
Planned Vacation and Other Travel

Can the child I'm caring for travel with me out of the state for a vacation or other reasons?

Yes, your child in care can accompany you on vacation and other travel purposes, both in and out of the state. Family vacations and travel are positive experiences that will give your child in care security and a sense of belonging. Please see the NJ Department of Children and Families "Normalcy and the Reasonable and Prudent Parenting Standard Guidance for Caregivers in Resource Family Homes".

Do I need anyone's consent to take my child in placement with me on vacation or when I'm traveling for other reasons?

Under the Reasonable and Prudent Parenting Standards (RPPS), travel of 7 nights or fewer away from the resource home does not need permission or consent from the Worker. You do need to notify the Worker or Supervisor at least two business days before travel or as soon as possible so that they are aware of your plans. While consent is not required, it is reasonable and a matter of good practice to inform your child in care's Worker of your plans and how you can be contacted if necessary.

If your trip is for more than 7 nights, you must notify the Worker as they will need to obtain parental consent.

What if we're planning a family cruise or other international trip?

International travel will need approval from the Local Office Manager, therefore you will need to provide the request to the child's Worker 6 months in advance. If you need assistance regarding vacation travel with a child

in your care, an embrella Family Support Advocate can assist.

Since my child in care lives in my home as a member of my family, why is it necessary to consult the child's Worker about vacations and travel?

Although you are responsible for the child as a member of your resource family, the Division of Child Protection and Permanency (CP&P), by court order, is legally responsible for the child and all case activity. You will want to ensure that there are no visitations or appointments that are scheduled while you are traveling. Also, it is important to have a conversation with the Worker regarding any behaviors, limitations or other concerns that should be discussed prior to traveling. Please keep in mind that there may be specific concerns or case details that do not allow a child to travel.

Are there reasons why I wouldn't be allowed to take my child in care on vacation with me?

Yes, there are reasons that could prevent your child in care from going on vacation or traveling with you. There may be some compelling reasons why your child in care cannot accompany you. Reasons include but are not limited to:

- Court ordered visitation
- Scheduled court appearances
- Scheduled therapeutic or medical treatment which cannot be postponed
- A court order which specifically prohibits the travel or otherwise contains stipulations that prevent travel

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What happens if my child in care cannot go on vacation or travel with me either because of a conflict with court ordered case activity or if, for my own reasons, I can't or do not intend to take the child with me?

Whenever your child in care cannot go on vacation or travel with you, CP&P must secure appropriate temporary care arrangements. It is expected and preferred that your child in care accompany you on family vacations and for other travel.

While CP&P can help you to secure care while you are away, by planning ahead you can be prepared for situations when your child cannot accompany you. You can help eliminate uncertainty by providing an appropriate, temporary arrangement for your child in care while you travel. This can be another resource family or a member of your extended family. Please see our "Babysitting for Children in Foster Care Placement in New Jersey" FAQ for more details.

For more information on the RPPS and how it positively impacts your family, register for our kinship and resource parent course "Normalcy: Letting Kids Be Kids" or contact your umbrella Family Support Advocate at 800.222.0047.

