

Questions for **KINSHIP CAREGIVERS** to ask child welfare caseworkers:

Initial placement of the child/youth:

- What are the requirements for the child/youth to be placed with me?
- How long will the child/youth be with me?
- Who has legal custody of the child/youth?
- What rights and responsibilities are there with legal custody and/or physical custody?
- May I receive a copy of signed paperwork stating the child/youth is placed with me?

Care and Safety of the child/youth:

- Can the child/youth have contact with their parents? What type of contact?
- Who is responsible for enrolling the child/youth in school, signing school permission forms, etc.?
- Who is responsible for obtaining health insurance and granting permission for medical care?
- What decisions can I make regarding the child/youth (such as spending the night or haircuts)?
- Are there parameters around discipline (such as spanking) with the child/youth?
- What information do I need to document and give to the caseworker?

Services:

- Am I eligible to become a certified kinship foster parent and receive foster care reimbursement?
- What services are available for the child/youth and how do I apply?
- What services are available for me as the caregiver while supporting the child/youth?
- Will accepting services negatively impact placement of the child/youth with me?
- What financial assistance is available? Under what circumstances can I receive assistance?
- Can I apply for child care assistance? What types are there?
- Will someone from child welfare visit my home on a regular basis?
- How do I become involved in the case planning? What does that involvement entail?

Court information:

- Does the child/youth have to go to court?
- Do I have to go to court?
- Can I go to court?
- When and where is the next hearing?
- What type of hearing is it?
- What will be discussed at the hearing?
- Who will be present at the hearing?
- Do I need a lawyer? If so, who can help me find one?
- Who will represent the child/youth?
- Who is the child/youth's attorney? What is his/her role in the case?
- May I speak at the hearing?
- Will there be future hearings?

Commitment to the child/youth:

- What is the current permanency goal for the child/youth?
- What options are available if the child/youth if they cannot return to their parents?
- Will child welfare continue to be involved with my family if the child/youth cannot return to their parents?
- What are my long-term legal options for the child/youth?

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