



Department of Children and Youth Memo 25-056

TO: Public Children Services Agencies, IV-E Courts, Private Child Placing Agencies, Private Non-custodial Agencies

FROM: Laura Graf, Policy Division Director

DATE: July 22, 2025

SUBJECT: Child Specific Kinship Foster Care Certification Microburst on Reviewing Rules Policies Hearing Sessions

Background

On September 28, 2023, the federal government recommended the creation of a separate foster care certification standard for kinship foster homes. Currently, Ohio maintains a single certification standard for all foster homes but allows recommending agencies to request waivers for non-safety requirements when working with kin.

To align with federal recommendations, the Department of Children and Youth (DCY) is developing a **Child-Specific Kinship Foster Care Certification**. This new certification will be based on the existing kinship home assessment tools and the *Kin-Specific Foster Home Approval: Recommended Standards of National Organizations*.

Purpose

The DCY is developing a Child-Specific Kinship Foster Care Certification and is seeking input from stakeholders who work directly with kinship caregivers. To gather feedback and suggestions, the Bureau of Children Services Policy and Supports will host Microburst on Reviewing Rules and Policies and Hearings (MORRPHs).

Four sessions will be scheduled specifically for staff from Public Children Services Agencies (PCSAs) and IV-E Courts, and two sessions will be scheduled for staff from Private Child Placing Agencies (PCPAs) and Private Non-custodial Agencies (PNAs).



PCSAs and IV-E Courts:

- Wednesday, July 30, 2025 | 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
- Thursday, July 31, 2025 | 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- Thursday, August 7, 2025 | 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- Wednesday, August 13, 2025 | 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

PCPAs and PNAs:

- Wednesday, August 6, 2025 | 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
- Thursday, August 14, 2025 | 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Participants interested in attending one of these sessions must complete the [registration form](#) by the close of business on July 29, 2025. Registration will be confirmed with an Outlook appointment invitation to join the MORRPH sessions. The appointment will include the link to join the event.

Contact

If you have any questions or concerns, contact Rebekah Murray at Rebekah.Murray@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov.