



September 1, 2017

Dear Kinship Caregiver:

DFPS is changing how it reimburses eligible kinship caregivers. This change is due to a new law that gives caregivers a payment of \$11.55 per day per child. That would be \$346.50 for a 30-day month.

In the past, DFPS provided eligible caregivers a one-time \$1,000 for the first child and \$495 for each sibling placed in their home. Caregivers could also get an annual \$500 per child for approved expenses.

The new plan takes effect September 1, 2017. If eligible, you would receive payment in October since this is a reimbursement. The amount is 50% of the foster care basic daily rate. You must become a verified kinship foster parent to get the full foster care rate. Once verified, you may also be entitled to receive Permanency Care Assistance if the child is not eligible to reunite with his or her family or be adopted and you obtain permanent managing conservatorship of the child.

You must meet all of these conditions to receive the kinship monthly reimbursement:

- CPS has conservatorship of the child in your care.
- CPS approved you through the home-assessment process.
- You are not a verified foster home or group home receiving maintenance payments.
- You previously signed and are abiding by the Kinship Caregiver Agreement.
- Your total household income is not more than 300% of the federal poverty limit. Total family income must include all household members. This includes parents and anyone who moved in on or after the child was placed in your home.
- One-time or annual payments from June 1, 2017, to September 1, 2017, must be offset before DFPS can begin reimbursements. For example, your monthly reimbursements would begin roughly in November if you got the one-time \$1,000 in August.

DFPS can reimburse for up to 12 months. You could get an extension of up to six months if the agency finds good cause. Good cause exceptions include:

- Trying to find a previously absent parent of the child.
- Waiting for appeal process in a termination of parental-rights case.

- Allowing more time for you to complete the approval process for verification or adoption of the child.
- Awaiting approval of a child's placement from another state.
- A delay in finding out the child's Indian Child status or waiting for the Indian Child's Tribe to approve.
- Any other situation in which DFPS finds the need for an extension.

You can fill out the attached form and give it your Kinship Development Worker if you want to have direct deposit reimbursements.

Also, if you get permanent custody of the child and meet eligibility requirements, you can request the \$500 annual reimbursement for child-related costs. DFPS can reimburse you for up to three years or until the child turns 18, whichever comes first.

Please contact your Kinship Development Worker for more information or if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Debbie Bouldin  
CPS Program Specialist V

Attach: Direct deposit form