



Dear Parent,

We appreciate you allowing Safe Families for Children (SFFC) to help you through this difficult time. Safe Families are people who willingly and without pay open their homes to a child of a parent who is experiencing a crisis or needing help. We would like to offer this service to you. Our families live throughout Troup County and they have been trained, screened, and approved similar to how foster care parents are approved. These families take in children as young as a day old, all the way through parenting teenagers. Children stay with a Safe Family as short as 2-3 days and as long as 2 months or more. Our average stay, nationally, is 45 days. Our families are only interested in helping you succeed as quickly as possible so that your family can be reunited as quickly as possible. They would like to help support you too; becoming like an extended family. Parents who have placed their children have had similar problems to what you are struggling with (homelessness, being overwhelmed, depression, health problems, drug/alcohol addiction, etc.) All children are returned to their parents, unless other arrangements are made.

It is important to know that this is not foster care, and if you place your children with us, you are not placing them with the State (DFCS.) We are similar to having an aunt or uncle (extended family support) and you are asking Safe Families to take care of your children temporarily while you get back on your feet. You retain full custody of your children and are part of every decision that is made.

In order to get started, we need you to fill out these forms. This gives the family who cares for your children the right to have them in their home (your permission) and to make medical decisions in an emergency when we can't reach you. It also tells them some information about your children that may be very important for them to know; information that will make the transition a little easier and more comfortable for your children. Once a family is found, we will make arrangements with you to have your children brought to their home or other location at your convenience. We would like for you to meet the family, if that can be arranged.

**Other things you should know:**

1. You can change your mind at any time and have your children returned to you. If you have a DFCS worker, they will be notified of that decision.
2. **Visits** – We strongly encourage you to visit your children regularly. Our staff will help with visits and will choose a time and place convenient with you and the Safe Family.
3. **Phone Calls** – If your child is old enough, we encourage phone calls. These can occur daily, if you like; as long as the time of day/evening isn't too disruptive to you, the child, or the Safe Family.
4. **Contacting us** – You can contact us anytime you want. You can reach us at our office at 706-298-0050 ext. 1073, by cell # is 706-616-8028, or email [cgibson@twincedar.org](mailto:cgibson@twincedar.org)

Thank you for choosing Safe Families for your children. Our Safe Family volunteers will do what they can to support and help you get back on your feet as quickly as possible. Call us anytime.

Sincerely,

Candi Gibson

Safe Families Coordinator

706-298-0050 Ext. 1073 (office)

706-616-8028 (cell)

[cgibson@twincedar.org](mailto:cgibson@twincedar.org)