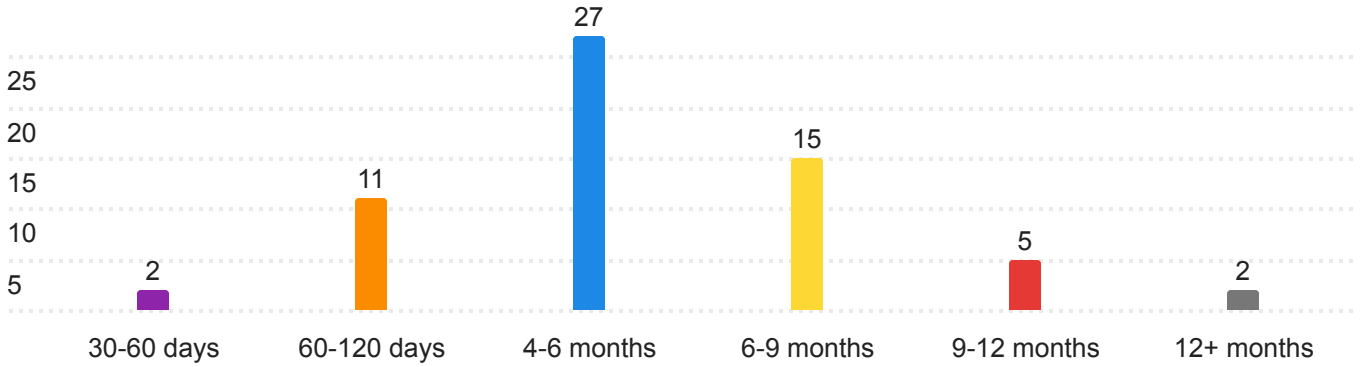


Goal: Survey results will be for relative/kin licensing reform in Minnesota. This survey will help understand licensing barriers and provide context and information to the legislature. Survey completed by county and community-based CFC licensors.

258 Surveys Sent | 112 Surveys Opened | 62 Surveys Completed

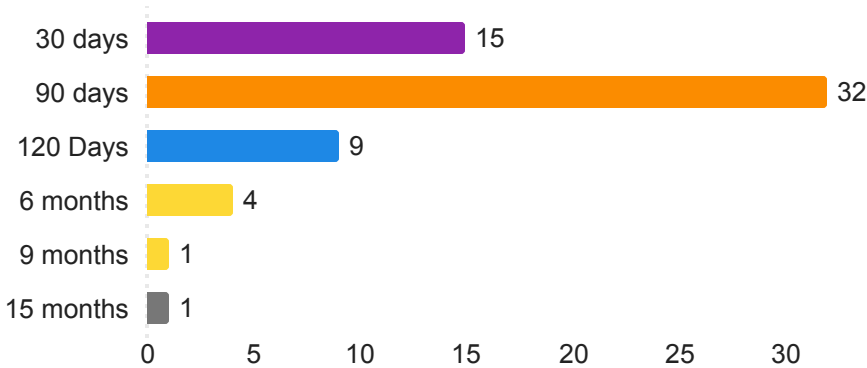
In your experience, what is the average length of time to license relative/kin?

62 Responses



Shortest length of time to license a family

62 Responses



Length of Time

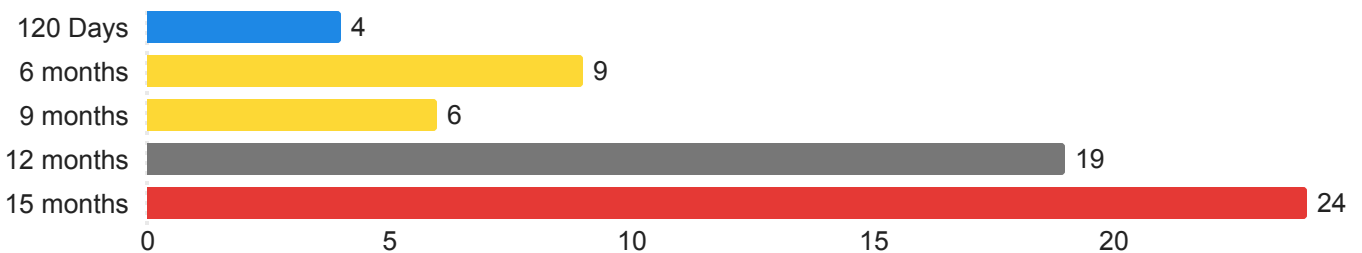
44% reported 4-6 months was the average length of time to license.

76% reported shortest length was 90 days and under.

79% reported longest length was 9 months or longer.

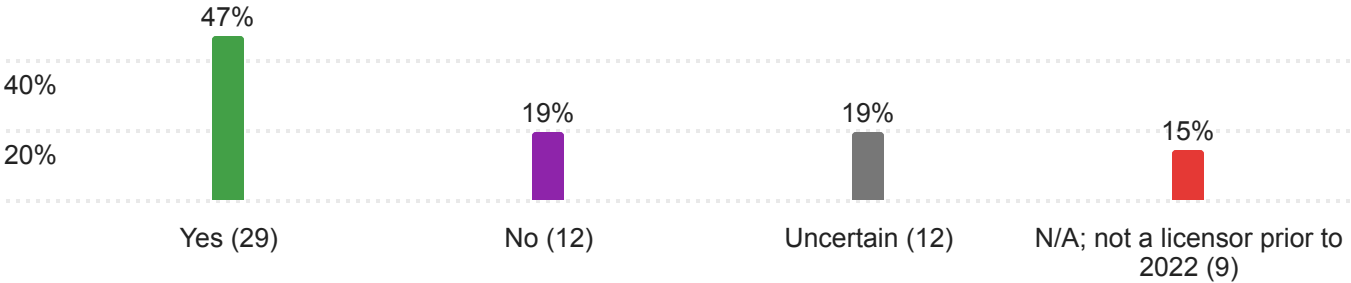
Longest length of time to license a family

62 Responses



The CFC Background Study Reform changes implemented in July 2022 have reduced the barriers for applicants to become and remain licensed foster care providers.

62 Responses



What issues have come up in a person’s background check that have prevented you from licensing a relative who, based on your professional opinion, is a suitable placement option for the child?

62 Responses

- N/A
- I have not yet had a background study that has prevented me from licensing a relative.
- None
- n/a
- None
- Prior CPS involvement
- n/a
- I have not had background check issues.
- None
- Past sexual assault/abuse charge when he was 18 and she was 16. The mother of the 16 year old filed charges. He was found guilty. They got married when she was of age. They had children. Grandchildren were removed and due to his charge we couldn't place his grand kids with him.
- None
- I have not had this come up as of yet. I license very few relatives.
- I really haven't had any BGS issues for the past few years.
- None
- Many years ago, I worked with a grandparent who had felonies related to when he was chemically dependent (I think some charges were drug related, a few others were burglary and/or assault that stemmed from substances). He had been sober for 20 years but the charges were permanent barriers. It is important to note this was prior to the 2022 background study changes, so I'm not sure if they would have run into the same issues had they tried to become license now as opposed to when they tried in 2019.

I had an individual who had a felony level dwi I believe, and he did not request reconsideration. I would have fully supported he and his girlfriend to be licensed and he knew that. This was the second time he did not request reconsideration and I had to recommend denial of application twice and the denials were approved. DHS still let them apply again for another relative even though it was w/in the two years from the denial and they should not have been able to apply.

I haven't had anything since the reform took place in 7/2022.

It feels like the weight of decision is now put to the licensor. This feels heavy and comes with a lot of worry. I have more investigations into abuse/DV in the past year then ever before because a child is placed in a relative home. Even when there are past DV charges, or related charges. More often then not these come from out of county placements where the worker has not spent time in the home. As a licensor it is hard to see the writing on the wall. You can have frank converstations and address concerns in home study, nonDQ assessment and with a placing worker but without a reason to license the applicant like criminal history prior to the reform we feel we are stuck. Then it creates more trauma for a kiddo having to be moved, be a victim, CP interviews all over again.

A non-DQ returned results from early 2001. It was a substantiated incident. There were no records of the incident and I was unable to find more information. The licensing was delayed while attempting to find supporting documents.

crimes of poverty - i.e. theft, etc... I think many of these are no longer considered under new BGS Reform.

This has not been an issue since BGS reform

The family having a bar in place which state's they are not able to be licensed, when it was an offense over 10 year's old and/or when they were under 18years of age.

I won't say there are issues that have come up that necessarily stop people but when we have to do an 8 page review of non-DQ information that absolutely slows the process down.

N/A

None

N/A

Actually, prior to the BGS reform, we felt that if the person was a suitable placement, we were able to request reconsideration and have a DQ set aside or variance granted.

DQs that they have to appeal

none so far

I am new in the Job- None

License holders child had an old criminal sexual conduct charge. Because they were a minor in the home, it was said that they still had access due to the applicants/parents need to parent them. This was a permanent bar, so all treatment and action taken since crime did not matter.

timely response from Netstudy with issues getting the studies submitted.

I have not personally experienced this.

None

NA

None

None

Embarrassing situations from people's past that come up. They have "grown up" and put that stuff behind them. It does NOT make it "easier" to license them when you have to do an 8 page non-DQ assessment that is nothing but shameful to the applicants.

Providers are not making it on time to get fingerprints completed

Nothing, again we should assess equally across the board. Everyone has lost their sense of sensibility and we are placing kids with unsafe relatives and it's disrupting and traumatizing g children

None that I have come across

All the ones that have been DQ's or Non-Dq's have been licensed. However, the process to request a reconsideration for a DQ takes way too long. I have experienced this taking 4-8 months and has delayed permanency in some cases.

criminal

None

I have not really run into any when I have felt that the relative is a suitable option. It is harder for me to get other people to understand that just because the relative passes the background study doesn't mean they are suitable.

I have not experienced this.

None really.

None

I have not experienced this.

A permanent bar DQ

None.

Disqualifications or bars.

A provider who had an assault charge against an elderly adult more than 40 years ago was disqualified. Had never come up on previous background studies and the child had been in the home for more than a year. She lost her job due to the new finding which caused financial strain. County/court allowed child to remain in home however family was no eligible for adoption assistance. They accepted custody anyways because it was in the child's best interest and now have compounding financial burden in addition to caring for their young relative. Very sad situation where the system failed the child and the relative caregiver.

I had a grandmother that had a live in partner that had a lifetime bar on his background that was over 30 years old that kept them from becoming licensed. this grandmother was crushed and it very much felt like it would have been a good placement option, but this made them ineligible for licensing or placement. I feel like this person had no recent history.

Former TPR(s,) we did an adoption only HS in that case

I have not yet experienced this. If I recommended a denial of a license, there was sound reason to do so.

None yet.

No experience with this.

I have had no issues with background studies. Not all relatives are appropriate for placement but are given preference because they are relatives.

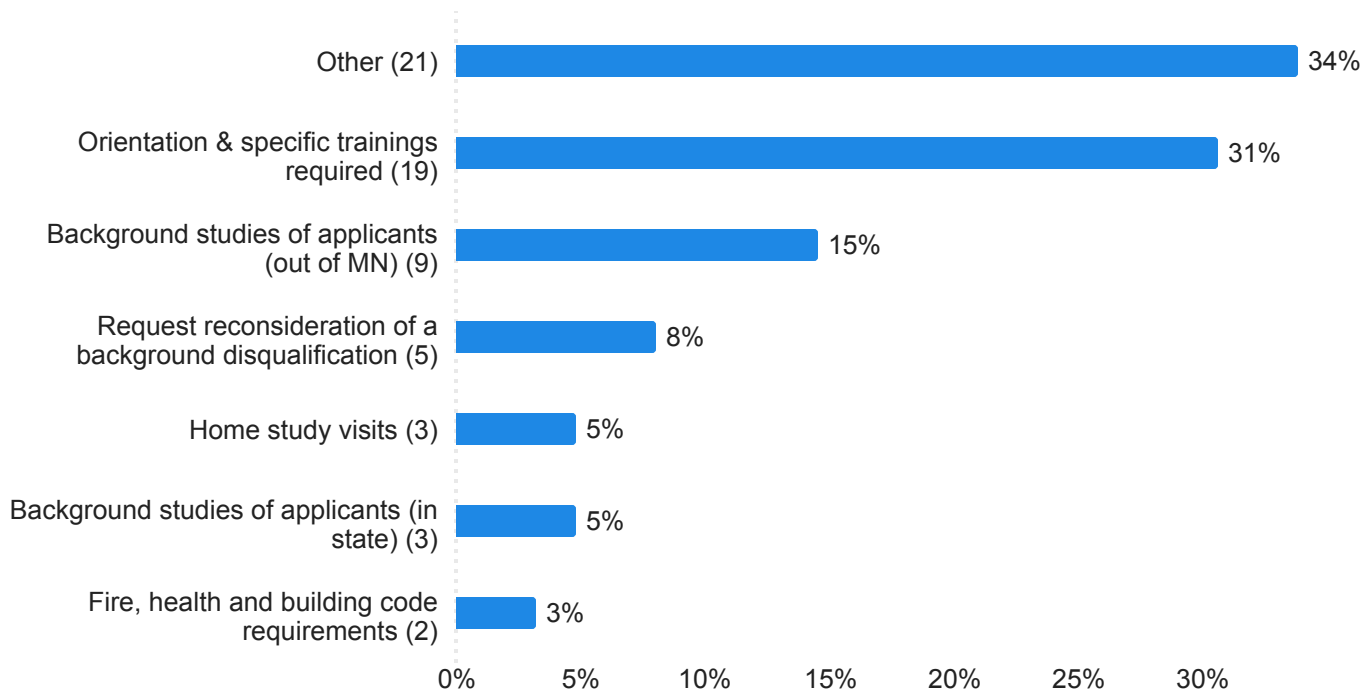
This has not been an issue in the past 10 years I have licensed relatives; if there is a significant concern for a relative's background the placing worker doesn't place with the relative in the first place

None

no experience

Which part of the licensing process leads to the most delays?

62 Responses



The following were response choices that were not chosen in leading to the most delays: Variance requests for fire, health or building code requirements, Review of delinquency, criminal and child protection histories, Non-Disqualifying Information Assessment, BGS of household members, Fingerprint location access.

"Other" response for which part of the licensing process leads to the most delays.

All of the above contribute to delays in licensure. Every family is unique, and the barriers faced by those families are also unique.

Engagement from relative applicant to complete application and foster care paperwork; helps immensely to have a staff person designated to assist with these aspects of the process, as they can be daunting to complete and lead a relative to "shut down" if left on their own to complete.

out of state BGS, as well as training

Simply lack of follow through. Relatives often simply put off completing required trainings and completing basic paperwork. They often require multiple check-ins and need to be motivated to complete CFC paperwork.

I'm not sure if this question is about the most common delays or the longest delays? The most common are them completing required paperwork and training. The longest are when there is a background study request for an applicant that has lived out of state in last 5 years and when the family has to make home improvements/changes to meet licensing standards.

Relatives lack of urgency to get licensed

Hard for them to make time to complete the paperwork.

I find most often the biggest barrier is getting through the necessary steps/content of the application, training and home study. Whether it is because there is a lot going on or a lack of urgency from the relative, but simply getting through the actual content seems to be the biggest barrier. Background studies do impact things but even more than that seems to be scheduling (even when weekday evenings or early mornings are offered).

Follow through with completion of requirements and timely responses from applicants.

But next is background study results when they have something on their record.

Receiving Paperwork

family participation

It is hard to choose just one of these items, as I have seen each of these items cause delays for different families. I know background studies can take an immense amount of time, which can then delay understanding the nature of background information and further delay requesting reconsideration, completing nondisqualifying background info, etc. Completing trainings and completing home study visits also often causes quite a delay, as it can be challenging to schedule regular visits with families due to how much they have going on in caring for the kids in care. So, there is no one answer that I have seen - all of these things can take a long time!

Family follow through to complete training
and getting information from them to complete the homestudy

The volume of paperwork relatives are required to complete along with all of the trainings. Relatives often are working other jobs and not prepared to start fostering, and with the visits, court, appointments that foster parents are often tasked with attending, they simply don't have time to complete everything timely.

When any of the above happens, it puts a delay in the process.

Delays are caused by all of the above with the overarching issue of relative providers not following through with the requirements, and this is often due to lack of access to technology, limited free time with which to complete licensing requirements, or other barriers such as difficulty completing paperwork, mistrust of government employees, etc.

motivation of applicants, some feel they shouldn't have to go through all the same requirements a non-relative provider has to

Several of these are delays in the licensing process: fingerprint locations and the time they are open, background studies of applicants out of MN, Non-DQ Information Assessment, Home Study Visits, request for reconsideration of a background disqualification; and foster parents' motivation or understanding of the importance to get paperwork/trainings completed.

Relative Applicants abilities to complete licensing paperwork.

Living situation/transportation issues

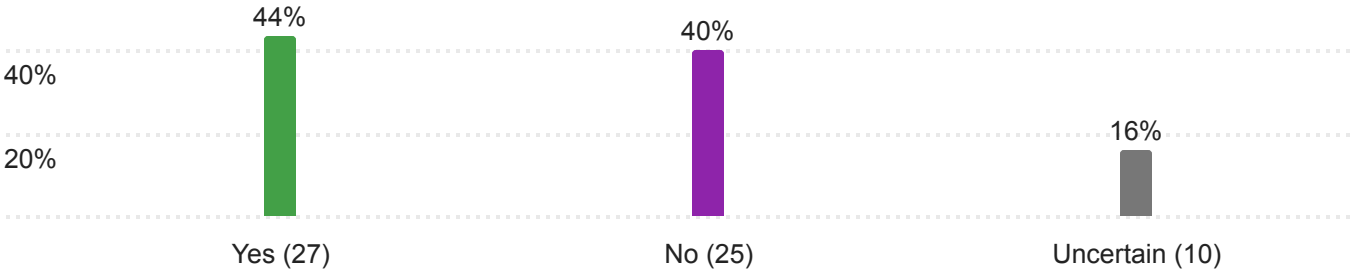
Relative applicants are slow to complete licensing paperwork as they are often overwhelmed with already caring for relative placement.

Alot of relatives feel that it is crazy that they have do do trainings and have requirements such as well water test, fire extinguisher, etc and this often takes longest for them to complete

The relatives tend to be slower in completing training/paperwork

Do you believe there are licensing requirements (e.g. trainings) that relatives/kin are currently mandated to complete but may not be necessary to be able to become licensed?

62 Responses



Yes Response: Please share examples of requirements that seem unnecessary for relatives/kin

25 Responses

Children's mental health, normalcy and prudent parenting, mandated reporter training. The licensing worker can discuss this with the family individually. SUIDS/AHT could be shortened/summarized, and I hope that the BEST training is more accessible for families than CARS, because CARS is a barrier for many families, especially in rural communities.

We are already allowed to make exceptions to the number of training hours that are required for relatives, which I appreciate. It seems to me that we can tailor an education plan based on the needs of the relative child that will be entering their home. I don't think we should eliminate any trainings that pertain to safety.

FASD, unless the child in care is known FASD. In-person CARS training also feels like overkill. They are usually relatives who have cared for children, or this child, before. I see no need to make them take time off to attend an in-person training across the board.

Mandated Reporter training, Cultural Diversity/Competence and Gender related training. I think, instead, the licenser should be able to assign 2 hours of training relevant to the specific relative/kin child(ren) they are fostering or want to foster.

SIDS/ FAS

Yearly training of FAS

Some of the training content is not realistic (such as transracial training). Often times, more training than is required about the youth's specific needs would be a good idea as relatives often believe that simply being a relative will ease their struggles and there is not an understanding of the impact of trauma.

Creating training that is more accessible would be ideal. A lot of times relatives only have internet access on their phone, this creates lots of issues when trying to complete training that is only offered online.

Lengthy trainings, number of trainings non-specific to the child(ren) in care, invasive homestudy process

While the idea of obtaining references is useful, I often think that applicants hand pick those who will give them positive references. I don't think I've ever received a "bad" reference for an applicant. I don't necessarily think it's unnecessary, but I think the process should be changed to be a more useful tool.

Most if not all of them as most information is directed at Open homes not relatives related issues.

It's not that CARS/BEST training is not important. It's that finding a training/trainer in rural areas is a HUGE delay in licensure.

car seat training

prudent parenting

-Home study process - I wonder if there could be an altered home study assessment that does not gather as much information. Relative families have often experienced a lot of trauma, and talking through this in the home study process does not always feel necessary, as their relationship with the child in care typically takes precedence. Time spent completing a lengthy home study assessment could be better spent helping the family connect with resources, receive parenting support, etc.

Normalcy

Prudent Parent and CMH. Can be taken after licensing. Then would be more relevant to specific needs of children.

Mandated reporter training and FASD (unless their specific child has FASD).

I don't believe that relatives/Kin need to take: Car seat training unless they have never had their own child, mandated reporter, Normalcy, AHT, FAS but should take: trauma training, SUIDS if caring for an infant and CMH

Some of the trainings. I know our agency has a lot that are not required by the state. I also don't understand why we need to do FASD yearly when most families just do the same one again and again.

Prudent parenting training, references,

Carseat training is often a barrier. Kids are often older and in a booster seat.

fetal alcohol training and mental health

I feel like relatives often have known or know these kids the best and some of the trainings should be optional.

Trainings/information that does not apply to the children they are caring for.

Car Seat Training - they typically have transported the relatives/kin prior to placement due to their relationship & involvement in their lives

Please share any challenges and barriers that prevent relatives/kin from getting licensed that you believe should otherwise be licensed.

62 Responses

N/A

It is more the case that these cause delays but not outright denial:
 The home safety checklist - common barriers include a dedicated home phone (most do not have one and you can't buy a phone and just have minutes on it anymore, you have to buy monthly plans with minutes because minutes expire), fireplace guards (even when the fireplace is not used or when it is not a genuine safety risk for an older youth), and water temperature (especially when renting and the applicant doesn't have access to furnace to adjust water temperature).
 In process background studies - especially out of state background studies, I have an applicant who is waiting more than 6 months for a background study.
 Fire marshal inspection - when a fire marshal inspection is required the entire home is inspected not just the particular item that triggers it (such as having 4+ foster youth in a home). Then all things cited have to be fixed and re-inspected prior to licensure, and fixes in the home can be expensive and time consuming. Citations can include things like a window width being 1/2 inch too small that forces providers to get new windows, or landlords to install them which the landlords could refuse and then it would force the family to have to move to be considered for a license. Most people cannot afford to change windows in their home on extremely short notice - I know I couldn't.
 Technology barriers for trainings - for example mandated reporter training is not mobile friendly, and many providers do not have laptops to complete the training.
 Training accessibility - location and time of trainings can be barriers for families. For example, CARS training for applicants in rural communities is very inaccessible. Hopefully BEST training will help mitigate this.

Access to some of the required items on the home safety checklist-financial barriers

specific trainings required for age groups

None

Prior CPS involvement and worker bias

others in the home

Trainings, as well as fire marshal barriers.

Physical space and work schedules often prevent appropriate relatives from pursuing licensing. Also, the lack of child/daycare resources are sometimes a barrier to relatives being able to foster. I don't think the licensing process is difficult or has barriers for those that are committed and have the functioning capacity. Some of it just isn't relevant or useful for relative caregivers.

Too many home renovations (\$) to be licensed.

Child Care

lack of access or knowledge of technology and computer use.

Not sure

Relatives who do not take the licensing process seriously, do not get their trainings completed, and drag their feet on getting their paperwork completed.

Funding

It seems to be more specific to each individual situation as opposed to general themes that are challenging. Maybe a common trend is the lack of understanding of the child welfare/licensing process. There is often a very understandable and often earned mistrust in child welfare professionals and the lack of knowledge about the process creates significant frustration from the families when I do believe a lot of the requirements are helpful. Simply being a relative does not mean placement will be easier and we owe it to relatives to educate them and set them up for success as opposed to eliminating all these barriers so they can quickly have placement before they understand what they are committing to.

Overwhelmed with caring for their own children and then other children are placed with them. Adding on licensing tasks is too overwhelming for many. Financial challenges.

Vet records, fire extinguishers (no place to have them services and costly to replace every year), water testing for well water, 5:1 ratio with 15-17 yrs in the home (they should not be included in the ratio), background checks with fingerprints not transferrable between agencies

The moving out to avoid a BGS is hard. This is often seen in a relative who has the CP parent currently living with them, or has another adult child living with them who would not pass a BGS. 9 out of 10 times I have a relative say they are moving out but technically they can not move out just to avoid a BGS.

Fingerprinting can be a barrier, especially for families that don't have access to transportation or childcare while they go to the appointment. Some providers and/or their 13+ children don't have ID's.

none that I can think of at the moment.

Financial resources. Paying for BGS, paying for smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, diapers, other supplies. But the biggest barrier of all - DAY CARE. Did you know that other states pay for day care for all foster children.

N/A

I won't say there are issues that have come up that necessarily stop people but when we have to do an 8 page review of non-DQ information that absolutely slows the process down.

waiting on a BGC that is likely not an issue or not being fully transparent on interview questions for HS although it would only be a conversation and not a barrier.

Lack of internet access, lack of understanding that going on the internet will not hack them basically fear of the internet. Also, the fact of not understanding why they need to be licensed to take care of their own family so a lot of resistance to completing anything.

N/A

Sometimes it's difficult for relatives to have the funds to make necessary home improvements that are required for licensure, such as ensuring proper egress for escape windows or sheet rock for an attached garage.

I wish background studies were easier to complete

Dont have any at this time

Egress windows.

difficulty of completing the daunting load of paperwork and training when they have English as a second language. Documents and trainings are not made in other languages. We even have problems using youtube training with subtitles, because applicants may not be literate in their native language.

none

The biggest barrier is the time commitment of licensing. Relative families simply do not have a lot of time to be completing lengthy trainings, meeting with their licensor multiple times a month, etc. Their time should be spent caring for the children in care and receiving supportive resources and services.

None

NA

Challenges are that relatives often feel they shouldn't have to be licensed or comply with licensing standards. Also, they can be overwhelmed with having children in their home and trying to complete tasks.

I think that the formal trainings could be required after initial licensing and instead the information could be condensed into the orientation process. I also think that the annual FASD training for relicensing/license update should not be required for kinship homes when there is not reason to believe that FASD is a possible issue for the child or children in placement.

Trainings. Too many. Too many hours for people who have just unexpectedly taken multiple children into their homes.

They are not completing trainings as required and completing the licensing documents.

They should be assessed as everyone else so we can stop traumatizing children by sending them to relatives who are not safe

Having a free standing woodstove has been a barrier for several relatives. A few have had to remove their woodstove and have faced a financial hardship having to install a new furnace or other heat source for what might be a short-term placement.

I have not experienced a situation where I was unable to license a relative. I know that technology in regards to the trainings at times can be a hassle for this population and a huge barrier for the whole licensing process is when they don't speak English.

criminal

Language barriers make it hard. Honestly I don't deny many people, maybe one a year. I believe a lot of my people don't go through the full process because the placement disrupts, typically older kids where workers aren't getting them services needed.

Economic barriers to home safety checklist items. We pay for the fire marshal inspections if required. Not all counties do. (\$50) Well water tests (\$75) , Fire extinguisher (\$50) First aid supplies (\$20). If homes do require some safety upgrades there are no resources to help them make those changes.

Cost of Home modifications(egress windows).

Getting relatives and kin to participate in training and if their home needs fixes for foster care - getting them fixed. Sometimes just getting them to complete the process is difficult.

Occasionally a background check will take an incredibly long time to be processed (in a couple of instances it has been up to a year), typically because there is a recent charge that requires more time to gather information. This doesn't necessarily prevent licensure, but it definitely delays licensure. I'd like to see background checks be processed much more quickly.

The paperwork requirements combined with the training requirements can be too much for many relatives. I'm not sure what the answer to this issue is as it's not an easy problem to solve. Many years ago the process for relative licensing included very few requirements and this wasn't necessarily a good thing either.

contractor unavailability to complete construction updates (window replacement, installing fire resistive sheetrock, etc.)

Training and fingerprinting. Takes providers a long time to do sometimes.

DHS and Background studies listening to licensors about a relative that is doing well. For example, We have a foster parent that has a relative child placed with them. This child has been in their care for 1.5 years. The child has excelled since being in this relative's home. The relative had a drug problem a few years ago and a felony on their record. The foster parent is clean, sober, and doing well. DHS disqualified the foster parent and is forcing the licensor to submit a denial. The agency does not support the denials as this is the best the youth has done in a foster home ever.

Often relatives accept placements before getting licensed for child foster care. They often don't have the financial means to get things such as carseats, clothing, food, and often don't receive reimbursement from the placing agency (county/tribe) until they are licensed. If they have issues with their home, they often can't afford to replace windows, purchase fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, etc. They are often setup for failure.

Rural MN and the ability to find CARS training. I am aware this will change for 2025 with BEST training online and then face to face proxy demonstrations. Often other counties that are hours away are placing relative children within our county and not offering relative services or supports for these kids they are placing.

There is too much paperwork

Upfront costs associated with securing items to make their home safe and able to be licensed (current smoke detectors, CO detectors, fire extinguishers, gates for steps, locks/safes for medication and firearms, infant equipment when needed (crib, highchair), etc.) There are also the costs of the extra food/clothing needs/supplies that come directly following placement.

None yet.

I have been able to complete licensing for all relative applicants.

If the relatives pose a threat to the safety of the children, they are not considered.

Costs (fingerprint fee, Fire Marshal Inspection fee & any costs to make corrections from Fire Marshal Inspection, well water testing and training). A lot of the relatives are older and struggle with completing all the paperwork. Relatives don't understand why they need to go through the full licensing process to care for their relative children.

They don't feel they should have to be licensed to care for their relatives

no experience

What services/supports for relatives have been helpful in mitigating some of these challenges?

62 Responses

N/A

Funds available for agencies and counties to provide home safety checklist items to families for free, funds available to families for corrections needed after fire marshal inspections, laptops for loan or to give to families during the licensing process to help them in completing training or other things related to licensing, funds available to cover cost of CARS training.

Background studies division receiving more funding to hire more employees to streamline background studies for applicants. Some sort of panel/committee that helps with legal comparisons for background studies in different states, as some records are bars or disqualifiers in other states but not MN and vice versa.

Our agency has been able to create home safety checklist kits that can help support relatives in the licensing process. We also have an adoption support fund that has been helpful in granting funds to purchase larger items for various items that a relative might need to help care for a relative youth.

online training

Licensors continuous follow up.

DHS licensing consultation

Local relationships have helped with resources

??

Financial assistance and information sharing. Agency paying for well water testing and car seat training. Licensors providing resources such as Early Learning Scholarship and/or daycare assistance applications, information about childcare providers in the area, and help paying for housing improvements like smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, and windows.

Respite options

support groups

child care

In home parenting skills.

Not sure

We make many home visits and help them as much as possible with their paperwork. We will go over to their house and get them all set up to watch their webinars/trainings. We offer a lot of technology support.

We are working with administration to offer a start up kit. Which would include items required for licensure. Fire extinguisher, smoke alarms, trainings ect. We do offer reimbursement for most things however we would like to have it ready for them so they do not have to purchase it.

Strong communication and teamwork between the licensors and the placing county worker has been really helpful.

The Forgotten Initiative and Foster Together MN are two non profit organizations that have helped pay for new smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, pet vaccinations and CARS training for those who have financial challenges.

none

Request for recon, non DQ assessments are not helpful when the crime was not against another person and/or over 20+ years prior when it was a non victim crime . - they create confusion and lead to so much extra time needed that the licensing process is delayed. Long story short, There should be parameters on the NonDQ assessment like crimes committed in the last 10 years, felony's, violent crimes, crimes sexual in nature, DV.

Uber/Lyft reimbursement by our agency

BGS reform helped with some challenges.

Financial supports - we need money to provide supplies to relatives - at the first visit - our licensors could show up with a first aid kit, fire extinguisher, diapers, etc.

I think it could be helpful for relative support staff to be able to continue to work with the families they may have helped work with even after TPR has happened for the youth.

An online orientation regarding what is expected from foster care. It would not have to be as detailed as Blended college which non-relatives complete but something like it that goes into the immediate "must knows" of foster care.

Lots of conversations and building trust.

In person old fashion paperwork

N/A

unsure

somebody to walk through the process with them, not just directing them to a computer. the process should be individualized for families.

Anything they are qualified for in our area.

More finical help, if we are asking them to change their home so they can take care of their family.

interpreters and variances for non-required trainings. But this also over doubles the time to license a provider

unsure

-Providing home safety checklist items (i.e. fire extinguishers, flashlights, radios, etc.)

-Relative variance for car seat training

-Being very accommodating with the timing of visits (evening visits, early morning visits, whatever is best for families)

-Funds for transportation to and from trainings

-Case management services to connect relatives with resources and supports

N/A

DVD's to help with trainings; Foster One to help with needs .

Arranging and paying for child care, providing them with items they need for licensing (fire extinguishers, bunk beds/crib, radio, new windows), providing transportation to appointments, providing them with lpads to access the training.

Constant contact and reminders and sending links to training

IDK

one to one training during visits

They dont seem to have to participate in services and supports

Offering some reimbursements.

None

talking to DHS

Teaming with all parties. The

Kinship grants for required home safety upgrades. Egress windows, sheetrock in garages, window wells. Some of the basic items above, water tests, fire extinguisher, first aid items, pet shots.

There are no supports/resources for helping relatives with these expenses.

We have used paper trainings for some people. Online training has helped as well. We have also implemented bi weekly meetings.

Our agency started paying for carseat training and fingerprinting for kinship homes, which has been helpful.

Social worker assistance with completing the paperwork. As a licensor, I have written answers to the questions as the relative foster parents dictate the information. Having a trusted person attend initial meetings with the foster care licensor can be helpful as well. Financial supports are sometimes needed and can be very helpful as well.

Creative work arounds when possible, changing sleep space, etc.

Virtual option for some trainings.

Support from foster care licensors and case workers.

Financial supports along with a thorough explanation of the licensing process as well as the legal processes of child protection. Rural communities are even more difficult due to lack of resources and having to travel to access things such as carseat training.

None

I can't think of any. We need a licensor dedicated to relatives only, but that's not possible at the county level.

Utilizing a local support that has partnered with our agency.

Uncertain

Variances. Our agency providing material support - fire extinguishers, beds, etc.

People that are not considered for placement are not considered due to their criminal behavior or their known use of drugs or alcohol. Our assessment workers get this information prior to the relatives being considered.

NA

None

no experience

There is different access for county licensors than community-based licensors, including SSIS and MGA. How are these helpful resources in licensing relatives/kin? (if applicable to your experience).

56 Responses

N/A

Private licensing agencies do not have access to these systems which ends up being a barrier for private agencies as counties more often than not do not readily share information. For example, private agencies do not have access to out of home placement plans (OHPP), and on average 8 out of 10 families I work with do not receive the OHPP nor have it explained to them. This is a huge barrier for families. If families do not know/understand a child's case plan, how are they expected to support/uphold it?

This question of the survey reduces anonymity of the individual completing the survey because it identifies if the individual completing the survey works for a county or not. This can lead to bias in interpreting survey results.

n/a

Yes, the getting approval from an potential placement option and being able to utilize SSIS and MGA for doing a quick history check is very helpful in deciding whether someone should or should not be considered for an emergency relative placement.

NA

n/a

Not all that helpful.

After initial releases are signed, those are the first things I check to see if I should anticipate any barriers, if the applicant has been honest with their IFS, etc.

Knowledge is power

Allows background information to be gathered and looked at prior to placement.

Information about the relative is usually available and it helps in deciding if the placement is appropriate.

SSIS and Caseworks are great resources for us to keep track of progress as county licensors

Private agencies have access to more supportive services to foster parents. This support is imperative to retention.

I work for a private agency so don't have access to these things.

I am a county licensor. I do not think access to ssis are helpful. Just a place to case note. I have never accessed MGA. Do not know how to if MGA.

I feel that community/private licensing agencies should have access to both. It would be extremely helpful in looking up past information on families to help assess the home better.

I am dumb founded that there are licensors that do not have access to MGA or SSIS. How are they able to check to see if someone has a history with CP, has been charged with a crime, how are they able to check on the status of a CHIPS case or help providers understand what is happening in the CHIPS case. These licensors are are a great disadvantage. I use SSIS and MGA on the daily when completing investigations into complaints, looking at a new HH member.

n/a

They are immensely helpful. In two recent instances I have come across legal issues with applicants in MGA who had previously passed their background studies. Both of these circumstances are likely to lead to denials that may not have previously. In those cases I may have licensed the providers and then would later have to revoke licenses potentially. SSIS is helpful for accessing information about open/closed workgroups and assigned workers.

Binti is a great resource. Some relatives struggle a bit but we can help with it. It's very user friendly and has great tech support. The 120 day timeline is very difficult for relative providers as they have their hands full caring for children.

I think it is helpful to see automatically if the family has any history with AMH, CMH, or CP with counties, as well as seeing any court order's that the family has been involved in.

It is very helpful to see the history in MGA and SSIS. It would be more helpful to be able to request access to SSIS cases from other counties and have it granted immediately as happens in other areas of social services.

We use SSIS and MGA to discuss issues right away that may be of concern and to complete and initial BGS for emergency placements.

SSIS is a good tracking tool that allows for payment to FP, Easy access to OHPP if family didn't receive one, Able to track Soc Wkrs work on the case to keep FP up to date. I'm not sure it helps with the licensing process itself.

N/A

I am with a private/community based agency and the lack of access to the systems that drive so much of the worker is a barrier across the board, as well as with licensing relatives, as we don't know what counties know

i am county and dont use MGA. SSIS is limited help as i do not look for information in there if it doesnt pertain to me. We are trained and told to not go digging for information in there.

very helpful.

Not applicable to my experience.

Fast and easy access to relevant background information.

We don't have access to MGA or other info on SSIS.

It is nice to have one place to document and follow the case.

MGA is helpful to see if there is a criminal history before completing a background check or placing.

Can be helpful in getting to know more about the applicant.

n/a

Private agencies should assess and license relatives. Period

Extremely helpful to look up CPS history, maltreatment findings, criminal history, etc.

It is helpful to get a sneak peak into any criminal or child protection history. This is pertinent if we want to place on an emergency basis. This potentially helps reduce number of moves a child experiences because we can place in a home we beleive to be safe before a BGS is done.

N/A

These are vital to dig up OFPs and other things like recent evictions. If things are self reported then we don't know. I am always thankful I have access to things like MN Choices Assessments and Waiver info in my county otherwise you may not know someone gets 11 hours of PCA and is going to care for a baby.

We use MGA and SSIS to do prescreening of relative placement possibilities to identify if there are any areas that we are going to need to explore further with them. We'd rather go in eyes wide open and know what the hurdles are than to get blind sided by something that comes up unexpectedly. We can begin dialoging with the relative from the beginning about background study concerns and start building the relationship of open communication between the family and the agency.

To prescreen potential relative placement options.

Those of us with MGA print any history off for other licensors.

I work for a county, but do not currently have access to other workgroups in SSIS or MGA. Our staff has been trying to advocate to management that we should have access, because we do believe it is helpful and are aware that many other counties do have this access. I think it is an important part of the licensing assessment process.

It helps us be aware of any potential licensing barriers such as criminal history or history of child protection concerns which could be safety concerns for a child. We try to use these resources prior to placing with relatives to determine suitability of placement.

Potentially helpful information/background

SSIS and MGA are helpful. They give us a heads up on what the background study may reflect. Allows us to prepare providers that there may be additional paperwork/requirements.

They are helpful in looking up backgrounds on individuals as well as looking up history in SSIS for previous licenses, maltreatments, and workgroups.

As a private agency licensor, we do not have access to SSIS or MGA and rely on the placing counties information. The majority of information we have to go off of is self-report from the relatives as well as information gathered from the placing agency. We do utilize public lookup, but it is not always accurate and up to date and cannot be used for anything.

I have access to MGA so this has been helpful.

Yes

As a county licensor, SSIS and MGA are able to be accessed to check history prior to placement...we assist placing workers with this at times, but not always. We use SSIS because it is the program that DHS asks us to document/case note in, but if it could be done outside of SSIS instead...great! SSIS is a dinosaur.

not sure.

I don't have access to those resources.

These are the resources that our assessment worker uses prior to making the decision for placement.

It is helpful when doing an initial assessment on background study information

MGA helps with NDQ Assessments