

## The Mentor Service Offers:



**Support**  
**Friendship**  
**Guidance**  
**Encouragement**  
**Information**

**To help new foster and kinship families  
enrich and enhance their skills in their  
roles as a Resource Family**



**Adoptive & Foster  
Families of Maine, Inc.**  
& The Kinship Program

AFFM thanks the Mentor volunteers who take time from their busy lives to support other families who want to learn from their experience.



Paul R. LePage, Governor

Mary C. Mayhew, Commissioner

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**Adoptive & Foster  
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**Resource Family  
Mentor Service**

*The Resource Mentor Service is a support to help new Resource Families get accustomed to their new role. New foster and kinship families receive direct support, encouragement, and guidance from their more experienced peers.*



34 Main Street, Orono, Maine 04473

1-800-833-9786 or 207-827-2331

[www.affm.net](http://www.affm.net)

## Benefits:

- Access to an experienced foster or kinship parent who can share her/his knowledge and skills in partnering with the Department to ensure resource families receive the support they need to be successful in their role.
- Compassionate non-judgmental listening support.
- A knowledgeable person to discuss the day to day life of a foster or kinship parent.
- Support from someone who truly understands the challenges of co-parenting.

## How does the service work?

The family is matched with a Mentor who has been through similar situations, or share similar interests.

- Mentor relationship is maintained for at least 6 months.
- Contact with the mentor is primarily by phone or email and is at least 1x per month. (frequency and method of contact can be more depending on the mentor's availability).
- Mentor works closely with Adoptive & Foster Families of Maine, Inc. (AFFM) . If the family needs more support and guidance than what the mentor can provide, AFFM is available to provide that support!



**Support is only a phone call away...**

## What is a Resource Family Mentor?

The resource parent mentor is there to support, encourage, and inform new and current resource families of how to partner effectively with DHHS Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS), inform the family of resources and community linkages that will strengthen and preserve the family, promote the importance of continuing education, and provide the direct link to AFFM.

Role of a Mentor:

- Support, encourage, coach and guide resource families
- Encourage and inform the new kin/foster family on working with the child welfare system
- Assist the family in learning community resources that will strengthen and preserve the family.
- Contact the new family on a regular basis (at least once per month).
- Maintain the Mentor/Caregiver relationship for at least six months
- Guide the new family to appropriate avenues rather than trying to “fix” the problem.

## Interested in Becoming a Mentor?

*Have you been a Resource Parent for at least one year?*

*Are you currently a Resource Parent?*

*Do you want to support a Resource Parent who is new to the role of foster, kinship or adoptive parenting?*

If so, Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine (AFFM) is looking for volunteers.

AFFM offers a 4 hour training curriculum that teaches:

- What it takes to be an effective and good mentor
- Skills to navigate difficult situations individuals may encounter
- DHHS Policies and Practices
- Mentoring Skills

AFFM provides supervision and support throughout the mentoring relationship!

## To learn more...

contact:

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