

Not Interested in Becoming a Relative Resource Caregiver?

Don't worry, you can still help.

Maintaining family connections is important for children who are in foster care. Relatives can maintain connections in the following ways:

- Participate in Ohana Conferences;
- Maintain connections with the child by phone or in person;
- Attend the child's school or sport functions and/or other activities;
- Provide transportation (for sibling visitation, to parental visitation, etc.); and/or
- Arrange and supervise extended family member visits (to family functions).

The list above are examples of what may occur if approved and determined appropriate by the related child's assigned social worker, guardian ad litem (GAL), and/or family court judge.



Rights of Children in Foster Care

The department or an authorized agency shall ensure that a child in foster care will:

1. Live in a safe and healthy home, free from physical, psychological, sexual, and other abuse;
2. Receive adequate food, shelter, and clothing;
3. Receive adequate medical care, dental services, corrective vision care, and mental health services;
4. Be enrolled in a comprehensive health insurance plan and, within forty-five days of out-of-home placement, be provided with a comprehensive health assessment and recommended treatment;
5. Have regular supervised or unsupervised in-person, telephone, or other forms of contact with the child's parents and siblings while the child is in foster care;
6. Receive notice of court hearings and if the child wishes to attend the hearings;
7. Have in-person contact with the child's assigned child welfare services worker;
8. Have the ability to exercise the child's own religious beliefs, including the refusal to attend any religious activities and services;
9. Have a personal bank account if requested;
10. Be able to participate in extracurricular, enrichment, cultural, and social activities;
11. Beginning at age twelve, be provided with age-appropriate life skills training and a transition plan for appropriately moving out of the foster care system;
12. Have the right to be involved in developing a case plan and planning for the child's future, if the child is fourteen or older;
13. If the child is fourteen or older, receive the child's credit report, free of charge; and
14. If the child has been in foster care for more than six months, and is aging out of care, receive assistance in obtaining certain personal records such as an official or certified copy of the child's United States birth certificate, a Social Security card issued by the Commissioner of Social Security, health insurance information, a copy of the child's medical records, or information to access the child's medical records, a driver's license or state identification card.

For Complete Foster Care Bill of Rights visit:
<https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov>



Becoming a Relative Resource Caregiver

The Department is required to make and document reasonable efforts in locating and notifying relatives when a related child enters foster care.



What are the Requirements for becoming a Relative Resource Caregiver?

Child Welfare Services (CWS) values relationships. CWS gives preference for placement with relatives and/or persons who have a relationship with the child. The child's placement is dependent on his or her needs, the assessment of the home, and the relative's willingness and ability to be a licensed resource caregiver. If you are interested in becoming a relative resource caregiver, inform the child's assigned social worker and request for an application to be provided to you.

Licensing Requirements must be completed within 90 days:

1. Clearances of all adult individuals living in the household:
 - Federal and State criminal & sex offender clearance;
 - Child abuse and neglect clearance;
 - Fingerprinting, TB and medical clearances;
2. Proof of financial stability;
3. Completion of resource caregiver training;
4. Two personal references;
5. Proof of insurance and driver's license (applies to individuals who own vehicles);
6. Home visit and home study;
7. Annual recertification & other requirements as deemed necessary.

What is a Child in Foster Care Entitled to?

A child in foster care is provided support and resources including:

- Enhancement Funds for pro social activities (hula, art class, sports, language class, swimming lessons, etc);
- Case management and other services such as counseling;
- Medical Benefits;
- Educational Stability; and
- Other services as needed.

The child is also entitled to visits with his or her parents, siblings, and other family members. Relative resource caregivers follow the instructions of the court regarding visitation (supervised or unsupervised).

Children in foster care may have experienced trauma and loss. They deserve care and support to heal and thrive.

“We all need a support group to depend on. My support group was my family, school and friends. They created a way for me to succeed.”

– Samantha, HI H.O.P.E.S

<http://www.yeshawaii.org/hi-hopes/>

"To me, having that one foster parent to support me through my good and bad times really meant a lot."

-Kalamaikamala, HI H.O.P.E.S
<http://www.yeshawaii.org/hi-hopes/>

What are the Responsibilities of a Relative Resource Caregiver?

Resource caregivers are service providers for the State and help maintain connections between the child and their family while providing the following:

- A safe home for children in care;
- Help children in care stay in contact with their parents, siblings, and extended family;
- Support efforts to reunify children with their birth families
- If reunification is not possible, support efforts to achieve adoption or guardianship; and
- The opportunity to provide lifelong support for children and their parents.

Support and Compensation:

- Monthly Foster Board Reimbursement (based on child's age);
- Clothing voucher/reimbursement (based on child's age);
- Mileage Reimbursement (in compliance with state policy);
- Limited Liability Insurance Coverage;
- Respite Care;
- Support groups or recommended services; and
- Other—as necessary and available.