



Relative Placement

1) Find Your Loved Ones

Start talking to friends and family you trust to take care of your child right away. Continue to do this until you find someone. Getting your kids out of foster care is essential for avoiding the termination of your parental rights and for increased visitation if your loved ones are approved to supervise.

2) Placement ASAP

The quickest way to get your children out of foster care is to have a loved one come forward from a household where no adults have a history of arrest or conviction or abuse or severe neglect of children. They will need to pass a background check and a quick home inspection. Even with most convictions, your loved ones can often get placement, it just takes longer. Out-of-state relatives take the longest.

3) Be Persistent

Loved ones: email the social worker right away and keep emailing/calling until they reply; if they don't, email the supervisor. Document all attempts at contact and take notes on what was said by Social Services. Loved ones should come to court to tell the judge that they are requesting placement and meet the attorney for the parent they are supporting and the attorney for the children to ask for help, e.g. raising the issue in court or filing a motion in support.

4) Do Not Run Out the Clock

After your reunification services are terminated, your child will almost certainly be adopted if they have been living in foster care instead of at a loved one's home. At this point, relatives can still try to get the kids, but it is much harder, often requiring a motion to ask for a trial on the issue.

5) Resource Family Approval (RFA)

Loved ones who become an emergency placement are still required to complete all the paperwork, livescan, orientation, class, interviews, and home inspections to become an approved family. Some good news: relatives are eligible for funding prior to the full approval, and the amount is around \$1,000 a month. Also, in some cases judges can order relative placements, even if Social Services is delaying approval.

Links for Resources

[Guide to SB 354.docx](#)
[Demystifying Relative Placement](#)
[Information for Relatives](#)