

What Foster Family Agency (FFA) Social Workers Do

For children and youth in foster care:

- Develop, implement and monitor the needs and services plans to ensure the core services and supports are met;
- Provide one-on-one mentoring and support;
- Keep children, youth and non-minor dependents within their community and ensure safety;
- Assist the child with navigating the relationships between biological family, caregiver, extended family, siblings, and permanency family;
- Help maintain essential connections with schools and peers;
- Help cope with school, sense of abandonment, parents, loneliness, loss of siblings and family and the many effects of trauma;
- Provide 24/7 crisis intervention and support when youth need support for behavioral and emotional challenges;
- Facilitate or provide permanency services and support;
- Provide support through the dependency court process;
- Teach life skills;
- Where funded, supervise visits with parents, brothers, sisters and other family members; and
- Broker services with counties and communities for social and educational enrichment activities.

For resource/foster caregivers:

- Conduct family evaluations, gather and interpret prospective resource/foster parent's background including social, personal, familial, cultural and environmental information;
- Offer flexible services which are strength-based, needs-driven, family-centered, community-based and solution focused;
- Facilitate development of a plan to determine the needs of the child and how best to address those needs;
- Conduct regular home visits;
- Actively participate in child and family teams;
- Provide 24/7 support;
- Arrange for respite care;
- Teach trauma informed limit setting and redirection skills through modeling behaviors;
- Help deal with triggers connected to the child's traumatic experiences;
- Assist in navigating the complex child welfare and court systems;
- Interface with medical and mental health professionals;
- Provide a liaison between resource/foster and birth parents;
- Provide training on a wide range of child-specific topics;
- Act as a sounding board and provide emotional support;
- Identify and secure additional resources, services and support;
- Interface with educational institutions, teachers and tutors;
- Assist with securing medical and dental services for the children;
- Provide caregiver skill building;
- Lead safety planning; and
- Coordinate events to network with other families.

For More Information:

Jackie Rutheiser, Senior Policy Advocate
(916) 449-2273, ext. 203, jrutheiser@cacfs.org