

Michigan Supreme Court
State Court Administrative Office
Child Welfare Services

FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD PROGRAM

Frequently Asked Questions

- Q: What is the Foster Care Review Board program?
- A: **The Foster Care Review Board program is a system of third-party review of the foster care system, which was established by the legislature. See MCL 722.131.139a.**
- Q: What does the Foster Care Review Board program do?
- A: **The Foster Care Review Board Program reviews both randomly selected and requested cases of children in foster care to determine if the court and agencies responsible for developing and carrying out a permanency plan are effectively and efficiently doing so. The Foster Care Review Board Program also hears appeals from foster parents who disagree with the movement of a child from their home.**
- Q: What does the Foster Care Review Board program consist of?
- A: **The Foster Care Review Board program consists of local citizen review boards throughout the state.**
- Q: Who is subject to a review by the Foster Care Review Board?
- A: **Any and all children who are in the state foster care system due to abuse or neglect.**
- Q: What does it mean to review a foster care case?
- A: **Each case review is conducted in two stages. The first stage involves reading the written materials detailing the reason(s) for out-of-home placement and the agency's plan for services to the child and family. The second stage is an in-person interview with interested parties in the case, such as the caseworker, the parents, the foster parents and, if appropriate, the child(ren), and attorney.**
- Q: How often are cases reviewed?
- A: **Once selected for review, a case is reviewed every six (6) months until a permanent plan is achieved.**
- Q: Does the Foster Care Review Board provide direct services to children?
- A: **No. Foster Care Review Board members are responsible only for reviewing selected cases, compiling findings of fact, and making advisory recommendations. The written report and advisory recommendations are provided to the Family Division of the Circuit Court and the Department of Health and Human Services and/or its contracted agency. The final decision-making authority rests with the court.**
- Q: Who comprises the Boards?

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A: Foster Care Review Boards are comprised of citizen volunteers who are trained by the State Court Administrative Office.

Q: Are members of the Foster Care Review Board paid for their services?

A: No. Foster Care Review serve voluntarily.

Q: What agency is in charge of the Foster Care Review Board program?

A: The Foster Care Review Board program is administered by the State Court Administrative Office of the Michigan Supreme Court.

Q: How is the Foster Care Review Board program funded?

A: The Foster Care Review Board program is funded with state and federal funds.

Additional information is available at:

<http://courts.mi.gov/administration/scao/officesprograms/fcrbp/pages/default.aspx>