

When a child is not able to safely remain at home with their parents, a relative or non-relative caregiver who is willing and able to provide care for the child, is the next best alternative. This allows the child to maintain connections with the family and can also provide more stability when the caregiver lives near the child and their familiar surroundings, such as schools, friends, and the local community.



## RELATIVE AND NON-RELATIVE CAREGIVER GUIDE



### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Information for family and like-family members providing long-term care for children in Florida's child welfare system.

Contact information

 @MyFLFamilies  @MyFLFamilies

**To learn more, visit:**  
[MyFLFamilies.com](http://MyFLFamilies.com)



## RECEIVING SUPPORT

As a caregiver, there are programs and resources available to support you and help ensure you are equipped to care for the child(ren) placed in your home.

Available supports include:

- Child receives Medicaid to cover medical, dental and therapeutic services
- Education supports that may help you and your family
- Access to financial resources to help meet the needs of the child(ren)
- Connections to community services

If you would like more information on the above supports, please see the back of this brochure for how to contact your local child welfare professional.



## OPENING YOUR HEART AND HOME

Thank you for stepping up and accepting the call to serve as a caregiver. Your involvement in a child's life, no matter how short or long the time spent together may be, will forever have an impact on both of you. This journey will not be spent alone. As the child's caregiver, you now have access to many people and services until the child can be safely returned home, adopted, or permanently placed.

Thank You

## LEARNING WHAT TO EXPECT

Relative/Non-Relative caregivers play a vital role in the lives of the child(ren) entrusted in their care, including:

- Providing for the basic daily needs, such as food, clothing, shelter, and supervision
- Transporting the child(ren) to appointments, court hearings, and visits with family
- Arranging medical and dental care
- Role modeling positive parenting to the child's parents

## UNDERSTANDING THE NEED

Children removed from their home due to child abuse and/or neglect have often been through a great deal of trauma. Living with a relative/non-relative helps lessen the trauma and creates a sense of stability for the child(ren).

Other benefits include:

- Enabling children to live with people they already know and trust
- Helping children maintain extended family ties
- Allowing children to continue their family traditions and memories
- Providing love and care in a family setting
- Providing parents with a sense of hope that children will remain connected to their families
- Supporting the children in building healthy relationships within the family and their community