
CAREGIVER ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS

A. What is Caregiver Assistance?

In 2017, the Texas Legislature passed House Bill 4 to allow DFPS to enter into a Caregiver Assistance Agreements (CAA) with a relative or other designated caregiver to provide monetary assistance for caring for children in its Temporary Managing Conservatorship.

B. Who Qualifies, How Much, and How Long?

DFPS may enter a CAA with a family whose annual income is less than or equal to 300% of federal poverty guidelines. For a family of four, that is approximately \$76,000 per year. The monetary assistance is capped at 50% of the basic foster care rate for a child, which is about \$325.00 per child. Families making more than 300 percent of the federal poverty level are not eligible for the caregiver payments. Payments are disbursed in the same manner as to foster parents, and the monetary assistance is available for one year, although DFPS can extend the assistance for an additional six months for good cause. A caregiver who has a CAA who obtains PMC of a child, and meets all other eligibility requirements, may also receive an annual reimbursement of other expenses for the child up to \$500 per year for three years or until the child's 18th birthday, whichever occurs first.

C. DFPS Must Keep Track

DFPS is required to publish an annual report on the funds disbursed, permanency outcomes for the children who are placed with relatives, and the length of time between the beginning of CAA and the award of PMC to the caregiver.