

# **KICKAPOO TRADITIONAL TRIBE OF TEXAS**

## **STANDARDS FOR APPROVING TRIBAL FOSTER HOMES**

### SECTION 23.1: PURPOSE OF RULES.

These rules set forth the Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas (“Kickapoo”) standards for reviewing and approving tribal homes providing foster care for Kickapoo children.

### SECTION 23.2: DEFINITIONS.

- (A) “Applicant” means any person who applies for a certificate to become a tribally-approved foster parent.
- (B) “Certificate” means a certificate of approval issued by the Kickapoo Family Court to a foster parent.
- (C) “Foster child” means any Kickapoo child placed in a foster home by the Kickapoo Family Court.
- (D) “Foster home” means any home providing temporary care to a Kickapoo child at the direction of the Kickapoo Family Court.
- (E) “Foster parent” means any person over the age of 18 who holds a certificate from the Kickapoo Family Court to operate a foster home.
- (F) “Kickapoo” Family Court” means the Kickapoo Tribal District Court sitting as the Family Court.

### SECTION 23.3: CERTIFICATES.

- (A) Any applicant wishing to serve as a tribal foster parent shall apply in writing to the Kickapoo Family Court.
- (B) Within 90 days of receiving an application, the Kickapoo Family Court will issue a foster care certificate to each applicant who meets the standards set out in these rules and agrees to accept foster children referred by the Court.

- (C) Each foster care certificate will specify the maximum number of children which the foster home can accommodate at any one time and will expire one year after the date it is issued, unless canceled by the Kickapoo Family Court.
- (D) Notwithstanding subsection (2) of this Section, the Kickapoo Family Court may issue a provisional certificate to any applicant who cannot satisfy the standards in these rules when the Court finds that the deficiency or deficiencies will not affect the child's physical health and safety or emotional well-being and that the applicant can take corrective steps within a reasonable period of time. A provisional certificate will expire 90 days after it is issued; unless canceled by the Kickapoo Family Court.

SECTION 23.4: CANCELLATION OF APPROVAL.

- (A) Any foster care certificate issued by the Kickapoo Family Court shall be canceled automatically if the foster parent changes residences.
- (B) Any foster care certificate issued by the Kickapoo Family Court shall be canceled by the Court if a material change that would disqualify the parent from being certified occurs in the foster parent's family or home. Examples of material changes that might justify the Court in canceling a certificate include a change in the parent's marital or employment status, a change in the foster home's condition or the parent's repeated refusal to accept foster children referred by the Court.

SECTION 23.5: REQUIREMENTS FOR FOSTER PARENTS.

Each Kickapoo foster parent approved by the Kickapoo Family Court shall:

- (A) Have child-rearing practices and attitudes that will serve the best interests of foster children.
- (B) Provide a stable, harmonious home and a healthy environment conducive to rearing children.
- (C) Be a responsible individual and positive adult role-model who exercises sound judgment and displays the ability to provide good care for children.
- (D) Respect for the cultural values of the Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas and the religious preferences of the foster child.
- (E) Have sufficient income to meet the needs of his or her family without any supplementary payment for the foster child's care and shall apply foster care payments towards the child's care.

- (F) Comply with the directions of the Kickapoo Family Court concerning the care of a foster child and the release of information.

SECTION 23.6: REQUIREMENTS FOR FOSTER HOMES.

Each foster home approved by the Kickapoo Family Court shall:

- (A) Provide adequate supervision by a responsible adult at all times when the foster child is in the home.
- (B) Provide the foster child a well balanced and nutritious diet.
- (C) Not require a foster child to do work which presents a health or safety hazard to the child or which interferes with the child's education.
- (D) Discipline of a foster child will not include corporal punishment.

SECTION 23.7: CRITERIA FOR APPROVING FOSTER HOMES.

(A) Each applicant shall furnish the Kickapoo Family Court with a written application, including the reasons the applicant wishes to become a foster parent and at least two personal references. Before issuing a foster care certificate, the Court shall order a home study to be conducted by a qualified person designated by the Family Board. Each home study shall include a personal interview with the applicant and his or her family and an inspection of the applicant's home. The person conducting the home study shall report his or her findings and recommendations concerning the applicant's suitability to be a foster parent in writing to the Kickapoo Family Court. This report shall describe:

- (1) The number of persons who reside in the applicant's home, including the age, sex and relationship of each person to the applicant.
- (2) The number of beds in the applicant's home, their location and their suitability for a foster child.
- (3) The availability of space for the foster child to sleep, store clothing and personal effects and to study, as appropriate to the child's age and needs.
- (4) The availability of adequate indoor and outdoor areas where a child can play safely.
- (5) Whether potentially dangerous materials such as guns, drugs or poisons are stored in the applicant's home and, if so, whether adequate safeguards exist to prevent the child from coming in contact with such materials.

(6) Whether special arrangements are necessary to contact the foster parent in the event of an emergency.


(B) In addition to the information provided under subsection (A) of this Section, the person conducting the home study may, with the applicant's consent, request:

- (1) Information concerning the suitability of the applicant's home for foster care from other sources, including neighbors, employers or agencies who have had contact with the applicant's family.
- (2) Information concerning the applicant's physical and mental health.
- (3) Inspections by authorized fire and safety or public health officials to assure that the home is adequately protected from such hazards.

**READ, PASSED, APPROVED AND ENACTED ON THIS 27<sup>TH</sup> DAT OF OCTOBER, 2009.**

  
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Juan Garza, Jr., Council Chairman

10/27/09  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jesus Anico, Council Secretary

10/27/09  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rogelio Elizondo, Council Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jose "Pepe" Trevino, Council Member

10/27/09  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
David J. Gonzalez, Council Member

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Date