



Foster Care and Community Programs Home Studies for Kinship Care and Interstate Compact Placements - Pennsylvania

Description

KidsPeace will conduct family assessments for kinship and Interstate Compact placements on behalf of the county agency such that, following the assessment, the county agency will assume all involvement with the family. KidsPeace will have no ongoing responsibilities to the family or county agency.

While completing the assessment, KidsPeace will conduct a minimum of four visits to the family's home and will provide a completed family file to the county. A recommendation to approve or disapprove will be part of the completed file.

The file will contain all documents required by State regulations except an approval letter. KidsPeace will not approve the family as a KidsPeace foster home and will have no ongoing responsibilities to either the family or the county. KidsPeace staff will meet with county staff to "present" the family findings to assist the county in its decision to approve or disapprove.

A full family study must be requested. Units of service may not be requested separately. KidsPeace will receive payment for services whether or not the county ultimately issues an approval letter or makes a placement in the home. Should the family drop out part way through the process, or should KidsPeace need to stop the process due to family non-compliance with regulatory issues, KidsPeace will prorate the cost and bill for the work units completed with/for the family.

The four visits to the family's home will focus on the following areas:

- Initial pre-service and orientation to the child welfare placing system and completion of background clearance forms and other required documentation
- Eco-map and social history
- Safety inspection and first aid training; review policies and procedures.

It is possible that more than four visits to the home will be necessary. Additional visits will not result in additional charges to the county. Should psychological testing of the applicant(s) be indicated, either the applicant or the county agrees to pay the cost of testing.

The county will provide KidsPeace with copies of any policies and procedures they wish to have reviewed during the family's orientation and pre-service sessions. At the county's request, KidsPeace will also review and/or deliver other county-generated materials related to care. KidsPeace will adapt its own pre-service training materials if the county does not provide material.

Full approval of a caregiver is usually completed in a 6 to 8 week timeframe. There may be circumstances beyond the control of either KidsPeace or the county, which may cause the process to exceed this norm. KidsPeace will make the county aware of any barriers that may prevent the family study from being completed in the normal timeframe. In emergency situations, KidsPeace will assist the county agency in obtaining temporary approvals for kinship caregivers as outlined in the current Children, Youth and Families Bulletins regarding Child Placements with Emergency Caregivers and Kinship Care Policy.

Alternately, counties can refer kinship care home studies where the family is approved as a KidsPeace foster parent and the dependent child becomes a KidsPeace client. This is often done when the kinship resource resides in a county too distant for the referring to reasonably oversee the placement.

For additional information, please contact one of our local offices or KidsPeace National Centers Administrative Offices, 480 Pierce Street, Suite 320, New Bridge Center, Kingston, PA 18704

• 800-727-4482 • www.fostercare.com • admissions@kidspeace.org