



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS & PROBATION

Service Interpretive Guidelines **Relative/Kinship Home Study**

SERVICE DEFINITION:

A relative/kinship foster home study is an assessment of the relative/kin home to determine if the placement is appropriate and can ensure the youth's stability of placement for the youth in question when the relative/kin does not have a foster care license by a third party person. The home study is completed prior to the placement of a youth if it is a non-emergency placement, if it is an emergency (the need for placement is immediate for safety reason of the youth) the home study will be completed after the placement of the youth.

For the purposes of the home study and placement, a relative/kinship home is defined as a home where a youth receives foster care from an at least one primary care taker who the youth has previously lived with or a trusted adult that has a preexisting, significant relationship with the youth.

The home study will assess and document information related to the motivation of the adult(s) to foster the youth, the relationship with the youth's parent(s), ability to meet the needs of the youth, ability to maintain the youth safety and ability to work cooperatively with the youth's parents.

TARGET POPULATION:

This service is utilized when a youth is in need of a foster placement and a relative/kinship person or family has expressed the ability to care for and provide the youth in question with a safe and stable placement.

Relative/kinship foster care is typically utilized for high risk youth who are in need of a structured environment due to the inability of the youth to function at home. This service may be utilized for youth who score high in Family Circumstances/Parenting, Personality/Behavior, and/or Attitudes/Orientation.

PROBATION/PROBLEM SOLVING COURT OFFICER (OFFICER) RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Officer will complete a referral including all information regarding the relative/kinship home to include:
 - Names, dates of birth and social security numbers of all persons residing in the home
 - Address and contact information for the relative/kinship home adults
- Officer will provide additional information to the service provider as it relates to assisting with the assessment and facilitation of the home study.
- Officer will review the home study and recommendations prior to placing the youth in a non-emergency to determine if the placement is appropriate and stable for the youth.

- Officer will review the home study and recommendations from the home study to determine if the youth should remain in the relative/kinship home if the youth was placed there in an emergency situation.
- Officer will share the approval/denial of the home study and any recommendations with the court and the youth's team to assist in the decision making process regarding placement.
- Officer will complete an engagement detailing the home study approval/denial and recommendations made.
- Upload all documents in to the information management system.