**Kin Supervising Family Interactions Guidance**

*This document was developed to assist DHS and contracting agency staff in supporting and training kin in facilitating family interaction time. This document is not meant to be provided to the parents or kin.*

*The goal of this document is to allow family interactions to occur as frequently and in as organic of a setting as possible given case dynamics. This form is meant to serve as guidance for teams in facilitating planning regarding family interaction time to support both Kin and parents in this process. Scheduling of family interactions is meant to establish a minimum amount of family interaction time each week, however families are encouraged to spend time together as much as is reasonably possible. We encourage teams to look at including attending doctor appointments, school events, extracurricular activities and other family events whenever is safely possible. Lastly, phone and in person check-ins should primarily focus on what positive parenting skills are being demonstrated during family interaction time and any concerns should be utilized as tools for teaching parents moving forward.*

1. Review the following questions and ensure Kin understand these answers. Do not assume that going over this once will suffice. Plan to review it during your monthly face-to-face each month.
   1. Is there anyone that cannot be at family interactions?
   2. Are there stipulations on when and where these can occur?
   3. Is there anything else we should know?
   4. Review level of supervision requirements with caregivers.
   5. Share the family interaction plan. Talk with the Kin about re-unifying the family being the goal and how family interactions support this goal.
   6. Develop and review a backup plan with caregivers to overcome barriers or perceived barriers with following family interaction guidelines. (Consider referring to the Kinship Navigator Program to support this step. If Kinship Navigator Programming is not available utilize Casey Family Program videos at the link provided.) https://www.aecf.org/blog/training-series-coping-with-the-unique-challenges-of-kinship-care/
2. Share with kin the interaction observation checklist. Give them the option to use or not use.
3. What is the plan for communicating any changes in expectations that may occur to the Kinship Caregiver and other members of the team?
4. Allow kin to observe you supervising at least one family interaction and observe at least one kin supervised family interaction.
5. Develop a schedule. What will family interactions look like? (Time, Location, Duration, Frequency) Share this with the team and document in monthly reports and/or on an interaction plan.
6. Develop a schedule for checking in with the relative WEEKLY. How will we document from this contact how interactions are proceeding? Questions to ask may be.
   1. Have the parents attended all scheduled family interactions?
   2. Do they arrive on time and prepared?
   3. What positive parenting skills have you seen from the parent?
   4. Was there anything you observed we could help them improve?
   5. Is there anything else we should know?
   6. Review any changes to family interaction guidelines.
7. Share this with the team through email and monthly progress reports.
8. Ensure, at least monthly in person check ins occur during a Kinship supervised family interaction session. Document this through email and monthly progress reports.
   * + - 1. Review positive family interaction notes, as well as any concerns interaction supervisors have identified.
         2. Check-in on any concerns they have regarding parents abiding by family interaction guidelines.
         3. Review any changes to family interaction guidelines.