

# Keeping Child Welfare-Involved Groups Informed

## DCBS Case Worker Communication & Engagement Tip Sheet

### Birth Parents

- ✓ provide contact information (name, phone, email) and working hours for the case worker and supervisor
- inform parents of the allegations made against them
- provide a general overview of **what to expect** during the investigation/assessment process
- inform parents of where they can reach out for **peer support**
- inform parents of their right to seek **legal representation**
- inform parents of where to access a list of **their rights**
- provide or direct parents to a **community resource guide** or call line (dial “211”).

### Foster Parents

- ✓ share support group information, including: the **Foster Parent Mentor Program, Just In Time, KY FACES**, and the **Kentucky Foster and Adoptive Parent Training Support Network**
- provide **contact information** for all workers involved, including the caseworker(s) supervisor
- inform them of when the team meeting will occur
- inform them of when the court hearing is scheduled
- direct them on where to **find resources**, especially to address youth trauma
- provide **pertinent known medical information** and history of the child(ren)
- inform them of how to report ongoing abuse of the child(ren) in their care during visitation

### Kinship Caregivers & Fictive Kin

- ✓ provide **contact information** for the case worker(s)
- inform them about the **relative placement support benefit**
- inform them about the benefits, opportunities, and requirements if opting for **relative foster care or temporary custody**
- share support group information, including **KY-KINS, Kinship Families Coalition, FRYSCs**, and **Cooperative Extension Offices**
- inform them of how to access the **Kentucky Grandparent and Relative Caregiver Handbook**
- provide or direct fictive and relative caregivers to a **community resource guide** or call line (dial “211”)
- inform them of where to seek financial assistance, including **DCBS Family Support** for benefits and **KY FACES**
- direct caregivers to **Kinship Support Hotline** 877-565-5608

### Foster Youth

- ✓ provide **contact information** for everyone involved in their case (GAL, CASA, case worker(s) and caseworker(s) supervisor)
- inform them of where to access a **list of their rights**, including financial and medical
- advise them on how to **connect with an advocate**
- inform them on how and when they can access their case file
- inform them on what information about their case they can know
- inform them of when court will occur and if they can attend

QUICK TIPS

## Resources

<a href="#"><u>Parents' rights and responsibilities</u></a>	Rights and Responsibilities court handbook.
<a href="#"><u>Commonwealth Center for Fathers and Families</u></a>	Provides statewide fatherhood resources and support.
<a href="#"><u>Family or Youth Peer Support Referral</u></a>	Peer Support specialists are certified to support and advocate for others with a similar experience to their own.
<a href="#"><u>Foster youth rights</u></a>	The rights of the foster child/youth in state's care.
<a href="#"><u>Kentucky RISE mobile app</u></a>	A mobile app for foster youth support and advocacy.
<a href="#"><u>Rights and Responsibilities of Foster Parents:</u></a>	Legislative statute regarding foster parent rights.
<a href="#"><u>Foster Parent Mentor Program</u></a>	Foster parent support (note: available for DCBS Foster Parents only).
<a href="#"><u>Just in Time</u></a>	Training and peer experts for foster parents and kinship caregivers.
<a href="#"><u>KY FACES</u></a>	Foster parent and relative and fictive kin support.
<a href="#"><u>Kentucky Foster and Adoptive Parent Training Support Network</u></a>	A statewide organization for foster/adoptive parents.
<a href="#"><u>A Kentucky Grandparent and Relative Caregiver Handbook</u></a>	A guide for caregivers.
<a href="#"><u>Relative foster care vs. temporary custody (kinship)</u></a>	Explanation of definitions and types of kinship care, including legal and support implications.
<a href="#"><u>Relative placement support benefit</u></a>	A one-time monetary benefit that relatives and fictive kin caregivers may be eligible to receive.
<a href="#"><u>KY-KINS</u></a>	Matches kinship caregivers to certified peer supporters.
<a href="#"><u>Kinship Families Coalition of Kentucky</u></a>	Relative and fictive kin support.
<a href="#"><u>kynect</u></a>	A resource directory of programs, services, and supports throughout Kentucky.
<a href="#"><u>Department for Community Based Services Family Support benefits</u></a>	Food assistance, cash assistance, health care, child care assistance and more.
<a href="#"><u>Civil Legal Aid Programs</u></a>	Free legal assistance for qualified individuals.
<a href="#"><u>Division of Family Resource and Youth Service Centers</u></a>	FRYSCs are school-based centers which provide resources, programs, and services to families and caregivers.
<a href="#"><u>The University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service</u></a>	Provides practical education to help people, businesses, and communities.

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FOR MORE  
RESOURCES