

# Kinship & Foster Care

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**Family First**

December 20, 2019

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# Kinship Services- Current State

## Non-DCF

- Local Human Services Department
- 211 Referral & Information
- Department of Aging
- Probate Court
- Support Groups
- Office of Early Childhood (OEC)
- Department of Social Services (TANF-Medicaid)
- Family Initiated Arrangements

## DCF

- Caregiver Support Team (CST)
  - Attachment, Regulation & Competency (ARC Grow)
- DCF Service Array
- CPS/ Foster Care/Therapeutic Foster Care/ Family Community Ties
- Connecticut Alliance of Foster & Adoptive Families (CAFAF)
- State Department of Education
- Quality Parent Initiative (QPI) *on the horizon*

## After

- Subsidy (PTOG-STOG-Adoption)
- Adoption Assistance Program (APP)
- All Services Listed in “Non-DCF”

# National Model Foster Family Home Licensing Standards

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- **Based on National Association for Regulatory Administration (NARA)**
- **Insures the applicant's capacity to care**
- **Provide parameters to insure appropriateness & safety of the physical home**
- **Organized into 8 Categories**
  1. Foster Home Eligibility
  2. Home Health & Safety
  3. Home Capacity
  4. Sleeping Arrangements
  5. Emergency Preparedness, Fire Safety
  6. Transportation
  7. Training
  8. Foster Parent Assurances

# National Model Foster Family Home Licensing Standards

## I. Foster Home Eligibility- **NARA**

- **Threshold Requirements**
  - Minimum Age of 18
  - Financial Stability
  - Literacy
- **Physical & Mental Health**
  - Physically, Emotionally & Mentally Capable
    - Physical exam within the prior 12 months
    - Health history & up to date immunization
- **Home Study**
  - In-person & On-site Interviews
  - References
- **Background Checks**
  - National Fingerprint Based Checks
  - Child Protective Service (CPS) & Central Registry Adult Household Members
  - Deny Application/License
    - Felons
    - Substantiation of Abuse or Neglect
    - Spousal Abuse
    - Crimes Against Children, Sexual Assault, or Homicide
    - Physical Assault, Battery, or Drug Related Offence Within the Last 5 years.

## I. Foster Home Eligibility- **CT**

- **Threshold Requirements**
  - Minimum Age of 21
  - Literacy is Not Required
  - CT Residency Required (exception-active military)
- **Physical & Mental Health**
  - Aligned
- **Home Study**
  - Aligned
- **Background Checks**
  - Household Members Minimum Age 16
  - Deny Application / License for Felons
  - Drug Related Offense Within the Last 5 years

# National Model Foster Family Home Licensing Standards

## II. Home Health & Safety- **NARA**

- Living Space
- Condition of Home

## III. Home Capacity- **NARA**

- **Must Not Exceed 8, of Which No More Than 6 May Be Children In Care** *(May determine lower capacities based on assessment & study)*
  - **No more than**
    - 3 children total under age 2
    - 4 children total under age 5
    - 4 children total between the ages of 5-13
    - 4 children total over the age of 13

## II. Home Health & Safety- **CT**

- Aligned

## III. Home Capacity- **CT**

- **No More Than 5 Children in the Home**
  - **No more than**
    - 3 foster or prospective adoptive
    - 2 children under age 2
    - 3 children under age 6 (exception- siblings)

# National Model Foster Family Home Licensing Standards

## IV. Sleeping Arrangements-**NARA**

- Sleep in Safe & Comfortable Space
- Appropriate Furnishings
- Private
- Similar to Other Household Members

## V. Emergency Preparedness, Fire Safety- **NARA**

- Smoke Detectors
- Carbon Monoxide Detectors
- Fire Extinguishers
- Free of Obvious Fire Hazards
- Evacuation Plan & Emergency Contact Numbers Posted/Visible

## IV. Sleeping Arrangements-**CT**

- Aligned

## V. Emergency Preparedness, Fire Safety- **CT**

- Smoke Detector Required
- Must Have an Evacuation Plan

# National Model Foster Family Home Licensing Standards

## VI. Transportation-**NARA**

- **Reliable, Legal & Safe**
  - Legal means valid driving license, insurance & registration
- **Reliable Public Transportation or Privately Owned Vehicle**

## VII. Training- **NARA**

- **Pre-licensing Training Required**
- **Participate in Ongoing Training**
- **Child Specific Training**
- **CPR & First Aid**

## VI. Transportation- **CT**

- **Aligned**

## VII. Training- **CT**

- **Pre-licensing Training Required**
- **Post Licensing Required for **Core** Caregivers**
- **Child Specific Training for Medically Complex Children**
- **First Aid **Not** Required**

# National Model Foster Family Home Licensing Standards

## VIII. Foster Parent Assurances- **NARA**

- No Use of Corporal or Degrading Punishment
- No Use Illegal Substances, Alcohol, Legal Prescription/nonprescription Medication
- No Smoking in the Home or Car
- Understands & Applies the Reasonable & Prudent Parent Standards

## VIII. Foster Parent Assurances- **CT**

- Aligned
- No Use Illegal Substances, Alcohol, Legal Prescription/nonprescription Medication Not specified
- Smoking in the Home or Car Not specified (*Bill drafted in 2015 that did not pass*)



# Kinship Navigator

- **Connecticut General Statute 17a-98a**
- **Elements of the Program**
  - **Provides information about available services**
  - **Assists to identify & access services that meet the child & caregivers needs**
  - **Promotes effective public & private collaboration *that***
    - Includes caregivers, youth, relevant government agencies, community & faith based organization as consultants & participants
    - Coordinates the provision of services, information & referral *CT utilizes 211*
  - **Establishes a toll free information & referral system linking**
    - Caregivers, support group facilitators & service providers to each other
    - Eligibility & enrollment information for benefits available thru federal, state & local entities
    - Relevant training to assist in caregiving & to help obtain benefits & services
    - Relevant legal assistance & to help obtain legal services

# Kinship Navigator

## *Elements Continued*

- **Provides outreach**
- **Maintains & updates website, guides & materials**
- **Manages the distribution of guides & materials**
- **Creates awareness of the needs with the goal to enhance service provision**
  - General public, schools, local government & agencies, community & faith based organizations.
- **Creates awareness of the need for licensed caregivers**
- **Establishes a Kinship Care Ombudsman**
  - Has authority to intervene & help Kin access services
- **May support other activities**
  - designed to assist kin caregivers obtain benefits & services to increase skill acquisition and enhance caregiving

# Links ∞

## **Adoption Assistance program**

∞ <https://health.uconn.edu/adoption-assistance/>

## **Grand Facts- Connecticut Facts**

∞ <http://www.grandfamilies.org/Portals/0/State%20Fact%20Sheets/Grandfamilies-Fact-Sheet-Connecticut%201019%202.pdf>

## **NARA Model Licensing Standards**

∞ <https://nara.memberclicks.net/assets/docs/SharedResources/Model%20Licensing%20Standards%202018%20update.pdf>

## **211 Kinship-Grandparents**

∞ <https://uwc.211ct.org/kinship-caregiversgrandparents-raising-grandchildrencustodial-relatives/>

## **211 Kin Resource List**

∞ [https://www.211ct.org/search?terms=Kinship%20Caregivers&page=1&location=Connecticut&taxonomy\\_code=8637&service\\_area=connecticut](https://www.211ct.org/search?terms=Kinship%20Caregivers&page=1&location=Connecticut&taxonomy_code=8637&service_area=connecticut)

# Break (15 minutes)

## Kinship Cafe

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**Family First – Kinship & Foster Care Workgroup**

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# Call to Action

- Subcommittee Mandates & Design
- Review Materials
- Identify Gaps & Barriers to Services
- Identify Additional Services Not Listed
- Propose
  - Policy/best practice
  - Regulations
  - Training needs
  - Other

- Meeting Scheduled-Beacon at 9:00 am

January	February	March	April
January 10	February 14	March 13 (location TBD)	April (Date & location TBD)
January 24 (location TBD)	February 28	March 27	April 24 (location TBD)

# Thank You

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**Family First**

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