



Child Welfare Information Gateway

Child Welfare

Information Gateway is your connection to trusted resources on the child welfare continuum. We provide publications, research, and learning tools selected by experts to support thriving children, youth, families, and communities.



About

Share:

Find Help With a Personal Situation

Child Welfare Information Gateway does not have the authority to intervene in personal matters. Please see our resources on finding help with a personal situation.

How to Report Child Abuse and Neglect

To report child abuse and neglect, please contact Child Help USA at 1.800.4 A Child (1.800.422.4453) or see our list of State child abuse and neglect reporting numbers.

Reunification From Foster Care: A

Partnering With Relatives to



Reunification From Foster Care: Guide for Parents

a child in foster care, you may feel changed overnight. You lived in the child welfare system, and you don't know how your child will be apart. Having your child from your home can be hard, your child, and the rest of

When a family is brought safely back into foster care. It is also the result. Many parents have been with their children, and so, it may feel overwhelming, not alone. A team of experts will guide you toward your child.

WHAT'S INSIDE

- What to expect while you live
- Your family's rights while in foster care system
- Your case plan
- The importance of quality
- What happens as reunification begins
- What to expect after your child returns
- National parent and family resource center

Guide for Parents

This factsheet can help parents navigate the process of reunifying with their children from foster care. It also describes parents' rights, case planning, and working with resource parents.



Reuniting With Relatives to Promote Reunification

Coming to care for a relative's child plays an important role in the child's life. Helping to support the family are essential to a child's health because kinship caregivers must draw a blurred line between being a parent and assuming responsibility for children, misunderstandings may arise to adhere to court orders and boundaries between caregivers that include clear goals and expectations for promoting family child and family well-being.

Expectations for kinship factors influence how family for a relative's children interact with each other. Factors include the nature of the relationship and the available supports. Encourage communication. Agency will work with you to assess provide the training necessary healthy partnership with a child that maintains appropriate improves the odds for

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Maintaining connections and boundaries
- Managing family dynamics
- Healing and building trust
- Modeling positive parenting communication
- Being supportive to motivate change
- Leaning on the caseworker support services
- Conclusion
- Partnership resources
- Words to remember

Promote Reunification

Shares stories and advice from caregivers and birth parents who have experienced kinship care on the importance of maintaining boundaries, managing family dynamics, building trust, positive parenting and communication, and securing support.



Religious Rights of Youth in Out-of-Home Care

For a particular State or Territory, go to the [State Statute](#).

which exists on the religion youth in foster care, some religion may affect these youth. For some, this factor. The ability to activities of youth's choice support and coping to improve their well-being youth's connections while in foster care connected with their faith from the strengths of

in out-of-home care. This discusses the responsibilities agencies to find placement the youth's religious affiliation caregivers, including foster group care facilities, who respect the youth's own faith community.

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Youth's religious rights
- Agency responsibilities
- Grievance process

Religious Rights of Youth in Out-of-Home Care

Learn about State laws and policies that affirm the right of youth who are in out-of-home care to have their choice of religion respected by their caregivers.



Preparing Children and Youth for Adoption or Other Family Permanency

is also applicable to children permanency goals, such as guardianship.

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Understanding children regarding permanency
- Preparing children for placement
- Conclusion
- Additional resources
- References

Preparing Children and Youth for Adoption or Other Family Permanency

Explore ways for child welfare professionals to better understand the feelings and emotions children may experience regarding permanency and how to prepare them for placements with families, including adoptive, guardianship and kinship placements.

see the report from the U.S. Government Accountability Office, [Foster Care: Supporting Youth's LGBTQ+ Identities and Religious Beliefs](#).



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Reunifying Families

Tailored, intensive, and family-centered services help support families as they work on their reunification goals. Child welfare agencies implement many strategies that build on family strengths and address safety concerns.

Permanency

Permanency is a permanent, stable living situation, ideally one in which family connections are preserved. Children thrive best in permanent situations—with their family of origin, foster families, or adoptive families.

Foster Care

Foster care is a temporary living situation for children and youth who cannot safely live at home with their parents or other caregivers. While in foster care, children may live with relatives or other licensed caregivers.

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Child Welfare Outcomes 2022 Data Released

The CWO Data Site now includes data from 2018–2022 and will be available before the Congressional Report is released. The site has a new look and feel and improved accessibility while keeping its familiar functionality for exploring the data.

[Access the Data Site](#)

Explore Topics and Series

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Addressing mental and behavioral health in a strengths-based, holistic way can help improve a family's well-being and reduce the risk of maltreatment.



Recruiting and Retaining Families for Children and Youth in Foster Care

Deliberately recruiting resource families who reflect the ethnic and racial diversity of children coming into care and providing equitable support to families is essential to retaining foster parents and ensuring long-term placement stability.

Adoption Search and Reunion

People who have been adopted and members of their families of origin may seek to reconnect after adoption. For everyone involved, the search and reunion process may be emotional, requiring patience and understanding.

Relational Permanency

Child welfare professionals should understand the importance of relational permanency, which occurs when youth develop long-term connections with siblings, relatives, and other caring adults who make them feel loved and connected.

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Search Information Gateway's library catalog, one of the Nation's largest collections of child welfare-related resources. The library includes peer-reviewed journal articles, books, evaluation reports, Children's Bureau final grant reports, program reports, and more.

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