

Kin Mobilization Learning Collaborative

June 6, 2024



Today's Topic

Using an expansive legal definition of "relative" / kin



Agenda

- Model standard definition of “relative”
- Mahnoush Vaziri (New Jersey)
- Ana Beltran (Generations United)
- Amber Hasler (Oklahoma)
- Jessica Bodell (Michigan)
- Kaci Wingate & Melissa Lowe (South Carolina)



Model Standard Definition of “Relative”

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Model Definition of “Relative”

“Individuals related to a child by blood, marriage, tribal custom, and/or adoption and other individuals who have an emotionally significant relationship with the child or the child’s parents or other family members (often referred to as ‘fictive kin’).”

The definition should not be construed to affect “extended family member” as defined in the Indian Child Welfare Act.

Who's included in the model definition?

- Relatives of any degree
- Godparents
- Neighbors
- Teachers
- Your sibling's kin
- "Fictive" kin

Mahnoush Vaziri

New Jersey

Developing guidance / tools to help staff
identify kin

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Ana Beltran

Director of the Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network: A National Technical Assistance Center at Generations United



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Places to Update Your Definition

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Purposes for Defining Relative

- Emergency placement
- Kin-specific licensing/approval
 - While you're in the process of kin-specific licensing: non-safety waivers for licensing
- Notifying when a child enters (or is at risk of entering) care
- Child-only TANF
- Calculation of numerator of penetration rate for IV-E federal financial participation
- ICPC
- Guardianship and/or subsidized guardianship assistance
- Adoption and/or adoption assistance
- Kinship navigator supports

Amber Hasler

Oklahoma

Impact on ICPC



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Jessica Bodell

Michigan

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Kaci Wingate & Melissa Lowe

South Carolina

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Assessment Rubric

- "Define ""relative"" for purposes of the kin-specific approval process as:
 - "Individuals related to a child by blood, marriage, tribal custom, and/or adoption and other individuals who have an emotionally significant relationship with the child or the child's parents or other family members (often referred to as 'fictive kin')."
- The definition should not be construed to affect "extended family member" as defined in the Indian Child Welfare Act.

Q&A

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Next Steps

- Do you need help extending your definition?
- Do you have guidance or tools for your staff to determine whether someone counts as kin? Would you like to help us refine such a tool? Reach out!

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Next Meetings

- Sign up at:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSefyAe3hKmtfCPZbPF3-yq-6EInqIPLb6TgQwJrYYfeec1g/viewform>

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