

## Unlicensed Kin and Fictive Kin Caregiver Evaluation

AREA OF ASSESSMENT	SAFE	FURTHER ASSESSMENT NEEDED	UNSAFE/DANGEROUS
	Examples of placement situations determined to be safe. The Department can be in support of conditional custody in these circumstances. Caregiver is deemed appropriate.	Examples of placement situations where a concern or risk has been identified that requires us to <b>PAUSE</b> and conduct a deeper assessment of the potential caregiver, household members, or circumstances before recommendations are made. This may entail gathering additional information, having further conversation with the individual/household members, and using the information to make a recommendation.	Examples of placement situations determined to be unsafe or dangerous. Unlicensed placements shall not occur. <u>The person should not be used as a temporary caregiver through an out-of-home safety plan without supervisory approval.</u>
<p><i>Activities or events described in the <b>FURTHER ASSESSMENT NEEDED</b> category are indicators of a point within someone's life where their behavior or circumstances may have interfered with their day-to-day functioning and responsibilities. For the purpose of this assessment, the following questions will be explored for potential caregivers and adult household members before to making a recommendation or placement:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>What is the historical context relevant to the concerns? What was going on in the person's life at the time that caused them to experience consequences?</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Is the behavior or circumstance that requires further assessment still active and present in the person's life?</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Does the situation present risk? Is the situation relevant as it pertains to caring for this child (and their specific needs and vulnerabilities)?</i></li> <li>➤ <i>What has the person done since that incident or difficult time in their life to mitigate those circumstances or behaviors? Are there protective factors?</i></li> </ul>			
<b>Criminal History</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No criminal history</li> <li>• Only civil convictions</li> <li>• Civil OWI convictions older than 10 years with no additional infractions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Civil OWI convictions within the past 10 years</li> <li>• Misdemeanor criminal convictions</li> <li>• Non-violent felony convictions</li> <li>• Drug-related offense within the past 3 years</li> <li>• Current/pending charges of crimes listed above</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Felony convictions of child abuse or neglect, spousal abuse, a crime against children (including child pornography), or a crime involving violence, including rape, sexual assault, or homicide</li> <li>• Felony convictions such as assault and battery, related offense within the past 5 years</li> <li>• Current/pending charges of crimes listed above</li> </ul>
<b>Department of Corrections (DOC) or Parole Board Supervision</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No current/active DOC or parole board supervision</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participating successfully in DOC or parole board supervision for crimes other than those listed in the UNSAFE/DANGEROUS category</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DOC or parole board supervision for items listed in the first two bullets above in UNSAFE/DANGEROUS under Criminal History and DOC or parole board supervision not anticipated to successfully finish in the next 6 months</li> <li>• Active DOC or parole board supervision with violations of probation or parole</li> </ul>

<b>No Contact Order (NCO)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No NCOs</li> <li>An NCO not granted by the court</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All other active NCOs (both defendants and plaintiffs of NCOs)</li> <li>Expired NCOs (both defendants and plaintiffs of NCOs)</li> <li>Multiple non-granted NCOs (both defendants and plaintiffs of NCOs)</li> <li>Any current or previous NCO would potentially present a barrier to caregiver participation in family interactions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NCO in place to protect the child subject from the proposed caregiver</li> </ul>
<b>Confirmed or Founded Child Abuse</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No Confirmed or Founded reports</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Findings of child abuse (<i>review Confirmed and Founded reports</i>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Serious physical injury Confirmed or Founded, regardless of expungement</li> <li>Adult-to-child sexual abuse Confirmed or Founded, regardless of expungement</li> <li>Emotional maltreatment Confirmed or Founded, regardless of expungement</li> </ul>
<b>DHS/JCS Involvement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No open DHS case</li> <li>No open JCS case</li> <li>No prior adjudication in a CINA proceeding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prior DHS, JCS, or CINA involvement</li> <li>Foster home licensing history, including a previous foster home that was closed and flagged, revoked licenses, or denied applications (<i>will need to request review with foster care licensing staff</i>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open JCS involvement</li> <li>Open DHS child safety intervention (CPA), DHS custody, or Child Welfare service case</li> <li>Situations where the individual being considered as a caregiver is unwilling to work with DHS because of their past experiences</li> </ul>
<b>Residency</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have stable housing</li> <li>Situations where relatives or others reside together with adequate living space</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Situations where relatives or others reside together temporarily without adequate living space</li> <li>Imminent plans to move into stable housing</li> <li>Residing in a hotel or motel on a short-term basis due to a significant event (i.e., house fire, damage from a natural disaster, moving to Iowa and looking for housing, landlord selling residence)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No identified housing; lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence</li> <li>Living in a place not meant for human habitation</li> <li>Residing in an institution, assisted living facility, correctional facility, or treatment facility</li> <li>Residing in a hotel or motel paid by charitable organizations</li> <li>Residing in emergency shelters</li> <li>Imminent risk of homelessness</li> <li>Current eviction notice or home foreclosure</li> <li>Relatives living in another state without ICPC approval</li> </ul>

<b>Home Environment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No obvious danger or apparent risks (including water hazards, unsecured firearms, or general sanitation concerns) present in the home</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presence of apparent risks (including water hazards, fire hazards, unsecured firearms, or general sanitation concerns) in the home that can be mitigated or resolved promptly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Obvious and significant danger (including water hazards, fire hazards, unsecured firearms, or dangerous sanitation concerns) present in the household that cannot be mitigated or resolved and would likely result in a child abuse intake</li> </ul>
<b>Substance Use</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No historic substance use disorder concerns</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustained sobriety and commitment to recovery</li> <li>Any past substance use concerns</li> <li>Arrest or citation related to substance use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing substance use disorder and reliable knowledge of recent substance misuse or observation of behavioral indicators of substance use</li> </ul>
<b>Physical &amp; Mental Health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No significant physical or mental health concerns that impact the ability to care for a child</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physical or intellectual limitations associated with meeting the age and developmental needs of the child</li> <li>Major mental health diagnosis that requires verification of treatment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mental, intellectual, or physical condition that significantly limits person's ability to care for a child</li> </ul>
<b>Relationship to Child(ren) or Youth</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The child/youth agrees to or is in support of residing temporarily with the potential caregiver</li> <li>The child/youth has a strong relationship or bond to the individual</li> <li>The child/youth expresses no opinion about the potential caregiver</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The child or youth has expressed they would prefer to live with a different relative or person whom DHS knows is appropriate and available</li> <li>The child or youth is unwilling or refuses to live with the person being considered as a caregiver</li> <li>The child or youth has a founded fear of the person being considered as a caregiver</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The child's therapeutic needs indicate placement with this individual is not in their best interest</li> </ul>
<b>Collaboration (willingness and ability to work with parents, DHS, and/or the court)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The individual being considered as a caregiver has demonstrated or indicates they: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Will work with the parents, DHS, and court partners</li> <li>➤ Will follow court orders, including coordinating and monitoring family time</li> <li>➤ Will provide transportation to school, extracurricular activities, medical appointments, therapy, family time, etc.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The individual being considered has refused to work with DHS in the past</li> <li>The individual being considered might require additional support to provide necessary transportation</li> <li>Relationship dynamics where: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The individual's opinions or behaviors toward or about the parents may impact reunification efforts or the safety of the child(ren); or</li> <li>➤ The parent's opinions or behaviors toward or about the individual being considered as a caregiver may impact reunification efforts or the safety of the child(ren)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The individual being considered as a caregiver openly refuses to work with the parents, DHS, or court partners</li> </ul>