

CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES  
STANDARDS FOR EFFECTIVE PRACTICE  
**STANDARDS FOR KINSHIP SERVICES**

**5.3 ONGOING PLACEMENT AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR KINSHIP CAREGIVERS**

**Council on Accreditation Standards**

The Council on Accreditation Standards S21 (Foster and Kinship Services); S21.27 (Support to Kinship Caregivers) and S21.9 (Caregiver Education) link to and support Standard 5.3 *Ongoing Placement and Supportive Services for Kinship Caregivers*.

**Administrative Code**

The Ohio Administrative Code Rules 5101:2-39-06 (Preplacement Preventative Services, Reunification Services and Life Skill Services); 5101:2-39-07 (Supportive Services); and 5101:2-39-073 (Kinship Care, Family Preservation, Supportive Services) address Standard 5.3 *Ongoing Placement and Supportive Services for Kinship Caregivers*.

**I. Philosophy**

Kinship services are family-centered, maximizing the level to which children are cared for by those with whom they have a significant relationship. Kinship services build on the strengths of families by identifying individuals who are willing to support the birth parents, help parents regain confidence and stability, and be parent mentors in providing care to the children.

Kinship helps to: reduce the trauma and stress to the child and family, reduce child abuse and neglect, maintain connections to family and community, increase the possibility of reunification, and achieve permanency and stability. It is important for the kinship caregiver to be supported by the agency and community.

The agency must work with the child and kinship family to mutually assess the needs of both and develop a plan to address those needs. Services and supportive resources may include, but not be limited to: recreational, respite, training, medical, educational, psychological, and financial.

**II. Outcome**

While placed with kinship caregivers, children remain safe.  
Kinship caregivers receive supportive services to meet the needs of the child and kinship family.

**III. Evaluation**

FACSIS events, CPOE and the Federal Health and Human Services outcomes may be considered when evaluating this standard. In addition, the CFSA may consider the following:

- the number of visits that occur within the first 3 days of placement where the agency staff assesses the kinship family's immediate and future needs;
- the number of ongoing face-to-face contact visits with the kinship caregivers and child monthly;
- the number of ongoing face-to-face contact visits within the kinship caregiver's home every other month;

- the number of children that were in a kinship placement and were reunified with their family (versus the number of children in a foster home placement and reunified with their family);
- the number of children adopted or legal guardianship established by their kinship placement (versus the number of children adopted by their foster family);
- the number of children who recidivate within 12 months of exiting care (comparing those that were originally in a kinship placement vs. a foster family placement);
- the number of formal annual reassessments of the kinship family's ability to care for the child.

#### **IV. Standards for Implementation**

##### **A. Assessment of Kinship Family's Needs**

Within the first 3 days of placement, the CFSA with the kinship family should assess the kinship family's immediate and future needs (emotional, supportive and material), and their ability to respond to those needs. Needs assessment is an ongoing process as long as the child's case is open.

- 1) Emotional needs should be assessed, which include, but not be limited to:
  - a. kinship family's feelings and beliefs regarding the reason for removal;
  - b. life changing adjustment of the kinship family, including kinship family's biological children;
  - c. kinship family's relationship with birth family and establishment of roles and expectations regarding such issues as visitation and contact;
  - d. child's relationship with the kinship family members;
  - e. child's ability to deal with divided loyalty, separation and loss;
  - f. kinship family's ability to deal with divided loyalty; and
  - g. kinship family's ability to understand and cope with the corresponding developmental and behavioral issues associated with child abuse and neglect.
- 2) Supportive Services needs should be assessed, which include but not be limited to:
  - a. respite services;
  - a. counseling;
  - c. child care;
  - d. legal information and representation;
  - e. tutoring;
  - f. stress reduction programs;
  - g. support groups;
  - h. educational training (formal and informal), such as child abuse and neglect, development, discipline, attachment issues, separation and loss issues;
  - i. navigating systems, such as child welfare, education, mental health, human services, health;
  - j. health care and education, if applicable;
  - k. recreational and social activities; and
  - l. information and referral.
- 3) Material Resources needs should be assessed, which include but not be limited to:
  - a. financial, such as:
    - i. income to support the child,
    - ii. medical coverage (insurance),
    - iii. child care expense,
    - iv. educational costs;

- b. household furnishings, such as:
  - i. beds,
  - ii. dressers,
  - iii. cribs,
  - iv. chairs,
  - v. tables;
- c. transportation;
- d. clothing, personal items;
- e. food;
- f. utilities; and
- g. housing (i.e., lack of space).

**B. Providing and Linking Services to Identified Emotional, Supportive and Material Needs**

After the CFSA has assisted the kinship family with assessing their needs for emotional, supportive and material services, the agency should provide, refer and/or assist the family with locating the services/supports in their community.

**C. Ongoing Contact with Kinship Family**

- 1) The CFSA should have ongoing face-to-face contact with the kinship caregivers and the child monthly, and at least every other month in the caregivers' home.
- 2) The agency should work with the kinship family and birth family to facilitate reunification as appropriate. Concurrently, the agency should work with the kinship family to prevent/eliminate multiple placements and to become a permanent home (see Standard 3.4, *Reasonable Efforts*, B, C, and D).
- 3) For open kinship cases, the agency should conduct a formal reassessment annually regarding the kinship family's ability to continue to care for the child and identify future services needed to maintain placement (see Standard 5.2, *Emergency Placement with Kinship Caregivers*, A and B, and Standard 5.3, *Ongoing Placement and Supportive Services for Kinship Caregivers*, A).
- 4) Visitation between the child and birth family will be determined by the birth family, kinship caregivers and agency (see Standard 3.13, *Visitation*). Family Team Meetings are a way for visitation plans to be established (see Standard 6.10, *Family Team Meeting*).

**V. Financial Implications**

Costs associated with Standard 5.3, *Ongoing Placement and Supportive Services for Kinship Caregivers* would include such activities as preparation, family contact, child contact, assessment of risk, court contact, case plan update, documentation, and travel for a total of:

25.2 hours x \$85.23/hour = \$2147.80 per kinship caregiver and child