

Family and Friends First Kinship Care Myth Busting Fact Sheet

In the effort to Find Family and Friends First, knowledge is power. Do you know the facts? Here's a handy guide based on policy, best practices and tips from your DCP colleagues.

MYTH	FACT
Kinship resources must be blood relatives	Kinship resources can include relatives and other adults who have a significant positive relationship with the child or family—for example, a god parent, community member, teacher, coach or family friend.
Kinship resources are not eligible to receive foster care funds.	Approved kinship foster parents receive the same foster care stipend as any other foster parents in NYC.
Only the parents can identify potential kinship resources	Children over age 5, relatives, and other collateral contacts can also identify potential resources. In addition, ACS can look for potential resources in the case record, databases such as HHS Connect, and/or emergency contact information from the child's school, among other sources.
If someone has a criminal history, they cannot be a kinship resource.	Individuals with certain types of criminal history may still be considered as potential kinship resources. Eligibility depends on the crime, when it occurred, and other specific case circumstances. Please consult your line of supervision for more information.
If someone has a prior indicated child welfare case, they cannot be a kinship resource.	Individuals with prior child welfare involvement may still be considered as potential kinship resources. Eligibility depends on the prior case, when it occurred, and other specific circumstances. Please consult your line of supervision for more information.
Kinship resources must take all siblings or none.	ACS makes every effort to place siblings together. However, a kinship caregiver who can take one or more children may still be considered as a potential resource.

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An undocumented immigrant cannot be a kinship resource.	Immigrants, including those who are undocumented, can be considered as kinship resources.
Kinship homes are only eligible to receive an Expedited/Emergency Home Study for children placed on a neglect petition.	Kinship homes are also eligible to receive an Expedited/Emergency Home Study for children who are voluntarily placed and for youth who come into care as a result of a Persons in Need of Supervision (PINS) or a Juvenile Delinquency (JD) Petition.
If kinship resources do not have sufficient furniture and/or cannot meet standard foster home requirements for sleeping arrangements, their homes cannot be approved.	ACS policy allows for some flexibility in sleeping arrangement requirements for kinship homes, especially when necessary to keep siblings together. In addition, ACS can provide certain furniture to assist with kinship placement. Please consult your line of supervision for more information.
Kinship resources must live in NYC.	A kinship resource living outside NYC should still be considered. Please consult your line of supervision for more information.
A 21-year-old is too young to be a kinship resource.	Individuals must be 21 or older to be considered as potential resources.
If the family has experienced domestic violence, the batterer's side cannot be considered for potential resources.	The batterer's relatives may be considered as potential resources. However, the identified kinship resource must understand their role in safety planning for the child. Please consult your line of supervision for more information.
If ACS explores a kinship resource and they are not viable, the child should be placed in regular foster care.	The best practice is to explore at least 3 kinship resources. If the first ones are not viable, ask if the family knows anyone else who could be a resource.

When children cannot remain safely at home, ACS strives to place them with appropriate kinship caregivers. This may include maternal or paternal grandparents, aunts or uncles, god parents, friends of the family or community members who have a significant and positive relationship with the child.