 <p>Department of <b>Children &amp; Family Services</b> <i>Building a Stronger Louisiana</i></p>	<b>Division/Section</b>	Child Welfare
	<b>Chapter No./Name</b>	6 - Foster Care
	<b>Part No./Name</b>	21 - Guardianship Subsidy
	<b>Section No./Name</b>	Guardianship Subsidy
	<b>Document No./Name</b>	6-2130 Guardianship Resources
	<b>Effective Date</b>	October 15, 2021

## I. STATEMENT OF POLICY

When exploring individuals/families who may become a prospective guardian resource for a child in Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) custody, the following should be considered:

- appropriateness of case plan goal (refer to [6-854](#), Permanent Plan Goal Guardianship);
- rules for placement (refer to Guidelines for Selecting a Placement/Replacement Resource);
- eligibility criteria for the guardianship subsidy program (refer to [6-2110](#), Eligibility Criteria);
- health, safety and well-being of the child, as well as the best interests of the child for permanency; and
- ability of the individual/family to fulfill all responsibilities expected of certified family foster parents.


## II. PROCEDURES

DCFS Child Welfare staff should consider the best interest of the child when exploring and preparing to select a guardian family. Factors considered in the placement decision shall be documented in the case record as well as the rationale for selecting a particular family and why the family is unable to provide the more permanent option of adoption to the child. It is necessary, as stated in [6-2110](#), Eligibility Criteria, and [6-2140](#), Preparing for Guardianship, for the child's caseworker to discuss plans for a guardianship arrangement with the child and document the outcome of the discussion. The discussion is to include agreement as well as any reluctance with the plan by any child age \* 12 through 17 \*\*. \*\*\*

### A. CASEWORKER RESPONSIBILITY

The caseworker assigned to a child entering foster care should discuss any identified relative resources or other \* significant connections of the child/family at the transfer staffing with the Child Protection Services (CPS) worker or Family Service (FS) worker prior to initiating the foster care placement. The caseworker should obtain the contact information on any relatives or other significant \*\* connections of the child/family from the CPS and/or FS worker. Additional information should be collected from the parent(s), the child, and already identified relatives or connections. Refer to [6-400](#), Placement of the Child.

If relative resources or other connections of the child/family were not identified prior to the child's placement in foster care, the parent or caretaker from whom the child was removed and/or the child should be asked by the caseworker to identify all known relatives and other connections of the child/family. The first priority is to identify a legal or biological parent who lives separately from the parent or caretaker from whom the child was removed.

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Before a child is determined eligible for a guardianship subsidy and/or a guardianship placement, the following must be determined:

- the child cannot be reunited with the parent(s);
- resources for adoptive placement have been explored by the child's caseworker;
- adoption has been ruled out as a permanency option; or
- placement with a potential guardian is determined to be in the child's best interests.

Once a prospective resource has been identified, the case worker shall refer the individual or family to Home Development for certification if the individual or family is not already certified.

**III. FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS**

There are no forms associated with this policy.

**IV. REFERENCES**

There are no references associated with this policy.