



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Closure of Kinship Foster Homes

When you become a kinship caregiver, you are providing temporary care to a child with whom you have a kinship bond. Your kinship foster care license is “child-specific” meaning that your license was granted to care for your kin only. CFSA will not ask you to accept a placement for a child with whom you don’t have a kinship bond. When the kin child is no longer in your home, your kinship foster home will be closed.

The typical circumstances that would lead to your home being closed are as follows:

- ▶ The child is reunified with his or her birth parent or caregiver.
- ▶ The child achieves permanency through guardianship or adoption.
- ▶ The child is removed from your home.
- ▶ The child absconds from your home and does not return.

What is the definition of a Closed Home?

While the term “closed home” is sometimes used generically to describe a home that is not a placement option, there are distinct circumstances for such homes:

1. *Closed* – the home becomes inactive with the ability to re-open again during the period while the license is valid/unexpired. Closure of your home does not mean you give up or lose your foster care license unless you move out of the District, to a new home, or your license expires.¹ Closure means that you will not be asked to accept a kin placement until or unless the home is ready to re-open on a mutually agreed-upon date. While closed, the resource parent support and relicensing workers will not be in regular communication with you and your home will not be monitored for compliance.
2. *License Suspended* – CFSA may immediately suspend a license, due to an investigation or any condition that may pose a threat to the health or safety of foster children, for a period not exceed thirty (30) days, with an extension of up to 30 additional days, to remedy the safety issue before the home is eligible to accept placements again.
3. *License Revoked* – this is a permanent closure and the home is not eligible to accept placements again unless there is a hearing to overturn the revocation or upon the Director’s written approval.

What do I do if I no longer want to be a kinship caregiver?

Please notify the child’s social worker and both your support and relicensing workers. Please give at least 10 days’ notice for another placement to be identified for the child in your care.

¹ The foster care license is tied to the home so moving to a new home requires new inspections and an update to the home study but all unexpired clearances will transfer.

What if the child has left my home, but I would like to become a traditional foster parent?

Similar to providing kinship care, foster parenting can be a very rewarding experience. You would also be assisting with fulfilling a great need. There are certain parameters and training requirements that you must meet prior to converting your license to a traditional foster care license. Listed below are the steps required to convert your license:

- ▶ The conversion must be mutually agreed upon and recommended by both your relicensing and foster parent support workers that you are suitable and appropriate to transition your license.
- ▶ You must have demonstrated your willingness and ability to work in partnership with CFSA.
- ▶ You must complete the pre-service training required for all traditional foster parents.
- ▶ You must meet all of the requirements of the DCMR Chapter 60 for licensure of foster homes.

For additional questions about closing your kinship foster home,
contact your assigned resource parent support worker or relicensing specialist.