

What CSWs Should Know About Resource Family Approval



WHAT IS RESOURCE FAMILY APPROVAL?

- The Resource Family Approval (RFA) program is a new streamlined approval process that prepares caregivers to meet the needs of vulnerable children in the foster care system.
- All caregivers, including relatives, Non-Relative Extended Family Members (NREFM) and foster families, are now known as “resource families” and will be evaluated the same way. (Note: Tribally approved homes are exempt from the RFA process).
- RFA includes training for all families and a consistent approval process with one application, one background check and a single home environment and psychosocial assessment.

HOW WILL THIS IMPACT MY CASES?

All Placements

- You will no longer need to refer applicants/resource families for Live Scan. All new families are assessed by the Resource Family Recruitment and Support Division (formerly ASFA/Kinship) which will process RFA approvals, including referring applicants for Live Scan and conducting criminal exemptions. Existing families are assessed by the Resource Family Support and Permanency Division.

Emergency Placements

- You can still make emergency placements with relatives and NREFMs prior to RFA approval. Emergency monthly stipends of \$400 per child are available for up to 90 days.
- Submit forms DCFS 6086 and DCFS 6087 to RFA Intake immediately after any emergency placement to ensure timely processing. RFA Intake staff will confirm the caregiver signs the RFA Section 7-01 Emergency Placement application prior to any background checks.

Non-Emergency Placements

- Submit RFA referral forms DCFS 6086 and DCFS 6087 to RFA Intake immediately to prevent delays in the family assessment.
- All caregivers must complete 12 hours of pre-approval training and have a psychosocial assessment to determine their ability to meet a child’s needs. These are new requirements for relatives.
- Once approved, RFA-approved homes can serve as an emergency, temporary, and/or permanent setting for a child. They must complete an annual update, including 8 hours of training.
- Once RFA approval is completed, a family will not need to undergo any additional approval process if they want to move to legal guardianship or adoption, or to care for another child or youth in the home.
- If existing caregivers have questions about converting to an RFA-approved home, refer them to the Kinship Support line at (626) 430-3226 or the Information section of www.FosterLAKids.org.

For additional information, contact: LACCRinfo@dcfs.lacounty.gov