

HOMES *with*
HEART
— V E N T U R A C O U N T Y —

WELCOME TO ORIENTATION



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WHICH IS MORE IMPORTANT?



California Partnership Plan for Children in Out-of-Home Care

Teamwork, Respect, Nurturing, Strong Families

All of us are responsible for the well being of children in the custody of child welfare agencies. The children's caregivers along with the California Department of Social Services, county child welfare agencies, private foster family agencies, and contractors and staffs of these agencies undertake this responsibility in partnership, aware that none of us can succeed by ourselves.

Children need normal childhoods as well as loving and skillful parenting that honor their loyalty to their biological family and their need to develop and maintain permanent lifelong connections. The purpose of this document is to articulate a common understanding of the values, principles, and relationships necessary to fulfill this responsibility. The following commitments are embraced by all of us. This document in no way substitutes for or waives statutes or rules; however, we will attempt to apply these laws and regulations in a manner consistent with this agreement.

Caregivers and Agency Staff Work Together as Respected Partners

1. Caregivers and child welfare agency staff will work together in a respectful partnership to ensure that the care we provide to our children supports their healthy development and gives them the best possible opportunity for success.
2. Caregivers, the family and agency staff will conduct themselves in a professional manner, will share all relevant information promptly, and will respect the privacy and confidentiality of all information related to the child and his or her family.
3. Caregivers, the family, and agency staff will participate in developing the plan for the child and family, and all members of the team will work together to implement this plan. Caregivers will participate in all team meetings and court hearings (including review and post-permanency hearings) related to the child's care and future plans. Agency staff will support and facilitate caregiver participation through timely notification, an inclusive process, and the provision of alternative methods of participation for caregivers who cannot be physically present.
4. The Agency will honor and respect the caregiver's right to take a time-limited break from accepting the placement of children into their family without fear of adverse consequence from the agency.
5. Caregivers will work in partnership with agency staff to obtain and maintain records that are important to the child's well being including, medical records, school records, photographs, and records of special events and achievements.

Nurturing Children and Youth

1. Excellent parenting is an expectation of caregivers. Caregivers will provide and agency staff will support excellent parenting. Excellent parenting includes:
 - a loving commitment to the child and the child's safety and well being;
 - equal participation of the child in family life;
 - awareness of the impact of trauma on behavior;
 - respect for the child's individuality, including likes and dislikes;
 - appropriate supervision;
 - positive, constructive methods of discipline;
 - involvement of the child in the community;
 - a commitment to enable the child to lead a *normal life*;
 - encouragement of the child's strengths; and
 - providing opportunities to develop the child's interests and skills.
2. Agency staff will provide caregivers with all available information in a timely manner to assist them in determining whether they are able to appropriately care for the child. Children will be placed only with caregivers who have the ability and willingness to accept responsibility for caring for the child in light of the child's culture, religion and ethnicity, physical and psychological needs, sexual orientation, gender identification and expression, family relationships, and any special circumstances affecting the child's care. Agency staff will assist them in obtaining the support, training, and skills necessary for the care of the child.
3. Caregivers must be willing and able to learn about, be respectful of and support the child's connections to his/her religion, culture, and ethnicity.
4. Agency staff will provide caregivers with information on expectations for excellent parenting. Caregivers will have access to and be expected to take advantage of all training they need to improve their skills in parenting children who have experienced trauma due to neglect, abuse, or separation from home; to meet these children's special needs; and to work effectively with child welfare agencies, the courts, biological families, the schools, and other community and governmental agencies.
5. Agency staff will provide caregivers with the services and support they need to enable them to provide quality care for the child. Caregivers will be expected to identify, communicate, and seek out their needs without fear of judgment or retaliation.

6. Caregivers will fully incorporate the child/youth into their family, including equal participation in family activities such as vacations, holiday celebrations, and community activities. Agency staff will support families in overcoming barriers to full participation in family life and activities.
7. Once the caregiver accepts the responsibility of caring for the child, the child will remain with the caregiver unless:
 - the caregiver is clearly unable to care for him/her safely or legally;
 - the child and his/her family of origin are reunified;
 - the child is to be placed with a relative or non-relative extended family member;
 - the child is being placed in a legally permanent home in accordance with the case plan or court order; or
 - the removal is demonstrated to be in the child's best interest as determined through consultation with agency staff and other resource partners.
8. If the child/youth must leave the caregiver's home for one of the above reasons and in the absence of an unforeseeable emergency, the transition will be accomplished according to a plan developed jointly between the caregiver and agency staff. The development of the plan should involve cooperation and sharing of information among all persons involved. This transition will respect the child's developmental stage, psychological needs and relationship to the caregiver family, ensure they have all their belongings, and allow for a gradual transition from the caregiver's home, and, if possible, for continued contact with the caregiver after the child leaves.

Supporting Families

1. When the plan for the child includes reunification, caregivers and agency staff will work together to support that plan and to provide continuity for the child by assisting the biological parents in improving their ability to care for and protect their child, including as appropriate, participation in medical/related care, school, and other important activities. Agency staff will support caregivers in the reunification process, respect their input, and will not *retaliate* against them as a result of this advocacy.
2. When the plan for the child includes adoption, relative placement, or a move to a new foster family, with the support of the agency, the existing and the prospective caregiver will work together, with the support of the agency, to facilitate a smooth transition by sharing information about the needs, experiences and preferences of the child. To provide continuity for the child, prospective families are encouraged to participate in medical/related care, school, and other important activities. Continued contact between the child and the initial foster family is encouraged as long as it is in the child's best interest. The transition plan from foster care to adoption or relative home shall focus on meeting the developmental and other needs of the child.

3. Caregivers will respect and support the child's ties to family (parents, siblings, extended family members), and other significant relationships, and will assist the child in maintaining these relationships through facilitating appropriate visitation and other forms of communication in accordance with the case plan. Agency staff will provide caregivers with the information, guidance, training, and support necessary for fulfilling this responsibility.

Strengthening Communities

1. Caregivers will advocate for children with the child welfare system, the court, and community agencies, including schools, child care, health and mental health providers, and employers. Agency staff will support them in doing so, respect their input and will not retaliate against them as a result of this advocacy.
2. Caregivers will participate fully in the child's medical, psychological, and dental care, including:
 - identifying doctors and needed specialists;
 - scheduling regular and necessary appointments;
 - accompanying children to appointments;
 - sharing information with medical, psychological and dental professionals as needed to provide care to the child and as permitted by law;
 - supporting and comforting children during and after visits; and
 - implementing any needed follow-up care in the home.

Agency staff will support and facilitate this participation. Caregivers and agency staff will share information with each other about the child's health and well being.

3. Caregivers will support the child's school success through activities, including:
 - participating in school activities and meetings, including IEP (Individualized Education Plan) meetings, back to school nights and other school events;
 - assisting with school assignments;
 - accessing and supporting tutoring;
 - meeting with teachers, including teacher conferences;
 - coordinating school transportation;
 - working with the biological parent as educational rights holder or educational representative or surrogate if one has been appointed;

- encouraging and supporting the child’s participation in extra-curricular activities; and
 - Agency staff will support and facilitate this participation. Caregivers and agency staff will share information with each other about child’s progress and needs, academic performance, behavioral functioning and issues regarding school placement.
4. Caregivers will provide developmentally appropriate opportunities to allow children and youth to learn and practice life skills and have hands-on experiences in preparation for transition to adulthood, including:
- participation in family decisions;
 - routine age appropriate household activities and chores;
 - conflict resolution;
 - money management and financial planning;
 - assistance with job and career exploration/development;
 - assistance with higher education and financial aid exploration/processes;
 - obtaining housing;
 - obtaining legal documents; and
 - support the youth in accessing and taking advantage of agency and community resources.

Caregiver Signature:

Name:

Agency Staff Signature:

Name:

Date:

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WE BELIEVE





Core Values

- To ensure that every youth in out of home care receives quality care and nurturing within a loving home and family.
- To ensure that caregivers receive the support they need as they care for children who have experienced trauma and loss.
- To ensure all children have life-long permanency, whether that be by returning home with a strong safety network or through being welcomed by an unconditionally committed forever family.
- The Agency's core values are in line with the statewide initiative called Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI), which focuses on building a partnership between parents, caregivers, services provider & the Agency.





Safe at Home...

We believe families can keep their children safe with support.

and if they can't...

Caregiving...

We believe children should be cared for in a familiar, nurturing, and safe environment.

and while they are in care...

Child's Experience...

We believe every child is entitled to thrive through stability, family connections, quality treatment, and a voice in planning.

Parental Support for Reunification...

We believe, through partnership and support, parents can grow and change in order to safely parent their children.

and if the children cannot return home...

Permanency...

We believe all children deserve a sense of belonging, and a permanent, unconditional commitment in a lifelong family.



COUNTY OF VENTURA



WHO ARE DEPENDENT CHILDREN?



Data on Children in Care 2018

Data (except where noted) as of December 2018

Total children in out of home care: 706

- Youth living in STRTP care: 31
- 168(23.8%) children between ages 16-21
- 149 (21.1%) children between 11-15
- 115 (16.3%)children between 6-10
- 274 (38.8%) children between 0-5
- 346 children who have siblings
- 47.7% are living with all siblings
- 18.5% are living with some of their siblings
- 36.8% are not living with any of their siblings
- Approximately 676 children are outside of their cities of origin; nearly 25% of youth are more than 11 miles away from their community of origin
- Total number of hotline calls received in 2018: 24,471
- Total number of investigations in 2018:4,640
- Total number of new cases open in 2018: 516
- Of children in out of home care in December 2018 (where children are from)
 - 312 (46.7%) were from Oxnard/Port Hueneme
 - 115 (17.21%) were from Ventura
 - 18 (2.69%) were from the Ojai Valley
 - 45 (6.73%) were from Santa Paula/Fillmore/Piru
 - 37 (5.53%) were from Camarillo
 - 94(14.7%) were from East County
 - Remaining children are from other areas in the state and country.
- 72.9% of our children are Latino
- 21.8% are Caucasian
- 3.7% are Black
- 1.6% are Asian, Native America, or have an unreported ethnicity.
- Referral allegations
 - 50.7% Neglect (substance exposed infants, DV, parental mental health, parental substance abuse)
 - 14.47% Physical Abuse
 - 17.32% Emotional Abuse
 - 4.8% Sexual Abuse
 - 12.71% At-risk sibling/Other
- 5.8% of youth re-entered care (4/1/2016-3/31/2017)
- On average, youth in care experience 3.4 number of placement changes
- The average amount of time youth spend in foster care is:
 - under 1-year 65.2%
 - 1-3 years 24.1%
 - More than 3 years 10.7%
- Total adoptions in 2018: 157
 - 46% by Foster Families/unrelated caregivers
 - 53% by Relatives

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TRAINING



For Pre-Service Training registration contact

Kids & Families Together at 805.643.1446 Ext. 151

For more information visit HomeswithHeartVC.org or www.kidsandfamilies.org

Respite continues to be available if needed and upon request with at least 2 business days' notice. For additional details you can contact Jocelyn Lugo at Channel Islands Social Services 805-384-0983 ext. 873

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HOME ENVIRONMENT





DO YOUR OWN HOME EVALUATION

Please take the time to review this checklist to ensure that your home meets the Resource Family Approval (RFA) program requirements prior to the home inspection.

KITCHEN AREA

- Telephone shall be accessible at all times
- Post emergency numbers in a prominent location
- Faucets used by a child or youth shall deliver hot water at a safe temperature
- Disposal of waste shall be in a manner that will not permit the transmission of disease, odors or create a nuisance
- Storage areas for poisons shall be locked
- Kitchen knives shall be made inaccessible to a child **who is not** of sufficient age and maturity
- Medications requiring refrigeration shall be made inaccessible (depending on age and maturity level of child)

LIVING ROOM, DINNING ROOM & DEN

- Ensure the safety of a child or youth in homes that have fireplaces, freestanding stoves or space heaters
- Maintain a safe and comfortable temperature at all times

BATHROOM AREAS

- Prescription and non-prescription medications shall be stored where inaccessible
- Disinfectants and cleaning solutions shall be stored where they are inaccessible to a child or youth
- Toilet, sink, tub/shower shall be maintained in a safe, clean, and operating condition

BEDROOMS

- No bedroom shall be used as a public or general passageway to another room
- No more than **four** children per bedroom and one dependent child per bed
- Comfortable mattress, linens, blankets, and pillows are clean and **all** in good repair
- Bunk beds shall have railings on both sides of the upper tier (children under age 6 not allowed on top bunk)
- Beds should be arranged to allow easy passage between beds and easy entrance into the room
- Provide each infant with a safe and **sturdy bassinet** (up to 3 months) or **crib** – (NO DROP DOWN SIDES) and **car seat** (MUST comply with state regulations- regarding infant's weight and height).
- Portable or permanent closet and drawer space to accommodate the child's clothing and personal belongings
- Security window bars shall have a safety release device

HALLWAYS

- All outdoor and indoor passageway, stairways, inclines, ramps, and open porches shall be free of obstruction
- Except for homes with a sprinkler system, a functioning smoke detector and carbon monoxide detectors installed in hallway(s) in sleeping area that is audible in each bedroom

OUTDOOR AREAS

- Window and window screens are in good repair
- Bodies of water (i.e. pools, spas, hot tubs) are made inaccessible to a child under age 10
- Yard or outdoor activity space shall be free from hazards that endanger the health and safety of a child or youth

MISCELLANEOUS

- Firearms and other dangerous weapons shall be locked
- Ammunition shall be stored and locked separately from firearms
- Maintain first aid supplies appropriate to the needs of the child or youth
- Carpet, floors, and walls are clean at **all** times
- Provide lighting as necessary in **all** rooms of the home to ensure comfort and safety

HOME SHALL BE CLEAN, SAFE, SANITARY & IN GOOD REPAIR AT ALL TIMES



HAGA LA EVALUACION DE SU HOGAR USTED MISMO

Por favor tómesese el tiempo para revisar esta lista de verificación para garantizar que su hogar cumpla con los requisitos del programa de Familias de Apoyo antes de la inspección.

COCINA

- Un teléfono debe estar en un lugar accesible en todo momento y los números de emergencia deben estar en la vista en un lugar prominente
- Las llaves de agua que usen los niños deben tener agua caliente a una temperatura adecuada
- La eliminación de la basura debe realizarse de manera que no permita la transmisión de enfermedades o olores
- Las alacenas que contengan venenos deben estar cerradas con llave
- Los cuchillos de cocina deben estar fuera del alcance de los niños **que no tengan** la edad o la madurez suficiente
- Los medicamentos que requieren refrigeración deben estar fuera del alcance (según la edad o madurez del niño)

SALA DE ESTAR, COMEDOR Y GABINETES

- Garantice la seguridad del niño en hogares que tengan chimeneas, calentadores abiertos (sin tapa) y estufas de leña
- Mantenga una temperatura adecuada y agradable en todo momento

BAÑOS

- Medicamentos recetados y no recetados deben guardarse en lugares que estén fuera del alcance de los niños
- Los desinfectantes y soluciones de limpieza deben guardarse en lugares que estén fuera de alcance
- El inodoro, el lavabo, la banera/ducha deben mantenerse en condiciones seguras, limpias y operativas

RECÁMARAS

- Ninguna recámara debe ser un lugar de paso a otras habitaciones
- No debe haber más de **cuatro** niños en una recámara y un niño por cama
- Toda** la ropa de cama, las almohadas y los colchones deben ser cómodos, estar limpios y en buenas condiciones
- Las literas deben tener brandales en ambos lados de la cama en el nivel superior (no se debe permitir que los niños de menos de 6 años de edad duerman en la cama de arriba)
- Las camas deben estar arregladas para permitir un paso fácil entre las camas y una fácil entrada a la habitación.
- Proporcionarle a cada bebé una cuna con rejas fijas y un asiento para el automóvil cual cumple con los reglamentos estatales en términos de peso y estatura del menor
- Debe haber un armario móvil o fijo y cajones para guardar la ropa y los objetos personales del niño
- Las rejas de seguridad para las ventanas deben tener un mecanismo de seguridad para desconectarlas

PASILLOS

- No debe haber obstáculos en los pasillos interiores y exteriores, las escaleras, las rampas y los porches abiertos
- El detector de humo y detector de monóxido de carbono instalado en el pasillo del área donde las personas duermen debe funcionar y oírse en cada recámara

ÁREAS EXTERIORES

- Las ventanas y los mosquiteros deben estar en buenas condiciones
- Extensiones de agua (albercas, spas, tinas para hidromasaje) deben estar fuera del alcance de los niños menores de 10 años
- Patios o espacios para actividades al aire libre deben estar libres de peligros para la salud y la seguridad del niño

MISCELANEO

- Las alacenas que contengan armas de fuego o otras armas peligrosas deben mantenerse cerradas con llave
- Las balas deben guardarse bajo llave en un lugar distinto de las armas de fuego
- Debe contar con suministros de primeros auxilios adecuados a las necesidades de un niño
- Las alfombras, los pisos y las paredes deben estar limpios en **todo** momento
- Debe haber la cantidad de luz necesaria en **todas** las habitaciones para garantizar que sean seguras y cómodas

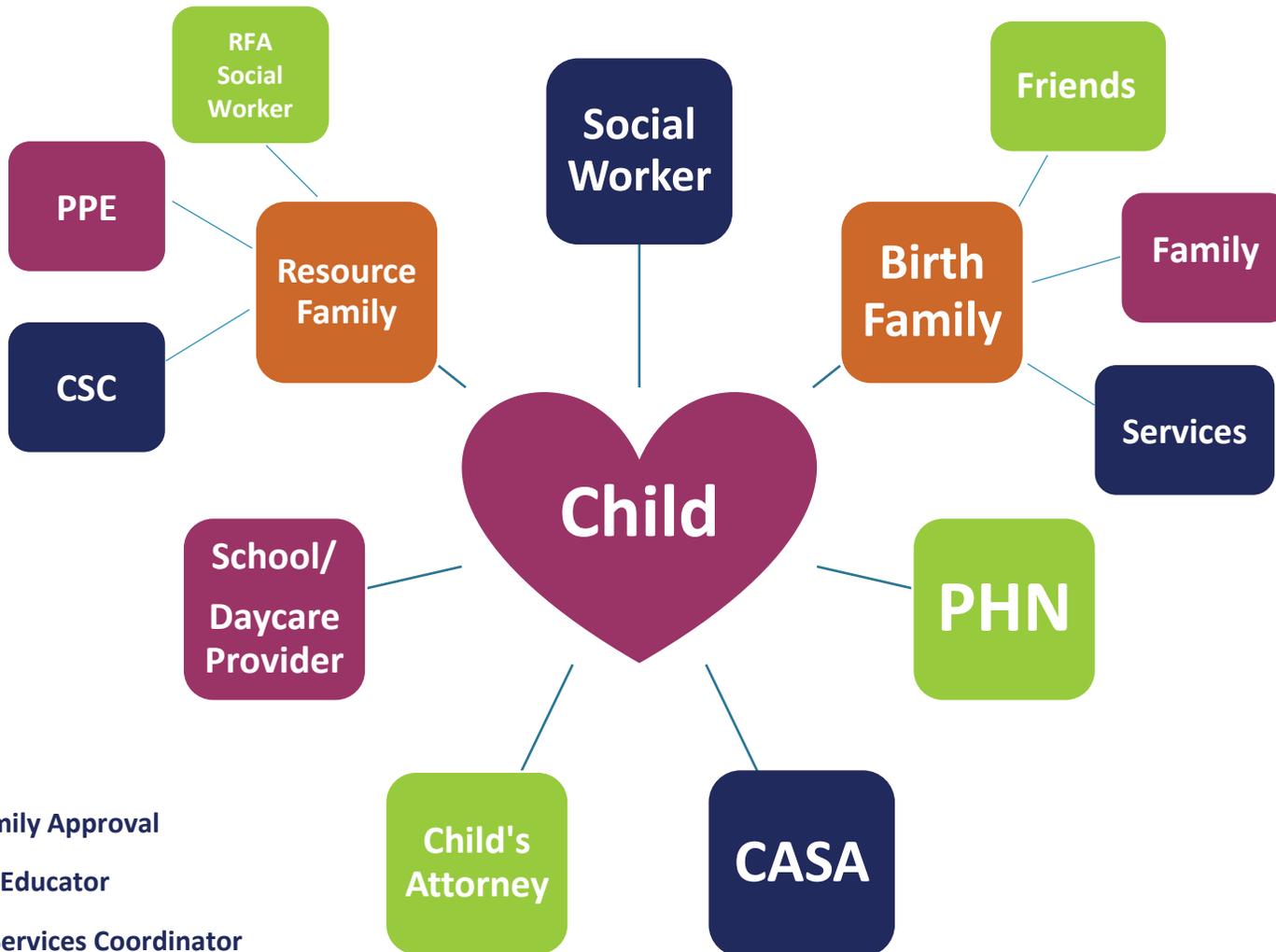
LA CASA DEBE ESTAR LIMPIA Y EN BUENAS CONDICIONES Y DEBE ESTAR FUERA DE PELIGROS E HIGIÉNICA EN TODO MOMENTO

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TEAMING



TEAMING



RFA – Resource Family Approval

PPE – Peer Partner Educator

CSC – Community Services Coordinator

PHN – Public Health Nurse

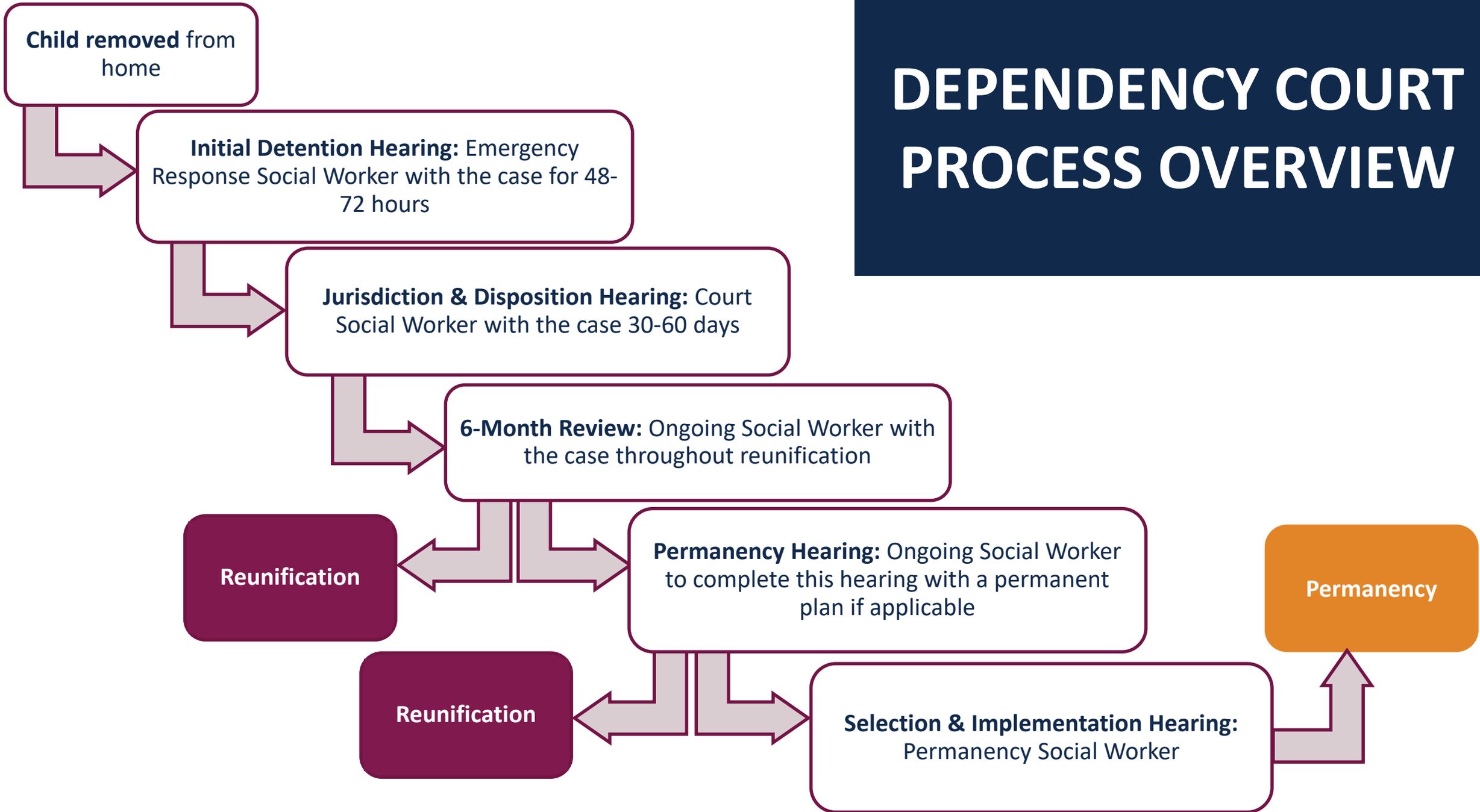
CASA – Court Appointed Special Advocate



DEPENDENCY COURT PROCESS OVERVIEW



DEPENDENCY COURT PROCESS OVERVIEW





CHILDREN'S PERSONAL RIGHTS



RESOURCE FAMILY APPROVAL

Child/ren and Nonminor Dependent Personal Rights

- (a) A Resource Family shall ensure that each child and nonminor dependent is accorded the personal rights specified in Welfare and Institutions Code section 16001.9.
- (1) To live in a safe, healthy, and comfortable home where he or she is treated with respect.
 - (2) To be free from physical, sexual, emotional, or other abuse, or corporal punishment.
 - (3) To receive adequate and healthy food, adequate clothing, and, for youth in group homes, an allowance.
 - (4) To receive medical, dental, vision, and mental health services.
 - (5) To be free of the administration of medication or chemical substances, unless authorized by a physician.
 - (6) To contact family members, unless prohibited by court order, and social workers, attorneys, foster youth advocates and supporters, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs), and probation officers.
 - (7) To visit and contact brothers and sisters, unless prohibited by court order.
 - (8) To contact the Community Care Licensing Division of the State Department of Social Services or the State Foster Care Ombudsperson regarding violations of rights, to speak to representatives of these offices confidentially, and to be free from threats or punishment for making complaints.
 - (9) To make and receive confidential telephone calls and send and receive unopened mail, unless prohibited by court order.
 - (10) To attend religious services and activities of his or her choice.
 - (11) To maintain an emancipation bank account and manage personal income, consistent with the child's age and developmental level, unless prohibited by the case plan.
 - (12) To not be locked in a room, building, or facility premises, unless placed in a community treatment facility.
 - (13) To attend school and participate in extracurricular, cultural, and personal enrichment activities, consistent with the child's age and developmental level, with minimal disruptions to school attendance and educational stability.
 - (14) To work and develop job skills at an age-appropriate level, consistent with state law.
 - (15) To have social contacts with people outside of the foster care system, including teachers, church members, mentors, and friends.
 - (16) To attend Independent Living Program classes and activities if he or she meets age requirements.
 - (17) To attend court hearings and speak to the judge.
 - (18) To have storage space for private use.
 - (19) To be involved in the development of his or her own case plan and plan for permanent placement.
 - (20) To review his or her own case plan and plan for permanent placement, if he or she is 12 years of age or older and in a permanent placement, and to receive information about

his or her out-of-home placement and case plan, including being told of changes to the plan.

- (21) To be free from unreasonable searches of personal belongings.
 - (22) To the confidentiality of all juvenile court records consistent with existing law.
 - (23) To have fair and equal access to all available services, placement, care, treatment, and benefits, and to not be subjected to discrimination or harassment on the basis of actual or perceived race, ethnic group identification, ancestry, national origin, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental or physical disability, or HIV status.
 - (24) To be placed in out-of-home care according to their gender identity, regardless of the gender or sex listed in their court or child welfare records.
 - (25) To have caregivers and child welfare personnel who have received instruction on cultural competency and sensitivity relating to, and best practices for, providing adequate care to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth in out-of-home care.
 - (26) At 16 years of age or older, to have access to existing information regarding the educational options available, including, but not limited to, the coursework necessary for vocational and postsecondary educational programs, and information regarding financial aid for postsecondary education.
 - (27) To have access to age-appropriate, medically accurate information about reproductive health care, the prevention of unplanned pregnancy, and the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections at 12 years of age or older.
- (b) In addition to subsection (a), a Resource Family shall ensure that each child is accorded the following personal rights:
- (1) To be informed of and exercise their personal rights without harassment or punishment.
 - (2) To be free from corporal or unusual punishment; infliction of pain; humiliation; intimidation; ridicule; coercion; threat; physical, sexual, emotional, mental, or other abuse; or other actions of a punitive nature including interference with the daily living functions of eating, sleeping, or toileting, or withholding of shelter, clothing, medication, or aids to physical functioning.
 - (3) To make and receive confidential telephone calls and send and receive unopened mail and electronic communication, unless prohibited by court order.
 - (A) Unless prohibited by court order or the placement agency for the child, a child may acquire, possess, and use his or her own cellular telephone.
 - (4) To have access to letter writing material.
 - (5) To be accorded dignity in his or her personal relationships with other persons in the home.
 - (6) To be free from unreasonable searches of person.
 - (7) Not to be restrained or placed in any restraining device.
 - (8) To obtain, possess and use contraception including, but not limited to, birth control medication, emergency contraception, long-acting reversible contraceptives, condoms, and barrier methods.

- (9) To be free to accept or decline a Resource Family's request to babysit the Resource Family's children, including adopted, biological, foster, and guardianship children.
- (10) To be provided with and allowed to acquire, possess, and use adequate personal items, which includes his or her own:
 - (A) Clothes, provided the clothes are age-appropriate, do not violate school standards when worn during school activities, and are in accordance with the gender identity of the child.
 - (B) Toiletries and personal hygiene products, including enclosed razors used for shaving, as age or developmentally appropriate.
 - (C) Belongings, including items that were a gift to the child.
- (11) Provided the rights of others are not infringed upon, to have visitors that include:
 - (A) Relatives, unless prohibited by court order.
 - (B) The authorized representative for the child.
 - (C) Other visitors, unless prohibited by court order or by the authorized representative for the child.
- (12) To be informed, and to have his or her authorized representative informed, by the Resource Family of the provisions of law regarding complaints, the address and telephone number of the County, and about the confidentiality of complaints.
- (13) To be accorded the independence appropriate to the age, maturity, and capability of the child consistent with the child's needs and services plan or the transitional independent living plan (TILP), if applicable.
- (14) To have private or personal information, including, but not limited to, any medical condition or treatment, psychiatric diagnosis or treatment, history of abuse, educational records, sexual orientation, gender identity, and information relating to the biological family of the child, maintained in confidence.
 - (A) A Resource Family shall disclose information about the child to a County, the Juvenile Court, and the child's biological family, social worker, placement worker, probation officer, tribe, physician, psychiatrist, CASA, attorney, and authorized representative, unless the disclosure is prohibited by court order.
 - (B) As needed to ensure appropriate care, supervision, or education of the child, a Resource Family shall disclose information to respite care providers, occasional short-term babysitters, alternative caregivers, school officials, and other persons, unless the disclosure is prohibited by court order.
- (15) To receive medical, dental, vision, and mental health services.
 - (A) Medical services may include, but are not limited to, services related to the prevention or treatment of pregnancy, sexual assault, or rape; and at 12 years of age or older, the prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of sexually-transmitted diseases.
 - (i) A child may consent personally to the services described in subsection (A), without the knowledge or consent of a parent, guardian, social worker, probation officer, judge, or authorized representative.
 - (ii) A child may obtain these services confidentially, unless prohibited by law.

(c) In addition to subsection (a), a Resource Family shall ensure that each nonminor dependent is accorded the following personal rights:

- (1) The rights specified in paragraphs (1) through (9) of subsection (b).
- (2) To be provided with and allowed to acquire, possess, maintain, and use adequate personal items which include the nonminor dependent's own:
 - (A) Clothes.
 - (B) Toiletries and personal hygiene products.
 - (C) Belongings, including gifts to the nonminor dependent, furniture, equipment, and supplies, for his or her personal living space in accordance with his or her interests, needs, and tastes.
- (3) To have adequate privacy for visitors that include:
 - (A) Relatives, unless prohibited by court order.
 - (B) The placement agency.
 - (C) Other visitors, unless prohibited by court order.
- (4) To be informed by the Resource Family of the provisions of law regarding complaints, the address and telephone number of the County, and about the confidentiality of complaints.
- (5) To have the independence appropriate to the status of a legal adult, consistent with the needs and services plan or the Transitional independent living plan for the nonminor dependent.
- (6) To have private or personal information, including any medical condition or treatment, psychiatric diagnosis or treatment, history of abuse, educational records, and information relating to the biological family of the nonminor dependent, maintained in confidence.
 - (A) There shall be no release of confidential information without the prior written consent of a nonminor dependent, and this information shall only be released to the extent permitted by law.
 - (i) A Resource Family shall, with the consent of a nonminor dependent, only disclose relevant and necessary information about the nonminor dependent.
 - (ii) A Resource Family shall disclose information about a nonminor dependent to a County, the Juvenile Court, and the nonminor dependent's biological family, nonminor dependent's social worker, placement worker, probation officer, tribe, physician, psychiatrist, CASA, attorney, and authorized representative, unless the disclosure is prohibited by court order.
 - (iii) As needed to ensure appropriate care, supervision, or education of a nonminor dependent, a Resource Family shall disclose information to school officials and other persons, unless disclosure is prohibited by court order.
- (7) To access information regarding available educational, training, and employment options of the nonminor dependent's choosing.
- (8) To select, obtain, prepare, and store food of the nonminor dependent's choosing.
- (9) To select, obtain, or decline medical, dental, vision, and mental health care and related services at the nonminor dependent's discretion.
- (10) To leave or depart the home at any time at the nonminor dependent's discretion.
- (11) To acquire, possess, maintain, and use a personal vehicle for transportation.
- (12) To acquire, possess, and use a personal cellular telephone.

- (d) In ensuring the rights of a child or a nonminor dependent, a Resource Family is not required to take any action that would impair the health and safety of a child, nonminor dependent, or others in the home consistent with Welfare and Institutions Code section 16001.9(b).
 - (1) A Resource Family is not prohibited from taking the following actions for the protection of a child, nonminor dependent, or others in the home:
 - (A) Establishing house rules, that may include rules regarding visitation that shall apply to all visitors; curfew; dating; completing homework; laundry and cleaning bedrooms and other areas; and use of entertainment equipment.
 - (B) Locking exterior doors and windows as long as a child or nonminor dependent can enter or exit the home.
- (e) At the following times, a Resource Family shall ensure a child or nonminor dependent is verbally notified in an age or developmentally appropriate manner, of his or her rights as specified in this section and in Welfare and Institutions Code section 16001.9, and provided with a written copy of these rights and information regarding agencies a child or nonminor dependent may contact concerning violation of these rights:
 - (1) Upon placement in the home.
 - (2) Upon the request of a child or a nonminor dependent.
 - (3) Each time a new right has been added to Welfare and Institutions Code section 16001.9 or this section.

I/We received a copy of the child's personal rights and agree to ensure the child/non minor dependant is provided these rights.

Resource Parent's Signature

Date

Resource Parent's Signature

Date

Social Worker

Date

Original: Client **Copy:** County of Ventura



NEXT STEP: PRE-SERVICE TRAINING!





Resource Family Recruitment & Approval Program

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Clerical Support

Resource Family Approval Line: (805) 654-3405

Resource Support Line: (805) 654-3220



Next Steps after Orientation

Step 1: Register for pre-service training classes.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Per state guidelines, people who attend pre-service training are expected to 1) complete their training within 60 days and 2) sign an application to become a resource family before the end of the training series. Please take the opportunity to ask questions and assess whether or not this is the right time for your family to apply before you register for pre-service training.

- Pre-service training classes are required to learn about regulations, requirements, challenges, and benefits of being a resource family. The classes educate about the child welfare system, trauma, behavior management, education, attachment, cultural awareness, health, and safety. They also feature a panel of speakers sharing stories of involvement with the child welfare system. There are 5 classes which are 3 hours each for a total of 15 hours. You may reschedule a class if needed and may withdraw from training at any time. On completion of your pre-service training classes, you will receive a certificate of completion.

All classes are being held via Zoom teleconference

Space is limited in each of the classes, schedule is subject to change

For Pre-Service Training registration contact
Kids & Families Together at 805.643.1446 Ext. 151

Respite continues to be available if needed and upon request with at least 2 business days' notice. For additional details you can contact Jocelyn Lugo at Channel Islands Social Services 805-384-0983 ext. 873

Step 2: Create an online account and complete the online application.

- After you begin the Pre-Service training, a link will be sent to your email address to create your online account containing the online application for Resource Family Approval.

Step 3: Work together with your RFA social worker and your Peer Partner Educator.

- Once you have submitted your application, you will be assigned a Resource Family Approval (RFA) social worker. They will guide and support you with the approval process, including home inspection, live scan, family assessment, CPR and other needed documents.

Step 4: Approval!

- Applicants who meet all of the qualifications set forth in the Written Directives and complete all of the steps in the application process will be approved within 90 days of applying.

Thank You for your interest in becoming a Home with Heart!



1. Generally, how long is the process of becoming a Resource Family with this agency?

Typically, the process takes between 2-3 months' time.

2. What are your annual continuing education requirements?

8 hours

3. What support services do you provide for Resource Families?

- A monthly stipend
- Mentorship from a Peer Partner Educator
- 12 hours of free respite care/ month
- Ongoing education and networking opportunities
- Additional funds to support a child's educational, enrichment and medical needs
- Participation in family and CFT meetings to address the needs of the child in your care.
- Access to Public Health Nurses, RX for Kids, and mental health services
- Free and discounted services through our Business with Heart and ifoster.org networks

4. When could I realistically expect to have a child placed in my home?

Must be placement ready - You **may be** called by our Placement team within 24 hours of being approved.

5. When will I be able to start taking pre-service training?

After orientation the next step is pre-services training – a 5-week course offered on an ongoing basis.

6. Do both spouses have to complete training?

Only one adult is required to be on the approval. Although, it is highly encouraged that both adults are approved so each adult can actively participate in the child's case plan.

7. Do you provide childcare during training?



Childcare is available during Pre-Service Trainings. Pre-Registration is required for all classes and childcare. For training registration contact Kids & Families Together at 805-643-1446. For childcare registration, contact Channel Islands Social Services at 805-384-0983, with at least 48 hours notice. *Childcare is not offered for Orientations.

8. Do you provide respite?

Yes, we provide 12 hours per month of free respite care.

9. Do I need to own my own home?

You may own or rent.

10. Do I have to be married?

No, you may be single, married or with a partner.

11. Do I have to be employed?

You need to provide evidence that you have adequate financial means to provide for the child in your care.

12. What is unique about your agency in contrast to the other agencies?

Children and Family Services is the local government child welfare agency with overall responsibility for all children in care. Live Scan background checks, CPR & First Aid Trainings, as well as your assessment are provided at no cost to you. After you submit your application, you are assigned a RFA social worker to support you thru the RFA process. Upon approval you are also assigned a community services coordinator (CSC). They provide assistance to resources, special funding and trainings as well as additional, ongoing supports for placements and any other needed areas in your role as a resource parent. Your CSC will be available to support you at any time during your time as a caregiver.

You will also be assigned an experienced Peer Partner Educator (PPE) to help mentor and walk alongside you on your journey as a caregiver. Your PPE can help build your network of support and provide coaching on day to day practical “how to” matters of caring for children.

13. What if I’m interested in adoption?



Under the Resource Family approval process, all families are eligible to adopt. Resource families may become forever families for the children in their care or children whose parental rights have been terminated.

For more information, visit <http://homeswithheartvc.org/adoption/>

14. Do you approve homes in my geographic region?

Ventura County only

15. What costs are associated with becoming an approved home within your agency?

- Families are responsible for ensuring children have adequate sleeping and living provisions and that their homes comply with state regulations.
- TB Test (only for specialized resource family).

16. What types of support do children in out of home care receive?

Children/youth receive health care, including dental and vision, through Ventura County's Medi-Cal program, Gold Coast. Children/youth are often eligible for mental health services, behavioral support services, psychiatric assessment and treatment, 24/7 crisis response, educational support and services that will enable them to lead independent and successful lives.

17. Are you a faith-based agency? If so, do I need to be a member of that denomination?

No, Children and Family Services is part of the Human Services Agency, County of Ventura. Nevertheless, we strongly support faith community engagement in fostering care.

Learn about Faith In Motion! <http://homeswithheartvc.org/faith-in-motion/>

18. Do you consider people who have a criminal history (DWI, felony, etc.)?

Yes. However, they must clear the background check process.

19. What measures are required if I have a pool or body of water on my property?

A fence must surround a pool for a child under the age of 10 or for children identified with special needs.

