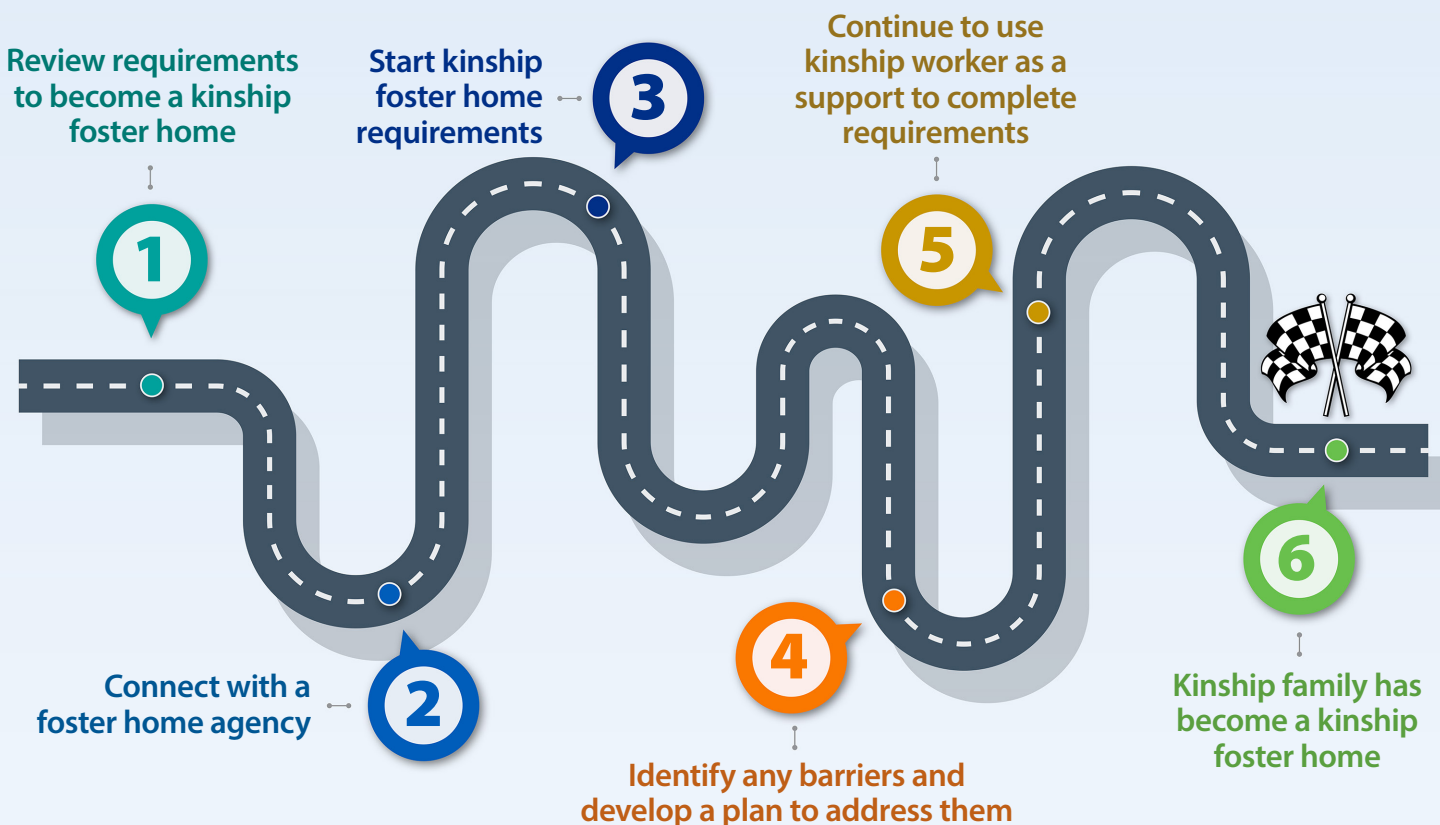




Kinship Caregiver Verification Timeline



For more information
dfps.texas.gov/kinship





Kinship Foster Home Verification

Frequently Asked Questions

Why should you become a verified kinship foster home?

Being verified as a kinship foster home helps ensure children placed with relatives receive the same support, stability, and resources as children in any other foster or adoptive home. Verification provides caregivers with financial support, access to childcare assistance, respite, training, guidance, and ongoing support.

Does getting verified as a kinship foster home mean the children won't go home?

No. Verification has no impact on the case goal or permanency plan. Children can still reunify with their parents if the court determines that is the goal. Verification simply ensures the caregiver and child receive support during placement.

Is verification only for people who want to adopt?

No. Verification is not a commitment to adopt. Many kinship caregivers become verified as a kinship foster home solely to receive support while caring for the child, regardless of the long-term plan. Becoming verified also provides more options for ongoing assistance, if kinship caregivers ultimately become long term caregivers.

Why is it important to start the verification process early?

The kinship caregiver and child will receive additional financial support, services, and resources earlier. Beginning the verification process right away allows the caregiver time to complete steps gradually, rather than feeling rushed later. The legal process generally takes around 12 months, sometimes longer, and starting early allows the families access to additional supports no matter what the outcome is, or how long the legal process takes.

If I become a kinship foster home does that open my home up to any other children?

No. Verification as a kinship caregiver is specific to the child or children already placed in your care. You will not be required to accept additional placements.

What if the parents don't understand why we are going through the verification process? Will this cause family conflict?

Verification does not change the family connection or mean children won't return home if reunification is the plan. Instead, it strengthens the caregiver's ability to meet the child's needs and to be fully supported while caring for them. If the parents have questions about the purpose of becoming a kinship foster home, please have them reach out to their caseworker.

What if I don't have money to pay for some of the requirements? Will that be held against me?

Please ask your kinship caseworker and the child placing agency you are working with to become verified, about local and DFPS resources available to assist you with verification related expenses if you cannot afford them.

Are we required to become a kinship foster home? Will the child be moved if we don't?

No, becoming verified as a kinship foster home is a choice. However, becoming verified allows you to access additional support, services and financial assistance while caring for the child. It ensures you have the resources and guidance need throughout the case and may provide additional options for long-term assistance if the child is not able to return home at the end of the legal case.