

# RELATIVE CONNECTION RESOURCE

According to North Dakota Foster Care Policy, searching for potential relative placements/relative connections is required upon initial removal of a child from his or her primary caregiver and throughout the life of the case.

<b>Family Connections</b>	To provide family connections, you may help build and/or maintain family relationships for the child/ren or provide ongoing emotional support for the child/ren through letters, phone calls, visits, etc. in efforts to maintain family connections while in foster care.
<b>Unlicensed Relative Provider</b>	As a relative provider, you may be able to receive financial assistance while caring for this child such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and the TANF Kinship Care Program, or Kinship ND Program. If you have questions about Kinship ND, please visit <a href="http://kinshipnd.com">kinshipnd.com</a> , email questions to <a href="mailto:kinshipnd@nd.gov">kinshipnd@nd.gov</a> , or call 701-328-1453.
<b>Licensed Foster Care Provider</b>	As a licensed foster care provider, there are several benefits available to help support you in caring for your relative. Benefits can include: a monthly foster care maintenance payment; special allowances for clothing, childcare and other items that may be identified through conversation with the foster care case worker. Information on foster care licensing can be found at <a href="http://www.nd.gov/dhs">www.nd.gov/dhs</a> (Children and Family Services) or you can fill out an online inquiry form at <a href="http://hhs.nd.gov/fostercare">hhs.nd.gov/fostercare</a> , call toll free at 833-378-4663, or email the North Dakota licensing unit at <a href="mailto:cfslicensing@nd.gov">cfslicensing@nd.gov</a> with any questions.
<b>Legal Guardian</b>	As a legal guardian, a monthly guardianship subsidy may be an option if you are appointed as the child's legal guardian through the juvenile courts. Approval for a subsidized guardianship is based on the results of a home study and a fingerprint-based criminal check on all adults living in your home, as well as the availability of North Dakota subsidized guardianship openings. A non-subsidized guardianship would also be an option. Adoption and reunification with the child's parents must be ruled out before guardianship would be considered.
<b>Adoptive Parent</b>	North Dakota State and Federal Laws limit the amount of time a child can spend in a foster care placement. Currently North Dakota law states a permanency plan must be established within 12 months of a child entering into foster care. If, after attempts to reunify the child/ren with their parents, are unsuccessful, adoption may become the permanency goal. If you wish to become the adoptive parent, benefits may include: a monthly subsidy to assist in the care of the child; medical coverage for the child; and post-adoption services. The family's foster care case worker can go over the specific requirements to be approved as an adoptive home if and when this option is considered. A Custodial Team Meeting must be held to determine the adoptive option that is chosen.