



### **Suggested Referral Guidance**

Safe Families for Children (SFFC) Circle of Support (COS) can support a family...

- Parent/family is in crisis and looking for supports
- Parent/family is homeless and looking for stable housing
- Parent struggling with unemployment looking for stable employment
- Parent with a gap in childcare who are actively on waitlist and looking for alternative childcare
- Parent needs to be hospitalized for an acute medical procedure (i.e., surgery, rehabilitation)
- Parent is seeking drug or alcohol treatment
- Parent is struggling with mental health and seeking treatment
- Parent is dealing with safety issues such as domestic violence, needing a safe place for child
- Parent needs support in order to parent well
- Parent/family is isolated and has few if any extended family or external support relationships

SFFC cannot support a family when...

- there is evidence of current abuse (we will defer to Child Protective Services)
- the child is exhibiting dangerous, violent behavior
- the child is in need of substance abuse treatment
- we are unable to obtain consent from one or both parents who have legal custody

Key Elements when referring to SFFC for COS (Family Coach, Hosting or Family Friend)

Parent (s):

- understand that a SFFC referral and participation is 100% voluntary
- requesting a teen be hosted – teen needs to be in agreement
- understand that SFFC families and other volunteers are trained and receive no money to host or serve in SFFC
- set goals for themselves while involved and can access SFFC Family Coach to assist them
- retain custody of their children while with SFFC and as such can have their children returned to them at any time
- understand that SFFC cannot guarantee availability of a COS and will let referee know when support becomes available
- All parties involved are committed to reunite the family as soon as possible
- Safety of the child is paramount

To refer: call intake: 207-713-0523

Email: [maine@safefamilies.net](mailto:maine@safefamilies.net)

Online referral: [www.safe-families.org](http://www.safe-families.org) , click 'get help' click left hand column "Request a Host Family" or "Family Friend or Mentor"