

# Expedited Certification

## Background Notes

Oregon is a leader in placing children with relatives at removal from the birth parent. DHS policy expects staff shall consider relatives as the placement of preference, but in making placement decisions be guided by the best interest of the child. ASFA also mandates that we assess relatives in the same way we do non-relative placements. There was a law passed, [413-070-0060](#), which states that relatives are the placement of preference for children. Oregon is guided in the assessment of potential resource families by the Certification Standards for Foster Parents, Relative Caregivers and Pre-Adoptive Parents ([II-B.1](#)). This activity gives the worker a chance to observe the assessment of a relative placement, learn the required paperwork and debrief the decision with their mentor. Research shows positive outcomes in placement of children with relatives. Ensuring safety prior to placement by checking criminal history, obtaining references, inspecting the home, and assessing family dynamics are the necessary steps toward a successful, safe, stable placement for the child.

## Tasks / Assignments:

- Read the policy entitled: Certification Standards for Foster Parents, Relative Caregivers and Pre-Adoptive Parents, II-B.1. Locate in policy the requirements for an expedited placement. This can be accessed on the web via: [http://www.dhs.state.or.us/policy/child\\_welfare/manual\\_2/ii-b1.pdf](http://www.dhs.state.or.us/policy/child_welfare/manual_2/ii-b1.pdf)
- Ask your Supervisor to assist you in connecting with another staff who is working on an expedited relative placement or special certification (people with significant relationship with child) placement.
- Arrange with the staff member to observe the process of expedited approval of a relative.

## Discoveries:

- *How comfortable is the worker with the process of expedited placement?*
- *What steps are taken to ensure safety for the child being placed?*
- *What support does the agency offer to the new caregiver?*
- *How well prepared is the caregiver to care for the children being placed with them?*
- *Ask the worker to explain what training is available to new caregivers.*

# Expedited Certification cont.

## Tasks / Assignments:

- Review the required paperwork the staff member completes in approving expedited approval.
- Review with your supervisor the process, paperwork and your impression of the home. Clarify any questions you have about the process.

## *Discoveries:*

- *Find out how relatives and kin are assessed for an expedited placement.*
- *What specific requirements in the Certification Standards policy did you learn about?*
- *What does policy list as requirements for an expedited certification?*

