

~~(2) "KINSHIP CARE" MEANS THE CARE GIVEN TO A CHILD WHEN THAT CHILD IS PLACED IN THE HOME OF A RELATIVE.~~

~~(3) "KINSHIP PARENT" IS THE RELATIVE WITH WHOM A CHILD IN THE CARE, CUSTODY, OR GUARDIANSHIP OF THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT IS PLACED FOR TEMPORARY OR LONG TERM CARE OTHER THAN ADOPTION.~~

~~(4) "RELATIVE" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL RELATED BY BLOOD OR MARRIAGE WITHIN FOUR DEGREES OF CONSANGUINITY OR AFFINITY UNDER THE CIVIL LAW RULE, "KINSHIP PARENT" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS RELATED BY BLOOD OR MARRIAGE WITHIN FOUR DEGREES OF CONSANGUINITY OR AFFINITY UNDER THE CIVIL LAW RULE TO A CHILD WHO IS IN THE CARE, CUSTODY, OR GUARDIANSHIP OF THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT AND WITH WHOM THE CHILD IS PLACED FOR TEMPORARY OR LONG-TERM CARE OTHER THAN ADOPTION.~~

(B) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL ESTABLISH A KINSHIP CARE PROGRAM.

(C) (1) IN SELECTING A PLACEMENT THAT IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF A CHILD IN NEED OF OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT, THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT SHALL, AS A FIRST PRIORITY, ATTEMPT TO PLACE THE CHILD WITH A RELATIVE KINSHIP PARENT.

(2) THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT SHALL EXHAUST ALL REASONABLE RESOURCES TO LOCATE A RELATIVE KINSHIP PARENT FOR INITIAL PLACEMENT OF THE CHILD.

(3) IF NO RELATIVE KINSHIP PARENT IS LOCATED AT THE TIME OF THE INITIAL PLACEMENT, THE CHILD SHALL BE PLACED IN A ~~NONRELATIVE~~ FOSTER CARE SETTING.

(4) IF A RELATIVE KINSHIP PARENT IS LOCATED SUBSEQUENT TO THE PLACEMENT OF A CHILD IN A ~~NONRELATIVE~~ FOSTER CARE SETTING, THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT MAY, IF IT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CHILD, PLACE THE CHILD WITH THE RELATIVE KINSHIP PARENT.

~~(D) (1) A KINSHIP FOSTER PARENT IS SUBJECT TO THE SAME REQUIREMENTS SET OUT UNDER PART III OF THIS SUBTITLE AND THE REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE DEPARTMENT.~~

~~(2) ANY PLACEMENT UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD.~~

~~(E) IF A KINSHIP FOSTER PARENT MEETS ALL THE REQUIREMENTS SET OUT UNDER PART III OF THIS SUBTITLE, THE KINSHIP FOSTER PARENT SHALL BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE THE FULL FOSTER CARE RATE FOR THE CARE OF THE CHILD.~~

~~(F)~~ (D) (1) A KINSHIP PARENT MAY NOT BE LESS THAN 21 YEARS OF AGE.

(2) THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT MAY WAIVE THE AGE REQUIREMENT OF PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION IF A POTENTIAL KINSHIP PARENT:

(I) IS AT LEAST 18 YEARS OF AGE; AND