



Riverside County Department of Public Social Services – Children’s Services
Potential Relative/NREFM Caregiver Letter – DPSS 3190

Dear Potential Caregiver:

You have been identified as a potential caregiver to the child(ren) who is/are related to you either by kinship or an established relationship.

As the child(ren) is/are involved in the Child Welfare Service system and may be under the supervision of Riverside County Juvenile Court, California statute requires that relative or non-related extended family member caregivers meet the same standards of care as licensed foster parents. You do not need a license from the State of California in order to provide care to a child. However, all adults residing in your home, as well as your home itself, must meet certain specific standards.

A Relative Assessment Unit (RAU) Social Worker will be assigned to conduct an assessment. The assessment has three main components. Your house and yard will be inspected for safety. You, and all adults associated with your household, will need to have a criminal background check. Lastly, you will be assessed on your willingness and ability to care for the child (ren).

The criminal background check requires a search of local, state and federal databases using personal data as well as fingerprints. Information will be provided to you explaining how to make an appointment to be fingerprinted electronically via Live Scan. If you or an adult associated with your home has a criminal conviction, you may request that an exemption be processed. Criminal exemptions can be either approved or denied by our Department. Additionally, if you receive an approved criminal exemption, that does not guarantee you will be selected as a placement resource for the child(ren).

The RAU Social Worker has 30 days to complete the assessment when the physical home does not require a correction plan and there is no criminal history requiring a clearance. However, the process may require additional time to complete if extenuating circumstances exist. **Please be advised that even if your home has been certified, the certification does not guarantee placement.** The Department has the discretion to place the child(ren) in a home that is in the best interest of the child(ren). (Reference: Title 22, Division 6, Chapter 9.5, Article 4 Placement 89400 (a) (1)).

For any questions regarding your home assessment, please contact the assigned RAU Social Worker. Your cooperation is much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Riverside County Children’s Services Division, Placement Region

RAU Social Worker

(____) _____
Telephone Number