

Kinship Quarterly Strengthening Families

July 2024 Water Safety

Never let kids play unattended around any backyard pond or pool, including a kiddie pool.

Watching children around water is a big responsibility, and older children should never be in charge of watching younger children.

www.getparentingtips.com/toddlers/safety/water-safety-for-kids/default.asp

Back To School

DFPS is committed to meeting the educational needs and goals for children in substitute care. Education contributes to the overall well-being of a child academically, emotionally, and socially. Positive school experiences can help a child overcome some effects of abuse and neglect and in successfully transitioning to adulthood.

DFPS ensures each child's educational needs and goals are met by:

- Providing CPS regional education specialists to assist students in substitute care, and serve as an education resource to CPS staff, caregivers, and community stakeholders.
- Identifying developmental delays in children ages 0-3 and referring them and their families to Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) services.
- Working with local school district staff, school district foster care liaisons, and community resources to immediately enroll students in foster care to avoid education disruption.

Check out more information here:

www.dfps.texas.gov/Child_Protection/State_Care/education.asp



Texas Department of
Family and Protective Services
Child Protective Services



Kinship Quarterly Strengthening Families July 2024



Texas Workforce Commission and Foster Youth

The Texas Workforce Commission gives special attention to young people who are in foster care or who used to be in foster care. Check out the info below and see the

Foster Youth Transition Centers help older foster youth, young people who are homeless, and those from ages 16 to 25 who may face challenges. These centers offer different services all in one place, such as:

- PAL (Preparation for Adult Living), which helps young people prepare for adult life
- Job assistance
- Help enrolling in higher education
- Help with food and housing needs
- Mentorship and support

www.twc.texas.gov/programs/foster-youth/youth-centers

Advocate for Yourself

Do you find yourself disagreeing with your caseworker?

If so, have you reached out to their supervisor? Or the supervisor's supervisor? There is a chain of command, and it usually goes like this.

- Caseworker
- Supervisor
- Program Director
- Program Administrator
- Regional Director
- Deputy Director
- Deputy Commissioner
- Commissioner
- Governor

It's always okay to ask for the chain of command's information and phone number. And if you have a complaint about a case you can go here to file it with the Office of Consumer Affairs.

www.dfps.texas.gov/ContactUs/Questions_and_Complaints/OCA.asp

Resources

- [Texas Workforce Commission](http://www.twc.texas.gov)
www.twc.texas.gov
- [Superior/STAR Health](http://www.fostercaretx.com/members/find-a-provider.html)
www.fostercaretx.com/members/find-a-provider.html
- [Parenting Tips](http://www.getparentingtips.com)
www.getparentingtips.com
- [Housing/Utility Assistance Programs](http://www.needhelppayingbills.com/html/get_help_paying_rent.html)
www.needhelppayingbills.com/html/get_help_paying_rent.html
- [Your Texas Benefits](http://www.yourtexasbenefits.com/Learn/Home)
www.yourtexasbenefits.com/Learn/Home
- [2-1-1 Texas](http://www.211texas.org/)
www.211texas.org/
- [Texas WIC](http://texaswic.org/)
texaswic.org/
- [Texas Kinship Caregivers Facebook Page](https://facebook.com/TexasKinshipCaregivers)
facebook.com/TexasKinshipCaregivers
- [Kinship Care](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/ChildProtection/Kinship_Care/default.asp)
www.dfps.state.tx.us/ChildProtection/Kinship_Care/default.asp

Kinship Support Groups are an important part of The Kinship Program. If you want more information about support groups in your area, please ask your Kinship Caseworker. If you want to be involved in improving the Kinship Program, consider joining the Kinship Collaboration Group. For more information on kinship support groups or becoming an advocate, please get with your Kinship Worker.

"Find what brings you joy and go there." –Jan Phillips