Safe Families for Children

Family Friend

FACT SHEET



WHAT IS A FAMILY FRIEND?

A Family Friend is someone who comes alongside a parent and others in their Circle of Support, offering practical and emotional support as they work toward their goals. They build a genuine friendship with the parent by listening, encouraging, and walking alongside them through whatever they're facing including parenting and life challenges. Some Family Friends may also provide daytime childcare in a host or parent's home or assist with transportation.

IMPORTANT CHARACTERISTICS

- Real-life EXPERIENCE as a parent or coming alongside others who are struggling
- FRIENDLY, welcoming personality, good listener, ability to "meet others where they're at"
- Willing to "GO THE EXTRA MILE" and to problem-solve when unforeseen situations arise
- Open to RECEIVE direction and constructive feedback from your Family Coach
- ALIGNMENT with the vision and values of Safe Families for Children – Radical Hospitality, Disruptive Generosity, and Intentional Compassion

SCAN TO LEARN MORE

WHAT IS A FAMILY FRIEND?

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES



MORAL SUPPORT

Many of the parents SFFC works with lack self-confidence and carry feelings of failure or guilt. Through consistent support and encouragement, Family Friends help parents build confidence, recognize their strengths, and make positive changes for their families.



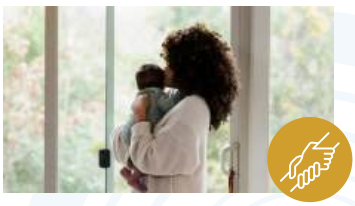
MENTORING IN PARENTING

Family Friends support parents with compassion and without judgment, recognizing that their parenting style may differ from their own. They focus on the parent's strengths while helping them navigate challenges in parenting.



CONNECTION TO THE COMMUNITY

Family Friends help connect parents with community resources and services that can address specific needs. When needed, they can also support parents in taking the first steps toward accessing those resources.



ADVOCACY

Family Friends can help parents communicate their needs, concerns, and preferences to others, such as social workers. They can help parents find their voice and feel confident expressing what matters to them.



DAYTIME CHILDCARE

When a family does not need overnight Hosting, a Family Friend may provide daytime childcare in the parent's home or a host family home.



TRANSPORTATION

Family Friends may provide transportation to help parents or children get to school, childcare, appointments, job interviews or other important commitments.