

Child Welfare Placement-Planning Options

Informal Care	Formal Care/Article VI Custody	<u>1017/1054/1055 Placements Directed Custody Under Article X</u>	<u>Kinship & Special Arrangement Foster Care (This is the only placement option that provides foster care board payments on behalf of the child.)</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal arrangement between parties, DSS may or may not be involved. • The parent retains custody. • There is no court order. • This is often a short-term arrangement. • <u>NYS caretaker can apply for Medicaid & Public Assistance (PA) as Representative Payee for the child and may also apply for Food Stamps (all household income is considered).</u> • Caretaker can apply for SSI as a Representative Payee, if child has a disability. • DSS will seek child support if the child is in receipt of PA, absent any DV issue. • Additional information regarding benefits can be obtained via the internet @ westchestergov.com • Family may be eligible for PS (eligibility standard is risk of foster care placement). • Employed caretakers can apply for assistance for childcare expenses through their assigned PA case manager. For assistance to locate a provider contact, the Child Care Council. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource files custody petition in Family Court and custody is awarded to the petitioner. • There is <u>no</u> ongoing court involvement, unless a new petition is filed for custody or visitation, there is <u>no</u> future option to become a kinship foster parent. • The parent retains parental rights. • <u>NYS caretaker can apply for Public Assistance (PA) & Medical Assistance as a Representative Payee and may also apply for Food Stamps (all household income is considered).</u> • Caretaker can apply for SSI, as a Representative Payee, if child has disability. • DSS will seek child support if the child is receipt of PA, absent any DV issue. • Employed caretakers can apply for assistance for childcare expense through their assigned PA case manager. For assistance to locate a provider contact: the Child Care Council • Additional information regarding rights and benefits can be obtained via the internet @ westchestergov.com • Family may be eligible for PS (eligibility standard is risk of foster care placement). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DSS initiates a neglect proceeding in Family Court. • Family Court can place a child with a relative or non respondent parent per the Family Court Act under sections: <u>1017</u> (pending disposition-applies to non-respondent parent or relative) <u>1054</u> (post disposition-applies to non-respondent parent) <u>1055</u> (post disposition-applies to relative) • The placement is active as long as there is an active court order, there <u>will be</u> ongoing court involvement, until the Permanency Planning Goal is achieved. • All PS policy & regulations apply. • <u>Custody is not transferred to DSS, however sworn reports must be filed every six months for post disposition review.</u> • If parental rights are terminated or surrendered, the resource may adopt, but they <u>will not</u> be entitled to subsidy. • <u>DSS will have court ordered supervision over the parent, caretaker and child as long as the order is active.</u> • DSS has case management responsibility and will address all permanency planning issues. • <u>NYS caretaker can apply for Public Assistance & Medicaid Assistance, as Representative Payee and may also apply for Food Stamps (all household income is considered). If the child has a disability caretaker can apply for SSI.</u> • DSS will seek Child support if the child is on PA, absent any DV issue. • DSS will maintain regular contact with the parent, caretaker and children and will maintain a record of all case activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DSS has initiated a neglect/abuse proceeding in Family Court and it has been determined that the child <u>cannot</u> remain in the home with the parents and must be placed in DSS custody in foster care. • All foster care regulations apply. • The parent or child has identified a resource to be explored. • Sworn reports must be filed every six months, for each child in foster care. • <u>The kinship foster parent is entitled to foster care room & board payments to meet the child's needs. The board rate is determined by the State. Payments will not begin immediately, but will be retroactive to the date of placement.</u> • Potential kinship foster parents and special arrangement resources must be certified and licensed. This process would include, but may not be limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ Completion of MAPP or Caring for Your Own Training. ◊ SCR clearance for all household members 18+. ◊ Finger print clearance for all household members 18+. ◊ Medical clearance for the caregiver ◊ References ◊ DSS must maintain regular contacts with the caretaker, child and parents. ◊ Visitation with biological parent <u>can occur only</u> with DSS approval. ◊ An annual review of the home and license by the Resource Unit is required. ◊ Caregivers must cooperate with DSS in planning for the needs of the child. • <u>DSS can remove the child from the foster home if it is deemed to be in the child's best interest.</u> • In some situations the process can be expedited and the child may be placed in the home pending the certification, after an initial clearance of agency records and fingerprints (no hits found) and upon completion of a home-visit to rule out safety issues and document the child has a bed. The potential foster parent <u>must</u> complete the other tasks for certification. • It is possible that the parent's rights may be terminated and the child freed for adoption, wherein an adoption subsidy <u>may be</u> provided.

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Casework Check List

- ✓ I have been informed of the placement options available through Westchester County DSS and the Family Court.
- ✓ I have been informed of the financial benefits available from both public assistance and foster care and understand that benefits will not be provided immediately, but will be retroactive to the date of placement or the date of my application for public assistance benefits.
- ✓ I have been provided with a DSS pamphlet with information on how to apply for PA at my local district office.
- ✓ I have been provided with the phone number for the Child Care Council (914) 761-3456.
- ✓ I have been provided with the web address for the Westchester County government (Westchestergov.com).
- ✓ I have been advised that I have a limited time to make my decision to become a foster parent.
- ✓ I understand that DSS is required to make efforts to locate relatives of any child being placed in foster care and investigate the relative to determine if they are a suitable resource. I understand that these efforts must be documented in department records and the findings reported to the Family Court.
- ✓ I have been advised that I may contact the caseworker and or supervisor indicated below with any questions.

Name of DSS Caseworker: _____ Phone Number: _____
Name of DSS Supervisor _____ Phone Number: _____

Print Name of Caretaker or Special Arrangement Caretaker: _____
Signature of Caretaker or Special Arrangement Caretaker: _____
Date: _____
Signature of DSS Caseworker: _____
Date: _____