

# Make the Connection

## Use the Illinois Fictive Kin Law to Help Sustain Relationships

### WHAT IS THE FICTIVE KIN LAW?

- The Fictive Kin Law expands the definition of family to include any individual, unrelated by birth or marriage, who is shown to have close personal or emotional ties to the child or the child's family.
- Children and youth have more options to be placed with people whom they have relationship with outside of their blood relationships.
- This means that a close family friend or godparent; or steprelatives like a step-grandfather or stepsister can foster a child in care or adopt. Other relationships acknowledged are the spouse of a relative or party to a civil union.
- The change in law is intended to keep children who are involved with DCFS connected with safe, stable, nurturing relationships intended to last a lifetime.

### TO LEARN MORE

about the Fictive Kin Law visit:

[www.DCFS.Illinois.gov](http://www.DCFS.Illinois.gov)

*Must be 21 or older to foster or adopt a child.*

Illinois Department of  
**DCFS**  
Children & Family Services

**800.232.3798**  
8:30 - 5 pm (M-F)

