Human Flourishing

Child Protection and Foster Care: What It Is, Why It Matters, and What You Can Do

THE ISSUE

When children can't remain safely in their homes, a court may grant the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) custody and responsibility for their care. DFPS then works to place the children into foster care, a temporary out of home placement to provide safety until they can be reunited with family or permanently adopted.

Types of foster care include:

- Kinship Care: Placement with relatives
- Emergency Care: Short-term placement for children immediately removed from their home
- Traditional Foster Care: Placement with licensed foster families who provide temporary care

QUICK FACTS

10,011
children removed from their homes in TX in 2025

Over 1,000
children age out of the foster care system each year in TX without finding permanent, loving families

42.8%
of TX children in DFPS care were placed with relatives or fictive kin

HOW IT IMPACTS TEXANS

Thousands of Texas children are cared for by relatives when they cannot safely remain with their parents. Kinship care provides stability, preserves family connections, and helps children remain within their communities during difficult moments. However, unlicensed kinship caregivers often receive limited financial support.

To become eligible for the full range of foster care benefits, caregivers must complete the state licensing process, which can take approximately 4–6 months. During this period, families may face significant financial strain while caring for children in need.

A CLOSER LOOK

In 2025, 124 Texas children died as a result of abuse or neglect. These preventable tragedies highlight the importance of strengthening prevention efforts, supporting vulnerable families, expanding access to mental health services, and ensuring the child welfare system has the resources necessary to intervene before a crisis occurs.

WHY CHRISTIANS CARE

> *"Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for the orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world."*
>
> *James* 1:27 (NSRV)

> *"Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow."*
>
> *Isaiah* 1:17 (NRSV)

> *"Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute."*
>
> *Psalm* 82:3 (NRSV)

Scripture reveals God's heart for children, and calls us to defend and care for them.

TAKE ACTION

1. **Learn** how current policies affect Texans. For more information on protective services in Texas, visit dfps.texas.gov.
2. **Pray** for wisdom and compassion for the leaders and communities affected by this issue.
3. **Participate** in the process. Work with the CLC by speaking to your elected official about funding for DFPS to improve casework salaries, reduce caseworker caseloads, increase adoption subsidies (financial payment used to offset cost of adoption court costs), and kinship care payments (financial payment for grandparents/relatives who take in children, but do not get the same amount of financial support as foster parents). Share this guide with someone in your church.