



**Resource Family Approval is a vetting process that enhances our prior licensing process to ensure that every resource family has the capacity to become a permanent family.**

**The Family Assessment/Psychosocial Assessment is just one component of the Approval Process but it is an important part. It’s an opportunity for the family to get to know our program, and for us to identify their strengths and potential areas of support to enable them to provide a loving home for a foster child/youth.**

Tips for completion
<input type="checkbox"/> Use a term that is comfortable for you and for a family. Using the term “psychosocial” is not necessary or family friendly. Consider using the term “family assessment.”
<input type="checkbox"/> This is not an adoption home study. The purpose of the family assessment is to ascertain if the family would provide a safe, loving and nurturing home for <i>any</i> foster child/youth. Adoption decisions for a specific foster child/youth will come later – after the resource parent and foster child/youth have time to bond.
<input type="checkbox"/> Do the family assessment AT THE SAME TIME you do the rest of the approval process. Do not wait for one component to be completed before beginning the next. This should be structured and streamlined.
<input type="checkbox"/> Address concerns with the family and mitigate those concerns whenever possible. Take enough time to get to know the family but not so much time that the approval is delayed.
<input type="checkbox"/> Make sure every question you ask a family has a purpose and don’t waste time asking questions that do not assist with the assessment of the family. For example, its not necessary to know the name and location of every school attended. This is not an adoption home study.
<input type="checkbox"/> Invite the family to ask a worker what that purpose is and help families complete the necessary documentation.
<input type="checkbox"/> Help families complete necessary documentation, track down required reports etc.
Family perspective
<input type="checkbox"/> Families should not feel interrogated but rather see this as an opportunity to share their questions and concerns.
<input type="checkbox"/> Families get to know the county and learn the pieces of the approval process relevant to them.
<input type="checkbox"/> Families will feel empowered, supported and not overwhelmed. This works best when counties provide a “team” to support the family through the approval process (e.g. a foster parent mentor and RFA worker).
<input type="checkbox"/> Families are regularly communicated during the approval process so that they know the status of their approval and what to expect. Continue to communicate with the resource family even after the approval is completed.