



WELCOME TO ORIENTATION



HOMES *with*
HE♥**RT**
— V E N T U R A C O U N T Y —

WHICH IS MORE IMPORTANT?



County of Ventura Partnership Agreement



Children and youth need loving and skillful parenting that honors their loyalty to their birth family, helps them remain connected to their culture and community, and their need to develop and maintain permanent lifelong connections.



RESOURCE PARENT EXPECTATIONS

Caregivers and Agency Staff Work Together as Respected Partners

- Caregivers will conduct themselves in a professional manner and will work together with Agency staff as a respected partner.
- Caregivers will share all relevant information and will provide input for the child's case plan.
- Caregivers will respect the privacy & confidentiality of all information related to the child & family.
- Caregivers will participate in all team meetings and court hearings.
- Caregivers will obtain and maintain records that are important and relevant to the child's well-being.

Supporting Families

- Caregivers will facilitate continuity for the child, with birth family by encouraging participation in medical related care, school, and other important activities.
- Caregivers will facilitate a smooth transition to another placement by sharing information about the needs of the child.
- Caregivers will respect and support the child's ties to family (parents, siblings, extended family members), and other significant relationships, and will assist the child in maintaining these relationships through facilitating appropriate family time visits and other forms of communication in accordance with the case plan.

Nurturing Children and Youth

- Caregivers will provide excellent parenting by being trauma informed.
- Caregivers must be willing and able to learn about child's culture & ethnicity to support the child's connections.
- Caregivers will fully incorporate the child into their family activities, including vacations.
- Caregiver will not give notice to remove child unless the removal is demonstrated to be in the best interest of the child or poses a safety risk to the child, caregivers or others in the home.
- Caregiver will participate and adhere to the child's transition plan developed by team members.
- Caregivers will advocate for children with the Agency, the court, and community agencies.
- Caregivers will provide developmentally appropriate opportunities to allow children and youth to learn and practice life skills and have hands-on experiences in preparation for transition to adulthood.
- Caregivers are expected to take advantage of all trainings they need to improve their skills as excellent parents.
- Caregivers will support the child's school success; including: participating in IEP meetings, attending school events, school conferences assisting with school assignments and advocate/support tutoring

X

ACCEPTANCE OF AGREEMENT, *Caregiver*

DATE

X

ACCEPTANCE OF AGREEMENT, *Caregiver*

DATE

Policy Tech #

Updated 5/25/23

County of Ventura Co-Parenting and Co-Sharing of Information Agreement



Co-Parenting and Co-Sharing Understanding

- **We agree** to work together and ensure that all important information related to _____ is shared with one another. We agree that this can take place by sharing important information in a journal or through other agreed upon mode of communication. Information like next doctor's appointment, school activities, major behavior changes and other pertinent information.
- **We agree** to respect each other's boundaries and we will honor one another as caretakers for the child/ren.
- **We agree** to be kind and patient with one another.
- **We agree** that we will communicate frequently in order to ensure that all important information is shared.
- **We agree** that we will address partnership challenges with each other in a respectful and solution focused manner.
- **We agree** that we will keep visitation schedules to ensure consistency and predictability for the child.
- **We agree** to speak positively about each other in front of the child and will model partnership to decrease confusion and anxiety.

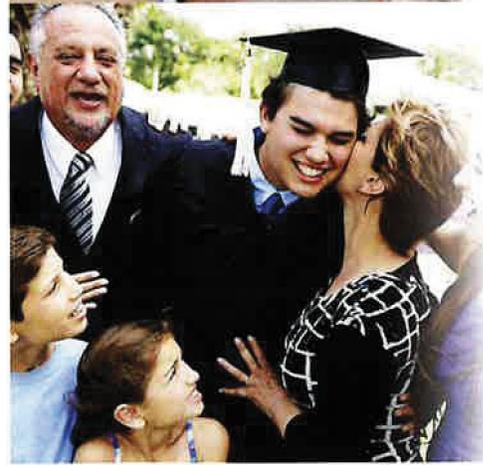
X _____
Birth Family *DATE*

X _____
Caregiver *DATE*

HOMES *with*
HEART
— VENTURA COUNTY —

WE BELIEVE





Core Values

- To ensure that every youth in out of home care receives quality care and nurturing within a loving home and family.
- To ensure that caregivers receive the support they need as they care for children who have experienced trauma and loss.
- To ensure all children have life-long permanency, whether that be by returning home with a strong safety network or through being welcomed by an unconditionally committed forever family.
- The Agency's core values are in line with the statewide initiative called Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI), which focuses on building a partnership between parents, caregivers, services provider & the Agency.



CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES BELIEFS

We believe families can keep their children safe with support.

And if they can't...

Caregiving

We believe children and youth should be cared for in a familiar, nurturing, and safe environment.

And while they are in care...

Child's Experience

We believe every child and youth is entitled to thrive through stability, family connections, quality treatment and a voice in planning.

Parental Support for Reunification

We believe, through partnership and support, parents can grow and change in order to safely parent their children.

And if the children cannot return home...

Forever Connections

We believe all children and youth deserve a sense of belonging and an unconditional commitment in a lifelong family, supported by their communities.

Relationships

We believe in the power of human relationships to heal and grow. The people who serve and support children, youth and families are our greatest resource.



WHO ARE DEPENDENT CHILDREN?



Ventura County Data on Children in Care, 2023

Placement Type	number
Pre-Adopt	M
Relative/Non-Related Extended Family Member	178
Foster	95
Foster Family Agency	30
Court Specified Home	12
Tribally Approved Home	0
Group/Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program	M
Shelter	0
Guardian - Non-Dependent	74
SILP	35
Transitional Housing	50
Missing	0
Total	507

Age Group	number
Under 1	38
1-2	58
3-5	52
6-10	63
11-15	108
16-17	68
18-21	120
Total	507

Ethnic Group	number
Black	21
White	110
Latino	365
Asian/Pacific Islander	M
Native American	0
Total	507

Data Source: CWS/CMS 2023 Quarter 2 Extract.
 California Child Welfare Indicators Project (CCWIP)
 University of California at Berkeley
 California Department of Social Services, Research and Data Insights

Webster, D., Lee, S., Dawson, W., Magruder, J., Exel, M., Cuccaro-Alamin, S., Putnam-Hornstein, E., Wiegmann, W., Saika, G., Courtney, M., Eastman, A.L., Hammond, I., Gomez, A., Sunaryo, E., Guo, S., Agarwal, A., Berwick, H., Hoerl, C., Yee, H., Gonzalez, A., Ensele, P., Nevin, J., & Guinan, B. (2023).



HOMES *with*
HE♥**RT**
— V E N T U R A C O U N T Y —

training



NEXT STEP:

PRE-SERVICE TRAINING!

To register call **Kids & Families Together**
at **(805) 643-1446, ext. 203**



www.kidsandfamilies.org



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— V E N T U R A C O U N T Y —

HOME ENVIRONMENT





DO YOUR OWN HOME EVALUATION

Please take the time to review this checklist to ensure that your home meets the Resource Family Approval (RFA) program requirements prior to the home inspection.

KITCHEN AREA

- Telephone shall be accessible at all times
- Post emergency numbers in a prominent location
- Faucets used by a child or youth shall deliver hot water at a safe temperature
- Disposal of waste shall be in a manner that will not permit the transmission of disease, odors or create a nuisance
- Storage areas for poisons shall be locked
- Kitchen knives shall be made inaccessible to a child **who is not** of sufficient age and maturity
- Medications requiring refrigeration shall be made inaccessible (depending on age and maturity level of child)

LIVING ROOM, DINNING ROOM & DEN

- Ensure the safety of a child or youth in homes that have fireplaces, freestanding stoves or space heaters
- Maintain a safe and comfortable temperature at all times

BATHROOM AREAS

- Prescription and non-prescription medications shall be stored where inaccessible
- Disinfectants and cleaning solutions shall be stored where they are inaccessible to a child or youth
- Toilet, sink, tub/shower shall be maintained in a safe, clean, and operating condition

BEDROOMS

- No bedroom shall be used as a public or general passageway to another room
- No more than **four** children per bedroom and one dependent child per bed
- Comfortable mattress, linens, blankets, and pillows are clean and **all** in good repair
- Bunk beds shall have railings on both sides of the upper tier (children under age 6 not allowed on top bunk)
- Beds should be arranged to allow easy passage between beds and easy entrance into the room
- Provide each infant with a safe and **sturdy bassinet** (up to 3 months) or **crib** – (NO DROP DOWN SIDES) and **car seat** (MUST comply with state regulations- regarding infant's weight and height).
- Portable or permanent closet and drawer space to accommodate the child's clothing and personal belongings
- Security window bars shall have a safety release device

HALLWAYS

- All outdoor and indoor passageway, stairways, inclines, ramps, and open porches shall be free of obstruction
- Except for homes with a sprinkler system, a functioning smoke detector and carbon monoxide detectors installed in hallway(s) in sleeping area that is audible in each bedroom

OUTDOOR AREAS

- Window and window screens are in good repair
- Bodies of water (i.e. pools, spas, hot tubs) are made inaccessible to a child under age 10
- Yard or outdoor activity space shall be free from hazards that endanger the health and safety of a child or youth

MISCELLANEOUS

- Firearms and other dangerous weapons shall be locked
- Ammunition shall be stored and locked separately from firearms
- Maintain first aid supplies appropriate to the needs of the child or youth
- Carpet, floors, and walls are clean at **all** times
- Provide lighting as necessary in **all** rooms of the home to ensure comfort and safety

HOME SHALL BE CLEAN, SAFE, SANITARY & IN GOOD REPAIR AT ALL TIMES

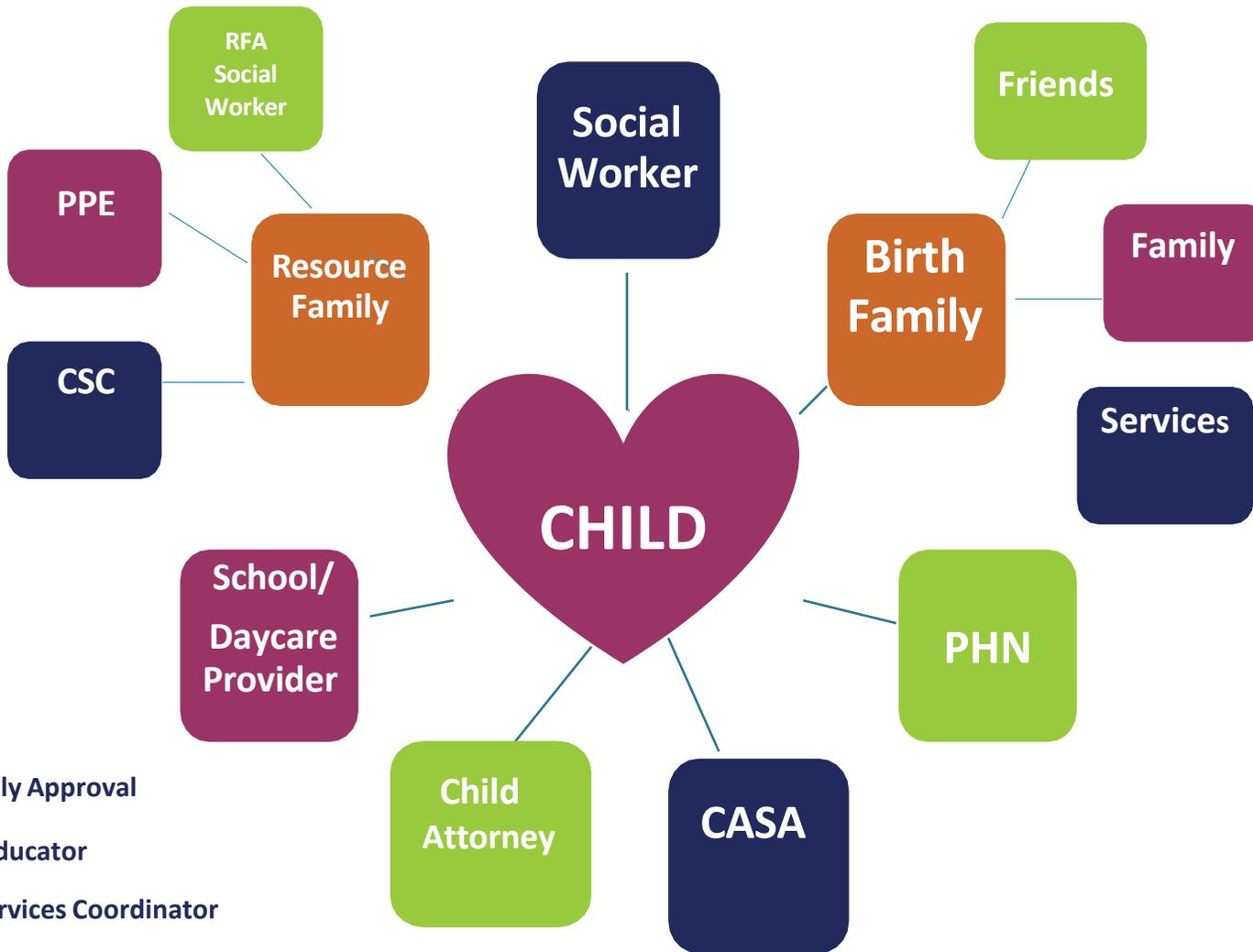
56-28-052 (02/20)

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— V E N T U R A C O U N T Y —

teaming



TEAMING



RFA – Resource Family Approval

PPE - Peer Partner Educator

CSC – Community Services Coordinator

PHN – Public Health Nurse

CASA – Court Appointed Special Advocate



DEPENDENCY COURT PROCESS OVERVIEW



DEPENDENCY COURT PROCESS OVERVIEW

Child removed from home

Initial Detention Hearing: Emergency Response
Social Worker with the case for 48-72 hours

Jurisdiction & Disposition Hearing: Court
Social Worker with the case 30-60 days

Court Review Hearings: Ongoing case reviews
with Social Worker throughout reunification

Permanency

Reunification

Permanency Hearing: Ongoing Social Worker
to complete this hearing with a permanent
plan if applicable

Reunification

Selection & Implementation Hearing:
Permanency Social Worker





CHILDREN'S PERSONAL RIGHTS



RESOURCE FAMILY APPROVAL**Child/ren and Nonminor Dependent Personal Rights**

- (a) A Resource Family shall ensure that each child and nonminor dependent is accorded the personal rights specified in Welfare and Institutions Code section 16001.9.
- (1) To live in a safe, healthy, and comfortable home where he or she is treated with respect.
 - (2) To be free from physical, sexual, emotional, or other abuse, or corporal punishment.
 - (3) To receive adequate and healthy food, adequate clothing, and, for youth in group homes, an allowance.
 - (4) To receive medical, dental, vision, and mental health services.
 - (5) To be free of the administration of medication or chemical substances, unless authorized by a physician.
 - (6) To contact family members, unless prohibited by court order, and social workers, attorneys, foster youth advocates and supporters, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs), and probation officers.
 - (7) To visit and contact brothers and sisters, unless prohibited by court order.
 - (8) To contact the Community Care Licensing Division of the State Department of Social Services or the State Foster Care Ombudsperson regarding violations of rights, to speak to representatives of these offices confidentially, and to be free from threats or punishment for making complaints.
 - (9) To make and receive confidential telephone calls and send and receive unopened mail, unless prohibited by court order.
 - (10) To attend religious services and activities of his or her choice.
 - (11) To maintain an emancipation bank account and manage personal income, consistent with the child's age and developmental level, unless prohibited by the case plan.
 - (12) To not be locked in a room, building, or facility premises, unless placed in a community treatment facility.
 - (13) To attend school and participate in extracurricular, cultural, and personal enrichment activities, consistent with the child's age and developmental level, with minimal disruptions to school attendance and educational stability.
 - (14) To work and develop job skills at an age-appropriate level, consistent with state law.
 - (15) To have social contacts with people outside of the foster care system, including teachers, church members, mentors, and friends.
 - (16) To attend Independent Living Program classes and activities if he or she meets age requirements.
 - (17) To attend court hearings and speak to the judge.
 - (18) To have storage space for private use.
 - (19) To be involved in the development of his or her own case plan and plan for permanent placement.
 - (20) To review his or her own case plan and plan for permanent placement, if he or she is 12 years of age or older and in a permanent placement, and to receive information about

his or her out-of-home placement and case plan, including being told of changes to the plan.

- (21) To be free from unreasonable searches of personal belongings.
- (22) To the confidentiality of all juvenile court records consistent with existing law.
- (23) To have fair and equal access to all available services, placement, care, treatment, and benefits, and to not be subjected to discrimination or harassment on the basis of actual or perceived race, ethnic group identification, ancestry, national origin, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental or physical disability, or HIV status.
- (24) To be placed in out-of-home care according to their gender identity, regardless of the gender or sex listed in their court or child welfare records.
- (25) To have caregivers and child welfare personnel who have received instruction on cultural competency and sensitivity relating to, and best practices for, providing adequate care to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth in out-of-home care.
- (26) At 16 years of age or older, to have access to existing information regarding the educational options available, including, but not limited to, the coursework necessary for vocational and postsecondary educational programs, and information regarding financial aid for postsecondary education.
- (27) To have access to age-appropriate, medically accurate information about reproductive health care, the prevention of unplanned pregnancy, and the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections at 12 years of age or older.

(b) In addition to subsection (a), a Resource Family shall ensure that each child is accorded the following personal rights:

- (1) To be informed of and exercise their personal rights without harassment or punishment.
- (2) To be free from corporal or unusual punishment; infliction of pain; humiliation; intimidation; ridicule; coercion; threat; physical, sexual, emotional, mental, or other abuse; or other actions of a punitive nature including interference with the daily living functions of eating, sleeping, or toileting, or withholding of shelter, clothing, medication, or aids to physical functioning.
- (3) To make and receive confidential telephone calls and send and receive unopened mail and electronic communication, unless prohibited by court order.
 - (A) Unless prohibited by court order or the placement agency for the child, a child may acquire, possess, and use his or her own cellular telephone.
- (4) To have access to letter writing material.
- (5) To be accorded dignity in his or her personal relationships with other persons in the home.
- (6) To be free from unreasonable searches of person.
- (7) Not to be restrained or placed in any restraining device.
- (8) To obtain, possess and use contraception including, but not limited to, birth control medication, emergency contraception, long-acting reversible contraceptives, condoms, and barrier methods.

- (9) To be free to accept or decline a Resource Family's request to babysit the Resource Family's children, including adopted, biological, foster, and guardianship children.
- (10) To be provided with and allowed to acquire, possess, and use adequate personal items, which includes his or her own:
 - (A) Clothes, provided the clothes are age-appropriate, do not violate school standards when worn during school activities, and are in accordance with the gender identity of the child.
 - (B) Toiletries and personal hygiene products, including enclosed razors used for shaving, as age or developmentally appropriate.
 - (C) Belongings, including items that were a gift to the child.
- (11) Provided the rights of others are not infringed upon, to have visitors that include:
 - (A) Relatives, unless prohibited by court order.
 - (B) The authorized representative for the child.
 - (C) Other visitors, unless prohibited by court order or by the authorized representative for the child.
- (12) To be informed, and to have his or her authorized representative informed, by the Resource Family of the provisions of law regarding complaints, the address and telephone number of the County, and about the confidentiality of complaints.
- (13) To be accorded the independence appropriate to the age, maturity, and capability of the child consistent with the child's needs and services plan or the transitional independent living plan (TILP), if applicable.
- (14) To have private or personal information, including, but not limited to, any medical condition or treatment, psychiatric diagnosis or treatment, history of abuse, educational records, sexual orientation, gender identity, and information relating to the biological family of the child, maintained in confidence.
 - (A) A Resource Family shall disclose information about the child to a County, the Juvenile Court, and the child's biological family, social worker, placement worker, probation officer, tribe, physician, psychiatrist, CASA, attorney, and authorized representative, unless the disclosure is prohibited by court order.
 - (B) As needed to ensure appropriate care, supervision, or education of the child, a Resource Family shall disclose information to respite care providers, occasional short-term babysitters, alternative caregivers, school officials, and other persons, unless the disclosure is prohibited by court order.
- (15) To receive medical, dental, vision, and mental health services.
 - (A) Medical services may include, but are not limited to, services related to the prevention or treatment of pregnancy, sexual assault, or rape; and at 12 years of age or older, the prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of sexually-transmitted diseases.
 - (i) A child may consent personally to the services described in subsection (A), without the knowledge or consent of a parent, guardian, social worker, probation officer, judge, or authorized representative.
 - (ii) A child may obtain these services confidentially, unless prohibited by law.

- (c) In addition to subsection (a), a Resource Family shall ensure that each nonminor dependent is accorded the following personal rights:
- (1) The rights specified in paragraphs (1) through (9) of subsection (b).
 - (2) To be provided with and allowed to acquire, possess, maintain, and use adequate personal items which include the nonminor dependent's own:
 - (A) Clothes.
 - (B) Toiletries and personal hygiene products.
 - (C) Belongings, including gifts to the nonminor dependent, furniture, equipment, and supplies, for his or her personal living space in accordance with his or her interests, needs, and tastes.
 - (3) To have adequate privacy for visitors that include:
 - (A) Relatives, unless prohibited by court order.
 - (B) The placement agency.
 - (C) Other visitors, unless prohibited by court order.
 - (4) To be informed by the Resource Family of the provisions of law regarding complaints, the address and telephone number of the County, and about the confidentiality of complaints.
 - (5) To have the independence appropriate to the status of a legal adult, consistent with the needs and services plan or the Transitional independent living plan for the nonminor dependent.
 - (6) To have private or personal information, including any medical condition or treatment, psychiatric diagnosis or treatment, history of abuse, educational records, and information relating to the biological family of the nonminor dependent, maintained in confidence.
 - (A) There shall be no release of confidential information without the prior written consent of a nonminor dependent, and this information shall only be released to the extent permitted by law.
 - (i) A Resource Family shall, with the consent of a nonminor dependent, only disclose relevant and necessary information about the nonminor dependent.
 - (ii) A Resource Family shall disclose information about a nonminor dependent to a County, the Juvenile Court, and the nonminor dependent's biological family, nonminor dependent's social worker, placement worker, probation officer, tribe, physician, psychiatrist, CASA, attorney, and authorized representative, unless the disclosure is prohibited by court order.
 - (iii) As needed to ensure appropriate care, supervision, or education of a nonminor dependent, a Resource Family shall disclose information to school officials and other persons, unless disclosure is prohibited by court order.
 - (7) To access information regarding available educational, training, and employment options of the nonminor dependent's choosing.
 - (8) To select, obtain, prepare, and store food of the nonminor dependent's choosing.
 - (9) To select, obtain, or decline medical, dental, vision, and mental health care and related services at the nonminor dependent's discretion.
 - (10) To leave or depart the home at any time at the nonminor dependent's discretion.
 - (11) To acquire, possess, maintain, and use a personal vehicle for transportation.
 - (12) To acquire, possess, and use a personal cellular telephone.

COUNTY OF VE

- (d) In ensuring the rights of a child or a nonminor dependent, a Resource Family is not required to take any action that would impair the health and safety of a child, nonminor dependent, or others in the home consistent with Welfare and Institutions Code section 16001.9(b).
 - (1) A Resource Family is not prohibited from taking the following actions for the protection of a child, nonminor dependent, or others in the home:
 - (A) Establishing house rules, that may include rules regarding visitation that shall apply to all visitors; curfew; dating; completing homework; laundry and cleaning bedrooms and other areas; and use of entertainment equipment.
 - (B) Locking exterior doors and windows as long as a child or nonminor dependent can enter or exit the home.
- (e) At the following times, a Resource Family shall ensure a child or nonminor dependent is verbally notified in an age or developmentally appropriate manner, of his or her rights as specified in this section and in Welfare and Institutions Code section 16001.9, and provided with a written copy of these rights and information regarding agencies a child or nonminor dependent may contact concerning violation of these rights:
 - (1) Upon placement in the home.
 - (2) Upon the request of a child or a nonminor dependent.
 - (3) Each time a new right has been added to Welfare and Institutions Code section 16001.9 or this section.

I/We received a copy of the child's personal rights and agree to ensure the child/non minor dependant is provided these rights.

_____	_____
Resource Parent's Signature	Date
_____	_____
Resource Parent's Signature	Date
_____	_____
Social Worker	Date

Original: Client **Copy:** County of Ventura

56-28-066
(11/17)

5 of 5



**NEXT STEP: PRE-SERVICE
TRAINING!**



**Resource Family
Recruitment & Approval
Contact Information**

Recruitment Support Line:

(805) 654-3220

Resource Family Approval Line:

(805) 654-3405

Email:

strengtheningvcfamilies@ventura.org

Website:

www.strengtheningvcfamilies.org



Next Steps after Orientation

Step 1: Register for pre-service training classes.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Per state guidelines, people who attend pre-service training are expected to 1) complete their training within 60 days and 2) sign an application to become a resource family before the end of the training series. Please take the opportunity to ask questions and assess whether or not this is the right time for your family to apply before you register for pre-service training.

- Pre-service training classes are required to learn about regulations, requirements, challenges, and benefits of being a resource family. The classes educate about the child welfare system, trauma, behavior management, education, attachment, cultural awareness, health, and safety. They also feature a panel of speakers sharing stories of involvement with the child welfare system. There are 5 classes which are 3 hours each for a total of 15 hours. You may reschedule a class if needed and may withdraw from training at any time. On completion of your pre-service training classes, you will receive a certificate of completion.

All classes are being held via Zoom teleconference

Space is limited in each of the classes, schedule is subject to change

For Pre-Service Training registration contact
Kids & Families Together at 805.643.1446 Ext. 151

Respite continues to be available if needed and upon request with at least 2 business days' notice. For additional details you can contact Gracie Galindo at Channel Islands Social Services 805-384-0983 ext. 877

Step 2: Create an online account and complete the online application.

- After you begin the Pre-Service training, a link will be sent to your email address to create your online account containing the online application for Resource Family Approval.

Step 3: Work together with your RFA social worker and your Peer Partner Educator.

- Once you have submitted your application, you will be assigned a Resource Family Approval (RFA) social worker. They will guide and support you with the approval process, including home inspection, live scan, family assessment, CPR and other needed documents.

Step 4: Approval!

- Applicants who meet all of the qualifications set forth in the Written Directives and complete all of the steps in the application process will be approved within 90 days of applying.

Thank You for your interest in becoming a Home with Heart!



1. Generally, how long is the process of becoming a Resource Family with this agency?

Typically, the process takes between 2-3 months' time.

2. What are your annual continuing education requirements?

8 hours per resource parent per year and valid CPR & First Aid (every two years)

3. What support services do you provide for Resource Families?

- A monthly stipend
- Mentorship from a Peer Partner Educator
- 12 hours of free respite care/ month
- Ongoing education and networking opportunities
- Additional funds to support a child's educational, enrichment and medical needs
- Participation in family and CFT meetings to address the needs of the child in your care.
- Access to Public Health Nurses, RX for Kids, and mental health services
- Free and discounted services through our Business with Heart and ifoster.org networks

4. When could I realistically expect to have a child placed in my home?

Must be placement ready - You may be called by our Placement team within 24 hours of being approved.

5. When will I be able to start taking pre-service training?

After orientation the next step is pre-services training – a 5-week course offered on an ongoing basis.



6. Do both spouses have to complete training?

Only one adult is required to be on the approval. Although, it is highly encouraged that both adults are approved so each adult can actively participate in the child's case plan.

7. Do you provide childcare during training?

Childcare is available during Pre-Service Trainings. Pre-Registration is required for all classes and childcare. For training registration contact Kids & Families Together at 805-643-1446. For childcare registration, contact Channel Islands Social Services at 805-384-0983, with at least 48 hours notice. *Childcare is not offered for Orientations.

8. Do you provide respite?

Yes, we provide 12 hours per month of free respite care.

9. Do I need to own my own home?

You may own or rent.

10. Do I have to be married?

No, you may be single, married or with a partner.

11. Do I have to be employed?

You need to provide evidence that you have adequate financial means to provide for the child in your care.



What is unique about your agency in contrast to the other agencies?

Children and Family Services is the local government child welfare agency with overall responsibility for all children in care. Live Scan background checks, CPR & First Aid Trainings, as well as your assessment are provided at no cost to you. After you submit your application, you are assigned a RFA social worker to support you thru the RFA process. Upon approval you are also assigned a community services coordinator (CSC). They provide assistance to resources, special funding and trainings as well as additional, ongoing supports for placements and any other needed areas in your role as a resource parent. Your CSC will be available to support you at any time during your time as a caregiver. You will also be assigned an experienced Peer Partner Educator (PPE) to help mentor and walk alongside you on your journey as a caregiver. Your PPE can help build your network of support and provide coaching on day to day practical “how to” matters of caring for children.

12. What if I'm interested in adoption?

Under the Resource Family approval process, all families are eligible to adopt. Resource families may become forever families for the children in their care or children whose parental rights have been terminated.

For more information, visit (<http://homeswithheartvc.org/adoption/>)

13. Do you approve homes in my geographic region?

Ventura County only



14. What costs are associated with becoming an approved home within your agency?

- Families are responsible for ensuring children have adequate sleeping and living provisions and that their homes comply with state regulations.
- TB Test (only for specialized resource family).

15. What types of support do children in out of home care receive?

Children/youth receive health care, including dental and vision, through Ventura County's Medi-Cal program, Gold Coast. Children/youth are often eligible for mental health services, behavioral support services, psychiatric assessment and treatment, 24/7 crisis response, educational support and services that will enable them to lead independent and successful lives.

16. Are you a faith-based agency? If so, do I need to be a member of that denomination?

No, Children and Family Services is part of the Human Services Agency, County of Ventura. Nevertheless, we strongly support faith community engagement in fostering care.

Learn about Faith In Motion! (<http://homeswithheartvc.org/faith-in-motion>)

17. Do you consider people who have a criminal history (DWI, felony, etc.)?

Yes. However, they must clear the background check process.

18. What measures are required if I have a pool or body of water on my property?

A fence must surround a pool for a child under the age of 10 or for children identified with special needs.

