

Nebraska Relative/Kinship Caregivers

Division of Children and Family Services

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Relative/Kinship Caregivers

Definitions of Relative and Kinship Caregivers in Nebraska:

- Kinship Caregivers are persons with whom the child or children have a significant pre-existing relationship, such as a neighbor or teacher.
- Relative Caregivers are persons who are related to the children by blood, marriage or adoption.

Relative/Kinship Caregivers

When children are state wards and placed with a relative or kinship foster parent.

- When a child is made a state ward, Nebraska searches for relatives first for placement, and then kinship options.
- If the child is placed with a relative or kinship home, they are most often not licensed as a foster parent at the time of initial placement.

Nebraska Caregiver Responsibilities Tool (NCR)

The NCR is used to determine the level of parenting responsibility

The NCR describes eight areas of care:

- Medical/Physical Health and Well-Being
- Family Relationships/Cultural Identity
- Supervision/Structure/Behavioral and Emotional
- Education/Cognitive Development
- Socialization/Age-Appropriate Expectations
- Support/Nurturance/Well-Being
- Specialized Skills
- Transition to Permanency and/or Living Independently

Foster Care Rates

Effective from July 1, 2021- June 30, 2022

Rates are within three different categories

Essential

0-5 years	\$21.23
6-11 years	\$24.41
12-18 years	\$26.53
Administrative Rate	\$23.09

Enhanced

0-5 years	\$29.18
6-11 years	\$32.36
12-18 years	\$34.49
Administrative Rate	\$29.89

Intensive

0-5 years	\$37.14
6-11 years	\$40.33
12-18 years	\$42.45
Administrative Rate	\$41.14

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Emergency Approval Requirements

The following must be met prior to a Relative or Kinship Home being approved for emergency placement:

- The Department will visit the home of the potential Caregiver, including a face-to-face meeting with at least one of the prospective adult Caregivers.
- All Caregivers are the age of majority.
- The Department determines that there is adequate housing and will not compromise the child's safety.
- The Department determines that the adult Caregiver is able to adequately meet the needs of the child.

Cont'd

- At least one of the relative or Kinship Caregivers in the home must be able to communicate with the child in the child's own language.
- At least one of the relative or Kinship Caregivers in the home must be able to communicate with the department, the Licensing Agent, health care providers and other service providers.
- The following background checks are completed on all household members aged 18 or older:
 - Child Abuse and Neglect Central Registry check for all states in which the individual has lived within the past 5 years;
 - Adult Abuse and Neglect Central Registry check;
 - Sex Offender Registry check for all states in which the individual has lived within the past 5 years; and,
 - Local law enforcement agency check.

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Completion of Non-Emergency Requirements

After a child is placed in the emergency approved Relative or Kinship Home, the remaining non-emergency approval requirements, including the national fingerprint check and home study, must be completed within 60 calendar days.

For questions regarding Nebraska Relative/Kinship care:

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