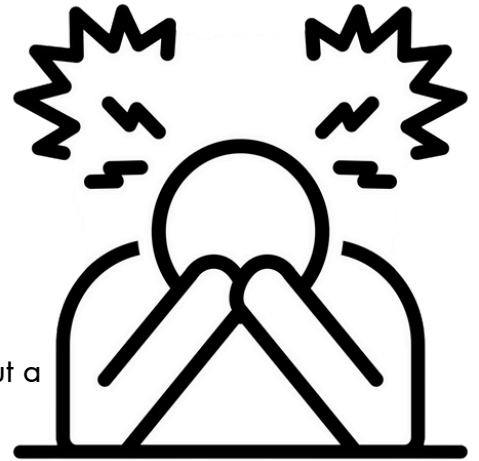


When Your Caseworker Changes

If you've had multiple caseworkers, you're not alone. High turnover in child welfare is common, but that doesn't make it any less frustrating.


What This Might Feel Like

- Starting over, again and again. Just when you've built trust with someone who understands your situation, they're gone, and you have to explain everything to someone new.
- Things are taking longer. Your new worker needs time to get up to speed on your family's story, which can slow down decisions about a child's future.
- Confusion and mixed messages. Different workers sometimes have different approaches, which can feel like the rules keep changing.
- Extra stress. You're already dealing with a lot. Wondering "who's my worker now?" and "will they understand our situation?" just adds to it.
- Harder to get help. It can be tough to access services when you don't have a steady point of contact who knows what you need.




What You Can Do

You can't control the turnover, but you can take steps to create more stability for yourself and the children in your care.




With Your New Caseworker

- Give it time, but stay on top of things. Your new worker is likely managing many families, but your voice matters. Be clear about what you need.
- Start fresh. Each new relationship is a chance to build understanding. Help them get to know you and your child.
- Write it down. Keep notes about phone calls, meetings, and decisions. This creates a record when workers change.



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For Yourself

- Connect with other foster and kinship parents. They get it. Support groups and parent organizations can provide guidance and remind you that you're not in this alone.
- Stay involved. Don't wait to be asked - show up for meetings, ask questions, speak up about what's working and what isn't.
- Plan ahead when you can. If your worker tells you they're leaving, ask for an introduction to the new person or a transition meeting.

For the System

- Your experience matters. When agencies ask for feedback, share it. Your insights can help improve how families are supported.

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Remember

Both you and your caseworker are doing hard work in a complicated system. Caseworker turnover isn't about your family—it's a system issue. What stays constant is your commitment to the child in your care. You're showing up every day, and that's what matters most.