

# ***A PATH TO FAMILY REUNIFICATION***

***for Foster Care  
Children***



**A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN  
THE ORANGE COUNTY SOCIAL  
SERVICE AGENCY AND  
THE ORANGE COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF CHILD  
SUPPORT SERVICES.**

This pamphlet is intended to be instructive as to the general procedures of the Orange County Department of Child Support Services and should be used for informational purposes only.

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[www.css.ocgov.com](http://www.css.ocgov.com)  
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# **Foster Care & The Family Reunification Program**



**Orange County  
Department of Child  
Support Services**

## What is Foster Care?

Foster Care is the common term used to describe public assistance programs that support financial needs of children who are placed with relatives or other families, on a temporary or permanent basis, by the Department of Social Services.

The children's legal parents are still required, by law, to support their children until the age of 18, or 19 if they are full-time high school students. **The State of California requires both parents pay for child support during the period when their children are placed in Foster Care.**

Social Services refers most Foster Care cases to our office requesting assistance with establishing and enforcing the child support obligation against both parents.

## What happens once a child is placed in Foster care?

Our office will open a child support case against the father, and a different case against the mother. We will establish and enforce an order for child support and medical insurance on each case.

## What happens when the children return to live with mom, or dad, or both?

Child Support Services will coordinate:

- release of any driver or professional licenses.
- modify the current child support obligation, and reimbursement payment.
- review the reimbursement debt (**Compromise - Family Reunification**), which may lead to reducing the reimbursement debt up to 100%. Each situation is evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Applicants must complete and return an "**Application for Compromise - Family Reunification**" packet. The packet can be obtained by phone, by letter, or in person.

## Who will qualify for Compromise – Family Reunification?

You may qualify if you meet **all** of the following requirements:

- You owe a public assistance debt that accrued while your child resided with **neither** of his/her parents as a result of being placed in any of the following programs:
  - Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care (**AFDC-FC**).
  - California Work Opportunity and Responsibility of Kids (**Cal Works**), or
  - Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment Program (**Kin Gap**).
- Your **child is now living with you at least 50% of the time.**
- Your net income is less than 250% of the federal poverty level.

## Contact Us

We can help reduce or eliminate your Foster Care reimbursement debt. Please contact us for additional information.

### Contact:

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