection

Maintaining the children safely

Childcare and financial undertaking

Use the Resources to Overcome





Understanding
Permanency
Options Available to
Children in Indiana

Legal Permanency Options

Reunification

Adoption

Collaborative Care (17 and older)

Guardianship (with or without GAP)

3rd Party Custody

How Do I Know the Permanency Plan?



Attend

Attend CFTM's



Go

Go to Court



Obtain

Obtain Copies of the
Court Reports and Case
Plan



Work

Work Closely with the
FCM and Relative
Support Specialist

What If I Don't Agree?

01

Communicate what you think is best for the child, to the full family team

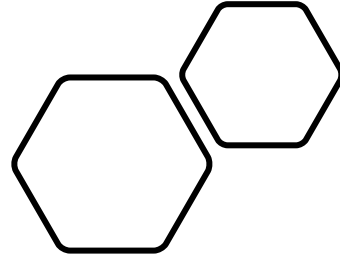
02

Ask to meet with the FCM to discuss your perspective from being the child's caregiver

03

If you cannot get answers or communication, ask for a supervisor or local office director to meet with you

Poll Everywhere



- [https://www.polleverywhere.com/multiple choice polls/fTOcqvxYAAz9AaTRhkKlk?preview=true&controls=None](https://www.polleverywhere.com/multiple-choice-polls/fTOcqvxYAAz9AaTRhkKlk?preview=true&controls=None)

Summary



- Educate the community about Kinship Care in Indiana
- Empower kinship caregivers to navigate community resources for children
- Learn to work through obstacles that kinship caregivers face daily
- Understand the permanency options available to children in Indiana
- It is **IMPORTANT** for children to be with Kin and to keep their connections
- **Q&A**