

# HOW DO CHILDREN ENTER THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM?

**START  
HERE**

A CALL IS MADE TO  
THE TN HOTLINE:  
1877.237.0004

CPS  
INVESTIGATES



NO ABUSE  
OR NEGLECT:  
CASE CLOSED

CPS FINDS ISSUE: **CASE OPENED**

**FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES**  
Family Support Services are designed to maintain children safely in their homes—or make it possible for children to return home—by strengthening the ability of families to protect their children and reducing threats to their safety. Services include in-home and group-based classes.

**FOSTER CARE SYSTEM**  
Foster Care is a temporary arrangement in which adults provide for the care of a child or children whose birthparent is unable to care for them.

FAMILY ASSIGNED CASE WORKER & SERVICE PLAN

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES ARE PUT IN PLACE TO SUPPORT THE FAMILY

CASE WORKER VISITS TO ASSESS NEEDS AND ASSURE SAFETY OF THE CHILD

REUNIFICATION WITH PARENTS: **CASE CLOSED**

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES UNSUCCESSFUL: CHILD IS REMOVED FROM PARENTS

KINSHIP PLACEMENT AVAILABLE

CHILD IS PLACED IN LICENSED FOSTER HOME

CHILD IS REUNITED WITH PARENTS: **CASE CLOSED**

CHILD ADOPTED BY KINSHIP GUARDIAN: **CASE CLOSED**

CHILD IS REUNITED WITH PARENTS: **CASE CLOSED**

CHILD IS ADOPTED: **CASE CLOSED**

CHILD AGES OUT: **CASE CLOSED**

## How do Children enter the Foster Care System?

A call is made to the US Hotline

CPS Investigates

- Option 1: No Abuse/Neglect: Case Closed
- Option 2: CPS Finds Issue: Case Opened

After a Case is opened there are two routes:

1. Family Support Services
2. Foster Care System

### Family Support Services

- Family Support Services are designed to maintain children safely in their homes—or make it possible for children to return home—by strengthening the ability of families to protect their children and reducing threats to their safety. Services include in-home and grouped-based classes.
- If a parent does not complete the services or the child's safety is at risk they will first try and locate a kinship home. Kinship is the first choice after being removed from the parents' home.

### Foster Care System

- Foster Care is a temporary arrangement in which adults provide for the care of a child or children whose birthparent is unable to care for them.

#### Kinship Placement Available

Kinship Placement- refers to the care of children in state's custody by relatives or close family friends. Relatives are the preferred resource since it maintains the children's connections with their families. If a birth family is unsuccessful in working thru the service plan the child are adopted by the kinship home or then placed in a licensed Foster Home.

#### Child is placed in a licensed Foster Home

A licensed Foster Home- refers to the care of children in state's custody by a state approved home. The foster family must attend training classes and complete a home study. The goal of foster care is to provide children with a safe, nurturing environment while their birth parents improve their ability to care for their children, with the ultimate goal being the reunification of the family.

### Steps to Permanency

- The Birth family has around a year to complete the Family Support Services. If they do not complete the services within the timeframe or voluntarily terminate their parental rights (TPR) the child hopefully remains in their current home.
  - In kinship homes, Permanent guardianship can be rewarded. The child will remain in the home, but the parent's rights are not terminated and/or if the child does not want to be adopted.
  - When the kinship family is unable to continue care than the child is placed in a licensed Foster Home. The child remains in the foster home for at least 6 months before the adoption can be final.
  - If a child is in a licensed Foster Home and the rights are terminated the adoption cannot be final until the child has been in the home at least 6 months.
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- Child is reunited with parents ---- Reunification: Case Closed
  - Child is adopted ----- Adoption: Case Closed
  - Child Ages Out ----- Aged Out: Case Closed