



Dear Friends,

We are grateful that you are interested in partnering with Safe Families for Children (SFFC). Through participating in Safe Families you are joining a team of people committed to helping families in crisis by assisting them with the care of their children. We believe that God is raising up a movement to return the church to the forefront of caring for “the least of these”, children in need.

Currently our greatest need is to recruit SFFC Host Families. The process of becoming a Host Family will take you roughly 10 hours which includes completing our manual, face to face, and online training. You could be approved in a matter of weeks. The approval process consists of the following steps:

1. Complete and return the Host Family Application. Once received, we will add you to the SFFC database; you will then receive a login code by email, where you can begin our online training.
2. A case coach will contact you once the above documents have been received. The case coach will email your Host Home Manual and the date for the next face to face training. The case coach will also schedule a time to visit your family to complete the Home Evaluation and additional paperwork.
3. We request 3 references. The Host Family Application has a section to list your references and their contact information. Once we receive your application, we will send the reference form to them for completion.
4. A case coach will also explain the fingerprint background check and drug screen process.
5. Once all of the above and your online, manual, and face to face training is complete, you will be notified of your home’s approval and can then accept placements.

While it may look a bit overwhelming, I think you will find each part of the process easy to complete and a necessary step for us to assure the safety of the children we care for. The attached Safe Family Parent Handbook will answer many of your questions and can be reviewed at your leisure. We believe that you will be blessed in a huge way, by sharing your home with a child in need. Some of our placements are very short term, and we also need safe families who are available to do respite for other host families. Please keep in mind that before placing a child with you, we will call and explain the child’s situation. You will have the option at that time to prayerfully consider whether the placement is a good fit for your family.

We realize that this is a big commitment and assure you that our social workers and staff will be available to guide you and we welcome the opportunity to address any questions or concerns.

Thank you for partnering in ministry with Safe Families for Children. By hosting children in your home, you are fully ministering the work of Biblical hospitality and making Kingdom level impacts for children and families.

Sincerely,

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Safe Families for Children

THE SAFE FAMILY PARENT HANDBOOK

Introduction

Problem

By law and policy most state child welfare agencies are allowed to rescue only children who have suffered blatant abuse or neglect, leaving thousands of children and their families in difficult situations. With the changing economy, many more families are experiencing financial crisis, unemployment, and homelessness. Others are dealing with family violence, parental drug and/or alcohol use, illness or incarceration. During such crises, many parents are not capable of providing a safe and caring environment for their children. Historically the extended family often stepped in to support parents by taking care of children for short periods of time, and neighbors came alongside families in crisis. However, many urban families are socially isolated and their extended family is non-existent or not available. The children in a family traumatized by crisis become especially at risk for neglect or abuse as their parents struggle to cope with crushing circumstances and emotions. Without assistance, many of these situations will lead to abuse/neglect episodes with long-lasting consequences for the child.

Safe Families Solution

Safe Families for Children (SFFC) is a network of host families that extends the community safety net by providing parents in need – on their own or at the recommendation of a case worker – a loving sanctuary where they can safely place their children in times of crises. Host Families, prompted solely by compassion, are screened, trained and serve without compensation. As a result, SFFC is a voluntary, non-coercive alternative to the state child welfare system. By temporarily freeing parents from the responsibility of caring for their child, SFFC provides them with time to address personal issues without fear of losing custody.

Objectives

The Safe Families Program strives to meet three objectives:

1. **Child Welfare Deflection:** Safe Families provides a safe alternative to child welfare custody, thus significantly reducing the number of children entering the child welfare system.
2. **Child Abuse Prevention:** Providing an overwhelmed and resource limited parent with a safe, temporary place for their child without threat of losing custody can avert potential abuse/neglect episodes.
3. **Family Support and Stabilization:** Many parents struggle because of limited informal social supports and unavailable extended family. Many Safe Families become the extended family that a parent never had.

Facts

- **Approval and Length of Stay:** Safe Families are recruited from churches and screened/approved similar to foster care (fingerprinting, home study, etc.). Children are monitored in the host home according to state requirements for monitoring children. Average length of stay is 45 days with ranges from 2 days to 18 months.
- **Ages:** New born infants through parenting teens. 85-90% are returned to parents.

- **Reason for Referral:** Families are referred because of child abuse, domestic violence, substance abuse, homelessness, parent mental illness, limited financial resources, etc.
- **Referral Sources:** 50% of families are referred by the child welfare system. Referrals also come from hospitals, drug treatment and homeless centers, prisons, schools, police stations, adoption agencies, etc.

What type of situations will these children be coming from?

The children will be coming from families who are experiencing crisis of one sort or another. Many families experience financial crisis, unemployment, and homelessness. Although shelters are available, most do not accommodate children and the ones which do are chronically full. In other cases, children may come from families in which the parent needs time for physical, mental, or drug rehabilitation. Some children may come from families which are needing to address the issue of spousal abuse. Still other families are thrown into crisis when a parent is remanded to a correctional institution for a period of time. While these and other kinds of crises are traumatic, they also often offer the opportunity for positive personal and familial transformations.

How long will the child stay with me?

The length of time that the child will be with the Safe Family can range anywhere from one day to three months. The average length of stay is about 45 days. Every effort will be made to estimate how long that time will be at the time of placement. Factors that will determine the length of time include: the severity of the family's crisis, the willingness and the ability of the biological parent to address the issues involved in the crisis, and other situational variables that are needed for the family and home to be stable and healthy.

What type of child may I expect?

The children will all come from families in crisis but children, like adults, respond to crisis in different ways. Some children show little response to the circumstances of their lives while others may be deeply troubled. Even as children in the same family are often very different from each other, so these children will each have their own individual personalities. While some of the children will have experienced some measure of trauma, it should be noted that these children are not believed to be victims of abuse or neglect which would mandate state social service intervention.

Chapter 2 – Approval Process and Requirements

Safe Family Parent Requirements

It is our preference to recruit Safe Family parents that see their participation in this program as a way of living out the compassion of Christ by caring for the hurting. Volunteer parents with this mindset are able to bring the healing dynamic of Christian love to children and families in crisis. Thus, we prefer parents who are an active part of a Christian faith community.

It is the policy of Safe Family to approve the most competent and effective Safe Family parents to care for the needs of the children. The ultimate goal is to provide a culturally relevant and secure family that is free from any potential dangers to the safe child. It is also important for the child to feel loved and cared for, and feel as though they are a part of the family. The impact you have in the life of this child is significant. In order to do this, the following requirements of Safe Family parents are made:

1. Safe Family parents need to be over the age of 25 years; stable, mature and law abiding.
2. Safe Family parents need to be free from the use of drugs and alcohol on a regular basis.
3. Safe Family parents' home must be in a satisfactory condition.
4. Safe Family parents must be willing to agree to the requirements of Safe Families Program regarding guidelines for parent's expectations.
5. Safe Family parents must be willing to refrain from profanity and other potentially damaging behavior to a safe child.
6. A Safe Family parent must be capable of providing for the health and safety of the child, and be in sufficient health, strength, and mobility to meet the many demands of a Safe Family parent.

Safe Families vs. Foster Families?

Safe Families for Children is both similar to and radically different from serving as a Foster Family. Safe Families was started in order to help families in crisis BEFORE their children are legally removed from them while Foster Families serve children whose parents can only get their children back through the courts. Safe Families receive no funds to help in caring for children while Foster Families receive a small monthly sum. These differences in legal and financial involvement are essential to the distinctive dynamic provided by compassionate Safe Families care.

Safe Families are patterned after Foster Families in terms of how they are authorized to serve. Every effort is made to assure that the Safe Family truly is safe and appropriate to care for children. These efforts include many of the same requirements that Foster Families have including home study, background checks, references, and agreement to use only non-corporal measures of discipline with children brought into their care.

In order to help compassionate people to more easily participate, the training required of Safe Families was abbreviated omitting training geared to children who have been abused and training dealing with the legal system. Our belief is that there are many families who desire to serve but the amount of training time required to become a foster family becomes prohibitive. Thus we have sought to make Safe Families training more 'trainee-friendly.'

Approval Process

There are a number of hoops that need to be passed through in order to be part of the Safe Family team. Given the society we live in, we have to take potential Safe Families through a process of careful screening to ensure that we are truly providing safe homes. I'm sure you understand our need to do this. The hoops involve the following:

- Completion of the Safe Family Application
- Completion of a Home Study. Our staff will come out to your home to meet with you and to see the setting the Safe Family child may be living in.
- Finger prints and background checks
- Completion of Training
- References

Determining Capacity and Types of Children

During the home study process, we will talk with you about the number and types (ages, gender, personality, etc.) of children you would prefer to have in your home. We will set a capacity (the most you can take) for your home but this does not mean you have to take in that many children.

Chapter 3 – Placement Process

How families are referred to Safe Families?

Parents are referred to the Safe Families program from a variety of sources. They include: child protection investigators, day care centers, hospitals, schools, police stations, homeless centers, etc. Typically, someone involved with the parent will call on their behalf (caseworker). Nearly all the referrals are crisis related. In other words, the children are probably in need of placement that same day.

Once we receive a call, we get basic information to make sure the family is appropriate for the Safe Families Program. The most important decision is whether the children can be adequately cared for in a family setting. Some children have special medical needs so we will look for Safe Families that have been (or are willing to be) trained to meet those needs.

The Safe Family staff will then fax or email documents that the parent needs to complete. We will not begin looking for a family unless these documents are completed and turned into us.

Once we receive these forms back, we will begin to contact families who have indicated they are interested in caring for a child of that age. We attempt to find families that live closest to the parent who is placing the child. This is the most cumbersome part of the process. We could end up making 50 calls to place one child. We often have to leave messages. Because we are calling many different people at the same time, we might occasionally have found another home by the time you call back.

How will I receive the child?

Once you say yes to taking in a child, a Safe Family staff will, in many situations, drop off the child at your home. We also may attempt to have you meet us half way or, if you are up for it, pick up the child yourself.

It is not uncommon for children to often not come with very few clothes and supplies. Please remember that these are crisis situations. We will do everything we can to get additional clothes as soon as we can. We will do what we can to help provide what you need. Many Safe Families have developed a network of support around them from their church that can help provide clothes and other supplies.

When you receive the child, you should also be given the following paperwork:

- Consent for Guardianship and/or Placement Agreement Form
- Power of Attorney for Health Care
- Child Intake Form
- Medical Card or Medicaid number– This can be used to seek medical care if needed

We will tell you all that we know about the child that is coming into your home. However, it is important to note that there have been occasions that we were not aware of certain situations at intake (e.g. health, colds, behavior). If that does occur, we will work with you to make sure you are able to meet the child's needs.

What to expect when a child comes to my home?

Children have a variety of reactions to being placed with a Safe Family. Some children might be angry

because they are away from their parents and everything familiar. Some may be relieved because their living situation was quite difficult. Other children may be quite shy and withdrawn. Some may appear overly friendly and compliant. Putting yourself in the child's shoes can help you understand some of the difficulties a child might have. How would you react to being separated from all of your natural supports – home, job, family, and friends? Your feelings of sadness, nervousness about your new living situation, uncertainty about new roommates, and stress related to not knowing any of the rules and expectations (spoken and unspoken) can be difficult to deal with.

Contact with Safe Family Staff

We will have a Safe Family staff member come to your home within 48 hours of placement to make sure everything is going well. The Case Coach will also visit your home weekly for the first 4 weeks. If placement lasts longer than four weeks, the visits from the Coach may decrease.

The Case Coach is your advocate. You can feel free to contact them whenever you need help or direction. They will also be in contact with the placing parent on a regular basis to help them get back on their feet in order to get their children back. If things are not going well, it is important for you to let your Case Coach know.

Safe Family parents are expected to keep their case coaches informed of all significant events pertaining to the safe child. To do this, each family must have a telephone in their home. If you are unable to reach your case coach by phone, you have the option of paging your worker or leaving a message at his/her office.

Contact with Placing Parents

Biological parents maintain full authority and responsibility for their children. Our desire is that you will be able to develop a positive, supportive relationship with them so that we can assist them in caring for their children. In fact, our hope is that this relationship might continue even after the children are returned to their parents. Placing parents may have various responses to you. Some are very embarrassed by their situation and thus may appear guarded or unappreciated. Many have very few supports in their life so they will accept anything you have to offer.

You might have some hesitancy about having the placing parent contact you until you get to know them. Our staff will do what we can to address this for you. Many parents would like to have phone contact with their children as much as possible. We hope this will be ok with you.

You have a significant opportunity to impact these parents in a way that Safe Family staff do not have because you are taking care of their children for free. You might want to keep the following in mind:

1. It is important to maintain an open and positive relationship with the parents. Please remember that they are likely in a crisis situation and need all the support they can get. The best way to be supportive is to offer compassion and encouragement. Please be careful about giving financial resources (which may be provided to them through other means) or taking responsibility from them which is important for them to bear as part of their healing. Please refrain from being judgmental or critical. Since many of us have not experienced the multiple difficulties they currently are under, it is difficult for us to understand the barriers that often arise.
2. Parent's rights are fully intact.

3. Remember that we desire to minister the love of Christ to those we serve.
4. Periodically we may need to establish firm boundaries and guidelines concerning contact with the Safe Family.
5. Our focus is to support the parent and reunify the children. We desire to strengthen the parent so they can better care for their children.

Will the child's parents visit their child while in Safe Families care?

Research shows that parents do better when they are able to have visits with their children while their children are in care. While we hope that the biological parents will still be able to have time with their child/children while they are not living together, this may not always be possible. When visits are possible, Safe Families staff (and sometimes staff from other agencies) will seek to arrange visits on a weekly basis. We also encourage appropriate phone contact between the parent and their child as well as between the parent and Safe Family.

What if the child gets homesick or misses her/his parents?

In most cases, this is to be expected and a normal response of the child. When possible, the child should be assisted in contacting her/his parent(s). When that is not possible, the empathy and support of the Safe Family can actually facilitate healing and a healthy bonding with the Safe Family.

What if the biological parent and I have a disagreement about caring for the child?

Even biological extended families have these kinds of disagreements (sometimes even the biological parents between themselves too!) It is important for Safe Family parents to strive to understand the biological parents and not react against ideas that may not be communicated in the best way. Remember that this is a family in crisis and the parent (s) may feel very threatened or troubled by their need for their children to be away from them (even when they KNOW it is necessary and something they themselves requested). Unless it is clearly against policy or the values of the Safe Family, every effort should be made to accommodate the biological parents' preferences and include them in the decision. This may include very simple things such as cutting a child's hair. In case of ongoing conflict or failure to reach resolution, please contact Safe Families staff.

Confidentiality

In order for you to work effectively with the children referred to our program, it is essential that you have information about the child's family and background. However, because this is personal information, it can be misinterpreted by others in the community. It is legally necessary that you, as a Safe Family parent, hold this information in confidence.

Ending Placements

There are a number of ways placements may end.

1. Planned return home date: At placement, we work with the parent to identify how long they think their child needs to be in care with a Safe Family. This is how we determine how long a placement is expected to last when we call you. It is important to note that many times parents underestimate how long it will take them to get back on their feet. Many times they are being optimistic. However, it is important to note that there are some social conditions that are very difficult to overcome. For example, homelessness is a very difficult societal problem that often takes longer than a parent might want.
2. The parent may determine that they are ready to have their children back earlier than they

originally asked for. Although we attempt to do return homes in a planned manner, they can decide anytime they want, with little or no warning. If this occurs, we apologize to you ahead of time. There is little we can do.

3. You may choose to end the placement. If things are not going well, you can choose to end the placement and we will either find another family or return the child to his/her parent. It would be helpful if you give us some warning that this may occur. However, we understand that you may have some crisis come up that a change in placement is needed.

What if a non-custodial biological parent shows up to remove the child from my care?

This has never happened. In fact, the custodial parent has not ever shown up to remove their child. If there is even a remote chance of this happening, this should be clearly discussed with the custodial parent. Assuming that the non-custodial parent does not have this legal right, he/she should not be allowed to remove the child. Please contact the Safe Family staff if you have any questions. It is important for the child to only be returned to the parent who makes the placement unless other arrangements have been made.

Can I bring the child with to church?

It can be difficult for a child (as it can be for an adult as well) to go into new surroundings with many people who are unfamiliar to them. Experiencing trauma and crisis can make it even more difficult. With that sensitivity in mind, our hope is that Safe Family parents will be able to include the children placed with them in as many of the family's normal routines and support networks as possible. That would certainly include church and faith-related activities of all kinds. Of course, faith can be a valuable resource during difficult times. If a child is of a different faith from yours, we will make sure its ok with the parent to attend your church. We do want to respect the parent's wishes. It is important to get consent from parents if the child is going to be baptized or confirmed.

Can I take a child out of state?

When you have plans to leave the area on vacation, we ask that you notify us as soon as possible. If you plan to leave the state, you can take the Safe Family child with you but we would like to get the placing parent's permission. It's important to note that some Safe Families have had difficulty getting kids through the airport. Please make sure you have all necessary consent forms with you. Since most people do not understand the Safe Families program but do understand foster care, many Safe Families tell authorities that this is their foster child.

Chapter 4 - Discipline and Supervision

DISCIPLINE OF CHILDREN

Physical and/or mental abuse has no place in an agency dedicated to the welfare of children and ultimately to society as a whole. It is our intention that no staff member or Safe Family parent be allowed to engage in abusive behavior toward another person. Abuse includes any attempt to do harm to another. The use of any form of physical punishment including spanking is prohibited.

Discipline of Children

- a. Discipline shall be appropriate to the age of the child related to the child's act and shall not be out of proportion to the particular inappropriate behavior. Discipline shall be handled without prolonged delay.
- b. The Safe Family parent shall be responsible for the discipline of the child. Discipline shall never be delegated to a child's peer or to persons who are strangers to the child.
- c. No child shall be subject to corporal punishment, verbal abuse, threats, or derogatory remarks about him or his family.
- d. No child shall be deprived of a meal or part of a meal as punishment.
- e. No child shall be deprived of visits with family or other persons who have established a parenting bond with him/her.
- f. No child shall be deprived of clothing or sleep as punishment.
- g. The child may be restricted to an unlocked bedroom for a reasonable period of time. While restricted, the child shall have full access to sanitary facilities.
- h. The child may be temporarily restrained by a person physically holding the child if he/she poses a danger to himself or others.
- i. Special and additional chores may be assigned as a disciplinary measure.
- j. Privileges may be temporarily removed as a disciplinary measure.

Corporal Punishment

Corporal Punishment is not allowed on Safe Family children. Although this is a very effective means to manage behavior, the background of the child is not known so we are often not sure what a spanking might mean to them. Spankings can also be misinterpreted which can create difficulties for the Safe Family parent.

Tips from Experienced Caregivers

- Point out something your child does well every day. Genuine praise helps a child feel good about himself and tells him/her you care enough to notice.
- Explain house rules to the new children in your home, including why people and things work the way they do. If you can't explain a rule, you may want to ask yourself why you need it.
- Demonstrate appropriate behavior and have other children help you. Actions speak louder than words.
- Plan time alone with every child for positive attention. The oldest needs just as much one-on-one time as the youngest.
- Anticipate problems and discuss consequences before problems come up. . Get a sense of prior problems the child has had and strategize how you might handle it if it comes up.
- Talk to the child in words and terms appropriate for his age or developmental level.
- Respond to the child's feelings first, then the behavior. After they calm down, you both can talk

about the behavior.

- Try to recognize when you are upset or stressed about something else. Act, don't react, to the child's behavior.
- Give a child a chance to learn from their mistakes. Unless it is dangerous or costly, let the child learn the consequences of his actions.
- Be realistic with your expectations. Give the child time to change.
- Let the child know when he/she controls behavior well.
- Prepare the child for times of transition. Tell them where you are going, what you will be doing and how long you will stay. Also let them know that they will be returning home with you after a planned activity or visit.

Chapter 5 – Health and Safety

Safe Family parents are responsible for tending to the medical needs of all children placed in their home. When a child is placed with you, you will be given a signed form called Power of Attorney for Health Care. This form is needed whenever you will be seeking medical attention. This gives you the authority to seek medical care on behalf of the child. In nearly every situation, we attempt to include placing parents in any medical decision. However, if they are not available, you are the decision maker.

In most situations we have a good sense of the child's health status. However, it's important to note that we may not know everything about a child or the parent may tell us inaccurate information. For example, a parent might believe their child no longer has problem with asthma because they have not had an incident for awhile. Please be alert to any potential medical concerns.

Health Care Coverage – In nearly all situations a child should come with a medical card or public aid number. This will likely be public aid (state medical care). Nearly all physicians are required to provide services for patients on public aid. You might want to call your own doctor to see if they would be willing to take a child on public aid. There will not be a co-pay for services. If the card given to you is outdated, a Doctor's office often just needs the numbers on the card to access updated information on the internet. Even if a card is outdated, you should still be able to use it.

Uninsured Children – This typically is not a problem but it has arisen on occasion. If you have an uninsured child, Safe Families might have resources of physicians who are willing to see children without insurance. A second option is that every county has public health centers for uninsured patients. You might want to check your phone directory for the location of the closest public health clinic. If there is an emergency and you have to bring an uninsured child to the emergency room, they may ask for you to sign a form saying you will be responsible for the costs. Please call us if that happens. You should not have to sign that you will be financially responsible.

Emergency Treatment – Please bring the Safe Family child to the emergency room the way you would seek medical care for your own child. However, make sure you have the necessary paperwork with you when you go. Please call the after hours pager if you are going to the emergency room.

Behavioral/counseling Services – If you are in close proximity to the Safe Families office, counseling services may be available for the child and his/her parent. Your county also has services for residents with limited resources. We are developing a network of mental health practitioners willing to see Safe Family clients for little cost.

Universal Precautions – It is always a good practice to make universal precautions part of your family's routine. This will help to cut down on the chances that others may catch colds and other illnesses that a child might have. There are three universal precautions that can be used.

1. Use a cloth barrier or wear gloves when caring for bleeding wounds, nosebleeds, bloody diarrhea and diaper changes.
2. Clean surfaces exposed to blood with a bleach solution.
3. Consistently wash hands (and teach children to wash hands) with soap and water.

Children in the home should not share teething toys, feeding bottles or toothbrushes.

Safety Precautions

The following general safety precautions should be maintained.

- There should be no firearms kept in the home unless they are locked up.
- All chemicals and medications should be secured and out of a child's reach.
- Fire and smoke detectors should be operational.
- It is important for everyone to know how to get out of the house in case of fire.
- Young children should not have access to matches and lighters.
- The hot water in the home should not be set higher than 120 degrees
- Hot items (hair dryers, curlers) should be kept out of the reach of children
- Extension cords should not be under rugs
- Electric outlets should be covered when not in use.
- Infants should sleep alone in a crib and should not sleep with toys or stuffed animals.
- Infants should be placed on their back to sleep.
- Plastic bags, pins, balloons should be kept out of reach of children
- Young children should not play with toys they can swallow.
- Young children should never be left alone in a bath or pool.
- Drain the baby pool when not in use
- Always supervise children when they are near water.
- Pools should have a security fence or alarm
- Never leave an infant alone while they are on changing tables
- Do not use a baby walker
- Do not have furniture that a toddler can climb on placed near a window.
- Never shake a baby
- Always leave the children with an appropriate caregiver.
- Children must be placed in car seats when being transported. Older children must have seatbelts on.
- Never leave a child unattended in a vehicle.
- It's good to have a list of emergency phone numbers posted near the telephone.
- If your child has asthma, Safe Family staff has an asthma action plan available to assist you.

Chapter 6 – Education

Every attempt will be made to keep the child in the same school which they have been attending. Our aim will be to place children, if possible, with Safe Families whose home is geographically close to where the child has been living and goes to school. If that isn't possible, we hope to facilitate transportation arrangements for the child to attend the same school they have been attending. If that is not workable and the placement is longer than a couple of weeks, we will help to enroll the child in the school most convenient to your home.

Enrolling the child in school – In most school districts, the placement agreement or Short-Term Guardianship Form should be sufficient to enroll the Safe Family Child in the local school. You will likely need prior school records, birth certificate, and immunizations. It is possible that this information may be difficult to get because of the crisis nature of the placements. Some schools are willing to contact the previous school for that information. You might ask the school if they would be willing to do that. A visit to your school to introduce yourself and explain safe families before placement is a good proactive step to take.

Home Schooling – We are very supportive of families who are interested in Home Schooling the Safe Family Child in their care. We would like to know that you are intending to do that, once placement occurs. If you have any difficulty with the home schooling process, please let us know.

School and Book Fees – School districts often require hundreds of dollars for new students to cover their school fees. However, many school districts have waivers for children in crisis situations. In Indiana some school systems honor for example, there is a waiver for school fees for homeless children and youth. By definition of needing a Safe Family placement, most children in the Safe Families program fit this category. These fees may include:

- Charges for text books
- Charges for uniforms or equipment related to sports
- Graduation fees
- School record fees
- School health service fees
- Free or reduced lunches

Day Care – The parents in many Safe Family homes both have to work. If you take in a child of day care age, please inquire whether the biological mother was ever approved for state subsidized day care. If she had been approved, it is likely this day care resource may continue when they are placed in your home.

