

## RFA SUPPORTS COMMITMENT TO YOUTH, YOUNG ADULTS AND FAMILIES

### *Focuses on Lifelong Relationships*

- RFA supports connecting youth, and young adults to safe, caring relationships that can last a lifetime by focusing on families.

### *Achieves Results for Youth, Young Adults and Families*

- Upfront training and ongoing services prepare caregivers to meet the needs of youth and assisting families with forming lifelong relationships.
- Supportive and loving long-term relationships lead to stable permanent placements and improved outcomes for youth, and young adults.

### *Improves Efficiency*

- The new coordinated process will eliminate duplication, reduce paperwork, and maximize the efficient use of staff and system resources.

Consider Becoming a Resource Family Today



## ASK US HOW

For more information, contact:

Merced County Probation

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<https://www.mercedcaresforkids.com/volunteer/>



# Resource Family Approval

Merced County Probation Department



Becoming a Resource Family Through a Streamlined Foster Care Process for Youth and Young Adults



## Resource Family Approval (RFA)

All youth need and deserve a safe, loving, nurturing, accepting, and consistent place to live where they can thrive and mature. Becoming a resource family caregiver provides a home for a youth to do just that.

Resource Family Approval (RFA) is a new caregiver approval process that a foster parent, relative, non-relative extended family member completes to be considered for potential placement of a youth, or young adult (non-minor dependents from 18-21 years old).

RFA combines elements of the current licensing, relative approval, adoption, and guardianship processes.

### RFA Streamlines the Approval Process

RFA is a unified, family-friendly and youth-centered resource family approval streamlined process that includes one application, one background check, combined home environment and permanency assessments, pre-approval and post-approval training for all families.



### RFA Requirements

The following is a **partial list** of requirements to be met prior to approval.

- Live Scan fingerprints
- Pre-approval and post-approval training
- Home environment assessment
- CPR/First Aid
- Health Screening
- DMV Report

The approval process also includes:

- In-home visits with all adults and children, youth, and young adults
- Reference checks
- Collections of verifications and completed application forms
- Completion of RFA process within 90 days of placement

There may be minimal costs associated with RFA. For more information, please contact Merced County Probation Department.

### RFA Facts

Once approved, Resource Families may be considered for placement of related or unrelated child(ren) for foster care, adoption or legal guardianship, depending on the Resource Family's goals. Resource Family Approval does not guarantee placement of a child. These decisions are determined by the youth's Probation Officer and the Court.

During an emergency situation, a youth or young adult can be placed in a relative home prior to approval if certain requirements are met.

- A home and grounds inspection
- Criminal record and Child Abuse Index check
- Initiation of RFA process within 5 business days if continued placement is desired.

