

- Child(ren) have experienced trauma from abuse and removal. They will likely have emotional and behavioral issues requiring attention and understanding to meet the child's needs.
- Meet the child's mental, medical, developmental, and educational needs, which requires transporting the child to medical, dental, and counseling appointments, participating in intensive services such as Wraparound, or Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS), if applicable.
- Participate in team meetings to discuss the safety and well-being of the child or young adult dependent as needed.
- Encourage the child's relationships with his/her parents and relatives.
- Not use any type of physical punishment (such as: spank, hit, punch, or slap), withhold food, allowances, threat of removal or any type of degrading or humiliating punishment, and do use constructive alternative methods of discipline.
- Have a Tuberculosis (TB) screening and/or test and a health screening for all adults in the home.

Note: This is not an all-inclusive list. For additional information see the Resource Family Approval (RFA) Written Directives at <http://www.childsworld.ca.gov/PG3416.htm> or talk to your social worker, Resource Family Specialist or RFA worker.

Resource Family Specialists (RFS):

The primary role of the RFS is to serve as an advocate for caregivers and social workers (SWs) by ensuring awareness of program activities while providing guidance and support for resource families.

Contact Resource Family Specialists for support and assistance with:

- Links to community resources
- Advocacy
- Support and referrals to services
- Support group meetings providing answers to questions
- Guiding families through the RFA process
- Mentoring through the approval process



For additional information regarding Resource Family Approval contact the Placement Resources Division

Placement Resources Division
System Resources Division
412 W. Hospitality Lane
San Bernardino, CA 92415
909-891-3300

To register for Orientation call:

**1-909-891-3300 or
1-800-722-4477**

To report child abuse or neglect, call the
Child & Adult Abuse Hotline (CAAHL) at:
1-800-827-8724
(available 24 hours)



Children and Family Services

CFS website: <http://hs.sbcounty.gov/cfs/>
CFS Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SBCountyCFS/>

CFS RFA 680 (01/17)



We envision a sustainable system of high-quality education, community health, public safety, housing, retail, recreation, arts and culture, and infrastructure, in which development complements our natural resources and environment.



Resource Family Approval

Children and Family Services

Resource Family Approval Process

The Resource Family Approval (RFA) program's purpose is to place children and young adults with families that can provide a lifelong connection by determining permanency approval upfront.

This pamphlet provides information on what you need to know to become a resource family and things to consider **before** making this commitment.

Steps to take to become a Resource Family:

1. SUBMIT AN APPLICATION
2. COMPLETE BACKGROUND CHECK (Criminal records, Child abuse or neglect records, Megan's Law Website, Superior Courts check), DMV previous license history
 - YOU MUST LIVE SCAN (This includes all adults in the home)
 - IF THERE ARE ANY CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS OR CRIMINAL HISTORY:
 - You must complete paperwork describing the circumstances surrounding the conviction and identify positive steps and/or changes you have helped to prevent additional convictions (i.e. programs, classes, work, etc.).

- A felony conviction in one of the following categories are Federally Non-Exemptible: Child abuse or neglect; Spousal abuse; crime against a child; including pornography; or a crime involving violence (rape, sexual assault or homicide).
 - A felony conviction in one of the following categories are Federally Non-Exemptible for five (5) years: Physical assault, battery, or drug related offenses.
 - PROVIDE THREE (3) LETTERS OF REFERENCE
3. HOME ENVIRONMENT MUST MEET ALL STATE AND FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS
 - No more than four (4) children share a bedroom; No sharing a bedroom by children of the opposite gender identity unless each child is under eight (8) years of age; Each bedroom has sufficient portable or permanent closet and drawer space for each child; The child does not share a bedroom with an adult unless the child is an infant (under two (2) years of age); There are no more than two (2) infants and no more than two (2) adults sharing the same bedroom; infant has age-appropriate safe/sturdy bassinet or crib; Each child or young adult dependent shall be provided with an individual bed; no room commonly used for other purposes or as a public or general passageway to another room is used as a bedroom.

4. PERMANENCY ASSESSMENT
 - Is a component of the Resource Family Approval process which requires an applicant to meet standards that include, but are not limited to, pre-approval training, personal life assessment, and any other activities that relate to your ability to provide a permanent home for a child or young adult dependent.
5. COMPLETE TRAINING
 - 12 hours pre-approval and 12 hours post-approval; both caregivers need to attend all 24 hours.
 - Families without an emergency placement will need to complete advanced training before placement.
 - Families with an emergency placement in the home will complete training within the first three (3) months of approval. This must be completed before your annual re-assessment or you will be placed on hold.
 - *Training is free and vouchers for child care during training is provided. Child care must be provided by a licensed child care provider.
 - CPR/First Aid Training
6. ANNUAL ASSESSMENTS
 - Home environment check
 - Eight (8) hours of training every year per caregiver

Things to consider:

- Children and Family Services (CFS)

pays for "Bridge Child Care" for families with emergency placements who are not yet approved and therefore not fully funded. CFS will reimburse child care up to \$400 per month per child for families where all caregivers work or are in training **until the family is approved and begins receiving foster care payments**. Child care must be provided by a licensed child care provider. This is the only supplement for child care.

- Placement funding is provided after the approval process is complete. If a child/youth is placed in your home, the approval process could take up to 90 days to be approved and payment typically does not start until 45 days after approval.
- All relatives are encouraged to apply for **CalWORKs Non-Needy Caretaker** benefits during this process. A **CalWORKs Non-Needy Caretaker** is defined as financially self-sufficient, do not receive CalWORKs, do not have to meet program requirements, and do not adversely affect CalWORKs eligibility for the child(ren) with their income or resources. It also means any member of the household to the 5th degree of kinship, for example: grandmother, sibling, aunt, uncle, etc.

You are expected to:

- Follow court orders.
- Take child(ren) to parental visitations, counseling appointments, court, and be available for social worker contacts.