



Kinship

May 30, 2019

Building Bridges Community Consultation

Kinship

- Ideal for children to remain in their own homes with the assistance of internal or community services
- If that is not possible, priority must be given to finding a safe, alternative living situation with a relative or member of the child's community.
- Children do better in the long run when placed within their own family or community.

Kin Service vs. Kin Care

Kin Service

- The child is NOT in the care of a society
- It is a voluntary placement by the parent with the proposed kin or is made through an Order of Supervision by the Courts
- There is an assessment of proposed kin to ensure safety/permanency
- The family is assisted to access community supports on behalf of the child
- There is episodic financial support provided on an as needed, short-term basis

Kin Care

- The child is in the care of a Society – either on an interim or permanent basis
- The proposed Kin home must meet the same Ministry Licensing requirements as all Society approved foster or adoption homes
- There must be a completion of a SAFE home study and PRIDE training as well as ongoing training requirements
- Once approved, a per diem is paid for the care of the child and access to DCAS services for Children in Care

My relative is in care/may come into care.
How do I get them into my home?

- Referrals to the kinship program at Durham are made through the DCAS child or family worker
- Referrals can be made by workers at DCAS to kinship programs at other agencies, if the kin family resides outside of Durham Region
- Family in Durham Region may be contacted by other agencies regarding becoming a kinship home. That agency would refer to DCAS to complete an assessment
- Child welfare organizations outside of Ontario can refer to DCAS for an assessment of family for the placement of a child. These are completed by the DCAS kinship team

Reunification

- Reunification of the child and family is always our first priority. Where that is not possible, permanency with kin is sought
- Kin families are expected to work with DCAS, the child and their family towards the goal of having the child return home.
- Often times, Kin will be invited to Family Network conferences to develop goals and safety plans for the child and family and will be called upon to help support these plans even after DCAS is no longer involved
- Where a child cannot safely return to their parent, permanency with kin becomes the plan – either through agreement within the family or through a court order

Questions?