

## Foster Parent Resource Guide



**NOT ALONE**  
**FOSTERING LOVE, HOPE, & RESOURCES**



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## **Medical**

### **Pediatric Medicaid Providers**

#### **B & A CHILDRENS CLINIC**

2891 HIGHWAY 431 Boaz 35957  
256-840-1716

#### **Grant Family Practice Clinic**

5447 Main St. Grant 35747  
256-728-2272

#### **GUNTERSVILLE FAMILY PRACTICE CLINIC**

1241 BLOUNT AVE Guntersville 35976  
256-582-6377

#### **NORTHEAST ALABAMA PEDIATRICS**

104 W ALABAMA AVE, SUITE B Albertville 35950  
256-891-1221

#### **PREMIER FAMILY CARE LLC 2017**

1407 Blount Ave, Guntersville, AL 35976  
833-582-2324

#### **PREMIER FAMILY CARE ARAB**

20 South Main Street Arab 35016  
256-586-2324

#### **QOL- DOUGLAS MEDICAL CENTER**

8225 HIGHWAY 75 Horton 35980  
256-593-3804

#### **SMART START PEDIATRICS**

460 Alabama Highway 75N Albertville 35951  
256-891-0300

#### **UNITED DOCTORS FAMILY MEDICAL CENTER LLC**

2986 US HIGHWAY 431 Boaz 35957  
256-840-8181

#### **Kids Klinik**

3683 US Highway 431, Albertville, Alabama 35950  
256-849-0436



**Guntersville Family Practice**

1241 Blount Ave, Guntersville, AL 35976  
256-582-6377

**Dental**

**LITTLE CRITTERS PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY**

11521 US HIGHWAY 431 STE V  
GUNTERSVILLE, AL 35976-5671  
256-505-8954

**Sarrell Dental Center**

603 B Medical Center Pkwy Boaz, AL 35957  
(256) 840-2021

**Counseling**

**North Alabama Counseling Center**

1612 Railroad Avenue Guntersville Alabama 35976  
256-582-8880

**Child Advocacy Center of Marshall County**

1620 Railroad Ave, Guntersville, AL 35976  
256-584-8492

**Day Spring Center for Christian Counseling**

123 Sand Mountain Drive NW. Albertville, AL 35950.  
256-878-3809

**Garrett Counseling**

3460 US-431 Suite C, Albertville, AL 35950  
256-239-5662



## Psychiatrists

**Dr. Benjamin M. Carr**

740 Forrest Ave, Gadsden, AL 35901  
256-543-0131

**Dr. Barry Wood**

2042 Beltline Rd SW, Decatur, AL 35601  
256-350-0952



## **Marshall County School Contact information**

### **Albertville City Schools**

Phone: (256)-894-5061

### **Arab City Schools**

Phone: (256)-586-6011

### **Boaz City Schools**

Phone: (256)-593-8180

### **Guntersville City Schools**

Phone: (256)- 582-3159

### **Grace Classical Christian Academy**

Phone (256)-437-9091

### **Marshall Christian Academy**

256-(279)-0192

## **County Schools**

### **Asbury**

- Elementary  
Phone: (256)-878-6221
- High School  
Phone: (256)-878-4068

### **Brindley Mtn**

- Primary  
Phone: (256)-857-5120
- Elementary  
Phone: (256)-857-5125
- High School  
Phone: (256)-857-5135

### **DAR**

- Elementary  
Phone: (256)-857-5140
- Middle  
Phone: (256)-857-5145



- High School  
Phone: (256)-857-5150

## **Douglas**

- Primary  
(256)-593-4420
- Middle  
(256)-593-1240
- High School  
(256)-593-2810



## **Child Care Management Agencies (CMA)**

The Department of Human Resources administers eligibility services of the Child Care Subsidy Program contractually through regional Child Care Management Agencies (CMAs). These private and public non-profit agencies determine eligibility, provide resource and referral, administer the Department's childcare certificate program, authorize childcare, register providers to accept childcare subsidy payments and validate provider billing statements. [CMA Website](#)

### **Child Care Providers in Marshall County (Accepts CMA)**

PROVIDER LISTING- This list is being provided for the sole purpose of locating child-care. We do not license, endorse or recommend any provider nor can we assure that any provider gives quality care. An online database of all daycare providers can be found at [www.dhr.alabama.gov](http://www.dhr.alabama.gov)

#### **GREAT DAY KINDERGARTEN**

552 9th St. NE  
Arab, AL 35016  
(256) 586-8110

#### **KID CITY USA**

414 2nd Avenue NW  
Arab, AL 35016  
(256) 278-3676

#### **KID CITY USA**

655 Northgate Drive NW  
Arab, AL 35016  
(256) 640-8402

#### **CENTRAL PRIMARY SCHOOL**

906 Cooley Street  
Albertville, AL 35950  
(256) 894-7776

#### **VILLAGE SCHOOL DAYCARE CENTER**

904 Baltimore Avenue  
Albertville, AL 35950  
(256) 878-5295

#### **CINDY SATTERFIELD**

253 Goodwin Road  
Albertville, AL 35951  
(256) 878-6391





**KAMISHA ANDERSON**

814 Lawrence Avenue  
Albertville, AL 35951  
(256) 738-3786

**BOAZ CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

314 N. King Street  
Boaz, AL 35957  
(256) 593-7379

**THE ACADEMY OF EARLY LEARNING**

1003 Bruce Road  
Boaz, AL 35957  
(256) 840-2000

**BRENDA BLACKWELL**

96 Lang Drive  
Guntersville, AL 35976  
(256) 293-0981

**GUNTERSVILLE CHILD DEVELOPMENT**

1648 O'Brig Avenue  
Guntersville, AL 35976  
(256) 582-8806

**KID'S JUNCTION GUNTERSVILLE LLC**

3385 Brashers Chapel Road  
Guntersville, AL 35976  
(256) 878-9897

**KINGDOM KIDS AT CONNECT CHURCH**

4525 Wyeth Drive  
Guntersville, AL 35976  
(256) 582-5518

**KATHY FRANKLIN**

90 Franklin Lane  
Horton, AL 35980  
(256) 593-3579



## Supports For Foster Parents

The State of Alabama provides supports for foster parents, including:

- Respite Care:
  - Respite care provides temporary assistance to foster parents and relative caregivers, by allowing the foster parent to take a scheduled “break” from parenting responsibilities of children in care with no disruption to board payments.
  - Children may be cared for in the foster parent’s home or in a respite provider’s home, if the home and/or caregiver has been approved.
  - Respite care is limited to seven days per calendar year and can be taken consecutively or separately.
- Travel Reimbursement
  - Foster and adoptive parents may be reimbursed for mileage costs incurred in transporting foster children in situations that eliminate the necessity of worker travel
  - Routine, daily transportation is not included in travel reimbursement.
- Foster Children as Dependents on Taxes
  - The child must share a residence with the foster parent for more than 6 months of the tax year.
  - Typically, the child must be 19 or younger.
  - You must demonstrate qualifying financial support for the child.
- [Local and Regional Foster Parent Associations](#)
  - Click the link above for more information.
- Board Payments
  - Foster Parents receive a monthly stipend to address the care of foster children in their care:

Effective October 1, 2019, Foster Care Board Payments increased by 14% in Alabama.

Foster parents will realize this increase in their November 2019 board payment.

This means a foster parent raising a child between the ages of 6 - 12 years old will see their monthly board

payment increase from \$488.46 per month to \$556.84 per month.

See the chart below for additional information regarding monthly and daily rate changes.

Age	Current Monthly Rate	Current Daily Rate	14% Increase New Monthly Rate	New Daily Rate
0-2	462.78	15.43	527.57	17.59
3-5	476.69	15.89	543.43	18.11
6-12	488.46	16.28	556.84	18.56
13-21	501.30	16.71	571.48	19.05

In addition to the increase in board payments for foster parents, adoptive parents will notice a corresponding increase in their adoption subsidy payments.



## **Maintaining Foster Parent Licensure**

Foster parent licensure is re-evaluated each year to ensure that foster parents remain in compliance with Department of Human Resources standards. Foster parents must submit:

- An updated foster care application
- An updated financial statement
- Evidence of current CPR training
- Updated medical evaluation (every 2 years)
- Evidence of current car insurance
- Evidence of a current driver's license
- Updated Foster Parent Assurances form
- Updated HIPAA Agreement form
- Evidence of current vaccinations for any pets in the home (if applicable)
- Evidence of 15 hours of approved foster parent training
  - Visit the [Training Opportunities](#) page!
- Evidence that the foster care provider's home remains in compliance with safety standards (as indicated via a home visit).

## Acronyms/Terms list used by DHR

This list provides an overview of acronyms you may encounter while working with CPS as a foster parent.

### General

- **CPS:** Child Protective Services - The government agency responsible for investigating child abuse/neglect and ensuring child safety.
- **CW/SW:** Caseworker/Social Worker - The CPS professional assigned to your foster child's case. They are your main point of contact for questions and updates.
- **GAL/Guardian ad Litem:** A court-appointed advocate who represents the child's best interests in legal proceedings.
- **CASA:** Court Appointed Special Advocate - A trained volunteer who advocates for the child's needs in court.
- **CA/N:** Child abuse and neglect investigation
- **PAR:** Person Allegedly Responsible in a CA/N
- **EPSDT:** Annual medical well child check up required for Medicaid.
- **IV-E:** foster care Medicaid for only children in foster care
- **DFCS/DCS/DCBS/ (O)DJFS/DHHR:** Variations of Department of Children & Family Services/Social Services - The state agency overseeing child welfare and foster care.
- **ISP:** Individualized Service Plan. The Department of Human Resources (DHR) must develop **Individualized Service Plans (ISPs)** for all children and families for whom it is providing on-going child welfare services and foster care. The ISP is a single, family-focused document that serves all your family members, including children in your home and in out-of-home placements.

### Permanency plans discussed in the ISP can include:

1. Return to Parent
2. Relative Placement / Kinship Guardianship
3. Adoption by Current Foster Parent (ACFP)
4. Adoption by Unidentified Resource (ANIR)
5. Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA)

### Placement

- **FC:** Foster Care - The temporary care arrangement for children who cannot live safely with their biological families.
- **FFH:** Foster Family Home - The licensed home where a foster child lives.
- **FP:** Foster Parent(s) - The adults who provide care for a foster child in their home.
- **FD/FM:** Foster Son/Foster Mother - Specific designations for foster child's caregiver.
- **APPLA:** Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement - Refers to a long-term placement goal that is not reunification or adoption.
- **ICPC:** Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children - An agreement between states that governs the placement of children across state lines.



## Assessments and Services

- **FBA:** Family Based Assessment - An evaluation to determine the safety and appropriateness of reuniting a child with their biological family.
- **HS:** Home Study - An assessment of a prospective foster family's home environment and suitability for fostering.
- **HV:** Home Visit - A visit by a CPS worker to a foster child's placement to assess their well-being.
- **BH:** Behavioral Health - Refers to mental health services for foster children.
- **EHR:** Electronic Health Record - The child's electronic medical records.
- **HIPAA:** Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act - Protects the privacy of a child's medical information.
- **CFA-** Comprehensive Family Assessment
- **MAT-** Multi assessment tool (used for some foster care placements)

## Legal

- **ASFA:** Adoption and Safe Families Act - A federal law promoting timely permanency planning for foster children.
- **ADJ:** Adjudication - A legal hearing to determine if a child needs to be removed from their home.
- **ATP:** Authorized to Participate - Refers to a biological parent who has visitation rights.
- **TPR-** Termination of Parental Rights

## Other

- **EY:** Emancipated Youth - A foster youth who has aged out of foster care at 18 or 19 (age varies by state).
- **FAP:** Foster Care and Adoption Program - Federal funding program that supports foster care and adoption services.
- **ILP:** Independent living program (program for older foster youth)

**Remember:** If you encounter an unfamiliar acronym, don't hesitate to ask your CPS caseworker for clarification.

## **Meet Your Foster Care Teammates**

### **The Child’s Social Worker:**

- Places the child in the foster home.
- Arranges services for the child through community resources.
- Plan the child’s return to his/her birth parents or other placement
- Provide supportive services to the child and foster parents
- Make face-to-face contact as required by agency policy
- Maintain case records
- Arrange and authorize board payments.
- Represents DHR and coordinates ISP team meeting
- Arranges for immunizations, physical examinations, and psychological examinations as necessary and shares the information as necessary for planning services for children in care.
- Assists in addressing educational needs of the child.

### **Your Resource Case Worker**

- Arranges for respite care as requested.
- Ensures the foster family remains in compliance with licensing requirements and conducts annual and semi-annual home visits.

### **The Biological Parent(s)**

A foster child’s biological parents have the right to participate in ISP meetings and court proceedings, and to have an active role in planning for their child while the child is in foster care. Many of their rights (such as visitation, communication, education services, and health services) are listed in the ISP. For more detailed information of birth parent rights, please see the [Alabama Foster Parent Handbook](#).

**The Guardian Ad Litem (GAL)** The GAL is a “licensed lawyer appointed by a court to defend or represent a child in any action to which such child may be a party.” Their duties, as defined by the Code of Alabama 12-15-304, are as follows:

- Meet with the child prior to juvenile court hearings and when apprised of emergencies or significant events impacting the child.
- Explain to the child what is expected to happen before, during, and after each juvenile court hearing.
- Conduct a thorough and independent investigation.
- Advocate for appropriate services for the child and family.



- Attend all juvenile court hearings scheduled by the juvenile court and file necessary pleadings to facilitate the best interests of the child.

## The Juvenile Court Judge

- The judge has authority to make legal decisions on behalf of the child, including changes to placement, return to biological parents, and termination of parental rights.

## Foster Parent Rights

Foster care relies on teamwork – professionals, the child’s biological family, and foster parents working together to ensure the child receives services and supports that are in his or her best interest. As an important member of that team, you have rights that have been listed in the Foster Parents Bill of Rights:

### [Foster Parent Bill of Rights](#)

### Frequently Asked Questions:

What is an Individualized Service Plan (ISP) and who can participate?

- We have all the details of the ISP process included in the [Alabama Foster Parent Handbook](#), but are also linking information about ISP procedures right [here!](#)

### What do I do if I feel my foster parent rights are being violated?

- The first step is to communicate with your DHR caseworker, his/her supervisor, or the County Director when appropriate. Put all information writing: send emails, and document phone conversations as well.
- You may contact the AFAPA for the assistance of a trained foster parent advocate by calling [1-888-545-2372](tel:1-888-545-2372) or emailing [afapa@afapa.org](mailto:afapa@afapa.org). AFAPA advocates are knowledgeable in state policies and procedures and are available to empower and assist foster parents in their interactions with DHR staff.
- You may file a Conflict Resolution Team Referral. The conflict resolution process is outlined in detail [here](#). In addition, you can click [here](#) to find a fillable version of the [Conflict Resolution Process Referral Form](#).



## What should I do if I have concerns that my child’s Guardian ad Litem (GAL) is not completing his or her responsibilities?

- Guardian ad Litem are not overseen by DHR; they are overseen by the Alabama Administrative Office of the Courts.
- Take the initiative to communicate any concerns about your child to the Guardian ad Litem directly. Document all communications with the Guardian ad Litem.
- Communicate your concerns (in writing) to your child’s DHR caseworker and the County Director as soon as possible.
- Contact the AFAPA to speak with an advocate about additional steps. Call [1-888-545-2372](tel:1-888-545-2372) or email [afapa@afapa.org](mailto:afapa@afapa.org).

## May I participate in my foster child’s school Individualized Education Program (IEP) as a parent?

- According to the [Alabama State Department of Education](#): “When the rights of the biological or adoptive parents have been terminated and the student is placed in a foster home, the foster parent can act as the parent under the [Individuals with disabilities education act \(IDEA\)](#). However, if there is a known biological or adoptive parent whose rights have not been terminated who is still involved in the student’s life who wants to assert his/her parent rights and be treated as the parent under the IDEA, the school must work with the biological parent as the “parent” under the IDEA, even if the student lives with the foster parent and the foster parent knows the student better. The presumption under the law is that when a biological or adoptive parent that wishes to participate as the “parent” under the IDEA, that biological or adoptive parent maintains the IDEA rights.”
- “A DHR caseworker is NOT a “parent” for purposes of the IDEA. DHR is a state agency, and its representatives may not serve or sign as ‘parents’ under the IDEA.”



### **Additional Information:**

1. A 72 hour, or Shelter Care ISP (Individualized Service Plan), shall be held within 72 hours of the removal of a child from their home. Often called when the child is “picked up”.
2. An initial ISP shall be held within 30 days of the date the child was placed into protective custody or “picked up”.
3. ISP’s held after the initial ISP shall be completed at minimum every six months, but also as needed when there are changes in the case such as a change of placement, a change in services provided, or a change in the permanency plan.
4. DHR case workers are to do a home visit in the home of the child once monthly at minimum to assess their care and well-being.
5. A safety plan is not a legal document. It is an agreement between a family, the person responsible for caring for the child, and the Department.
6. When a safety plan has been in place for 45 days and is unable to be lifted (canceled) by the DHR, then the DHR shall file a petition with the juvenile court on behalf of the child.
7. There are a few kinds of hearings held regarding children placed in DHR custody.
  1. An emergency/shelter care hearing- the hearing where the child is placed into the protective custody of the Department or released home with the parents.
  2. An adjudicatory hearing: A hearing where the juvenile judge determines that the child is a dependent child and in need of care and supervision of the DHR.
  3. A dispositional hearing: Any hearing after adjudication that addresses the disposition of the case.