**Assessing Potential Relative Placements**

• Gather information early on from family members about extended family members who have been caring for the children or who have a close relationship with the children and who might be willing to serve as a temporary caregiver.

• Solicit the relative’s understanding and view of the family’s situation that resulted in the removal and provide additional information as appropriate.

• Ask about the relative’s relationship with the biological parents and assess his or her willingness to work with the biological parents towards reunification.

• Solicit the relative’s understanding of the needs of the children and assess his or her capacity to care for the children and meet their needs.

• Discuss the children’s behavior issues and strategies for managing the behaviors.

• Assess whether the relative’s cultural and spiritual attitudes and practices may hinder his or her ability to care for the children.

• Solicit the relative’s view of social service intervention in their family and assess the relative’s capacity to work cooperatively with DCS.

 • Ask about the social supports available to the relative and identify additional resources the relative may need.

• Assess the relative’s ability to handle stress and to ask for help before a situation gets out of control.

• Gather information about the relative’s family (number and age of children living in the home, etc.) and assess the impact that placing the children in their home will have on the relative’s family.

• Gather information about the relative’s financial resources and identify what financial assistance may be needed to adequately care for the children.

• Discuss the emotional, physical, and financial demands of caring for a relative’s children and assess the relative’s understanding and ability to effectively cope with these demands.

• Assess the willingness of the relative to serve as a permanent caregiver for the children should reunification not be possible.

[Foster Parents DCS Policy 16.3 Desired Characteristics of Foster Parents](https://files.dcs.tn.gov/policies/chap16/16.3.pdf)

[Foster Parent Approval DCS Policy 16.4 Resource Home Approval](https://files.dcs.tn.gov/policies/chap16/16.4.pdf)

Contact FPS when:

 • A child is placed in a foster home by providing a signed copy of the Daily Rate Child Placement Contract form. • An incident occurs with a child in the foster home.

• There is a problem or concern related to the foster parent, foster home or the safety of a child residing in a foster home.

• A foster family has expressed interest in adoption.

• You need to obtain foster home case file information to support guardianship or adoption.

 • Other assistance or support is needed. FPS also needs a copy of the foster parent checklist and to be invited to the CFTMs. FPS also ensures that the [Relative Caregivers Disclosure Statement/Options/Available Services CS-0660](https://files.dcs.tn.gov/forms/0660.pdf) is signed upon initial placement with a relative.