



TANF 201-3 Relationship

Supersedes: TANF 201-3 (09/01/2023)

Reference: ARM 37.78.206 - .208

Overview: A minor child must be living with a specified caretaker relative who is providing care in a setting maintained or in the process of being established as the child's home.

SPECIFIED CARETAKER RELATIVE:

A child's specified caretaker relative(s) may be any relation by blood, marriage or adoption that is within the fifth degree of kinship to the child. A specified caretaker relative(s) does not include "in loco"parentis, fictive kin or legal guardians not related within the fifth degree of kinship to the child(ren).

NOTE: "In loco" parentis, fictive kin or legal guardians can have legal custody, but not be related within the fifth degree of kinship to the child. These individuals are not eligible to receive TANF for the child.

A specified caretaker relative may be one of the following individuals:

1. Father, mother, grandfather, grandmother, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, first cousin, nephew, niece; or
2. Great grandparent, great-great grandparent, great-great-great grandparent, great-aunt, great-uncle, great-great aunt, and uncle; or
3. First cousin once removed.
4. Biologically/blood related with in the fifth degree to anyone named in the above groups 1-3 even if the child has been legally adopted.
5. Stepfather, stepmother, stepbrother, stepsister; or

6. One who legally adopts the child or his/her parent as well as the natural and other legally adopted children of such persons, and other relatives of the adoptive parents;
or
7. Spouses of anyone named in the above groups even after the marriage is terminated by death or divorce;

VERIFYING RELATIONSHIP:

Hard copy verification must be provided which proves that each minor child included in the filing unit and the assistance unit is related to the specified relative(s), and to his/her sibling(s), either by blood, adoption, or marriage.

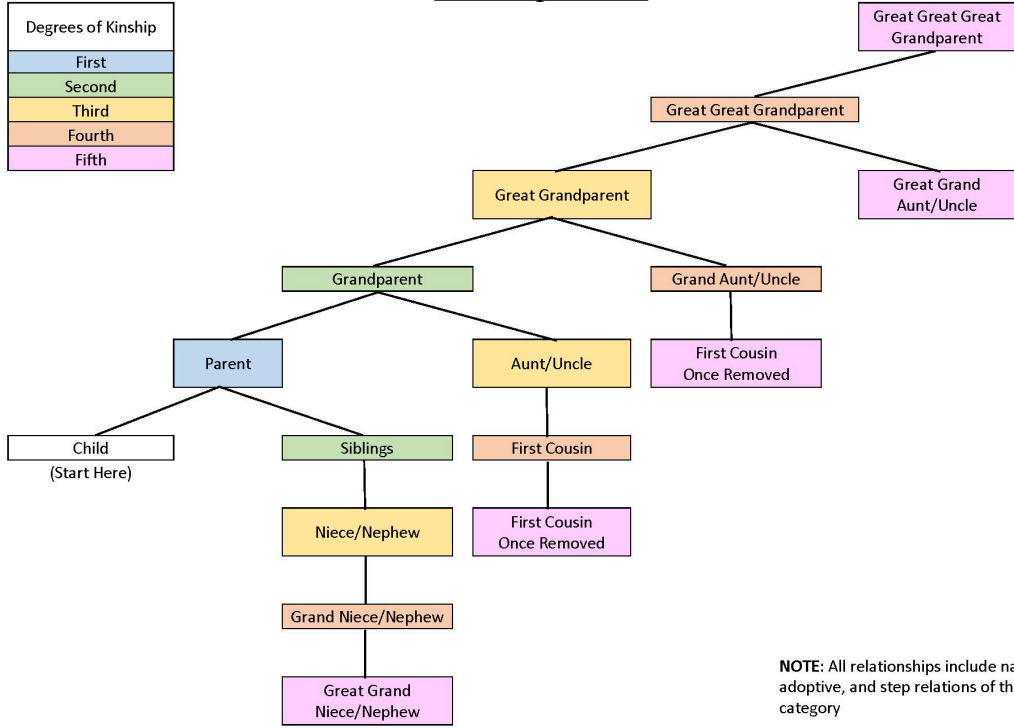
The primary verification for relationship is the birth certificate, adoption papers, marriage license, divorce decree, death certificate or a voluntary statement signed and notarized by both parents acknowledging the paternity of the child (statement remains viable until proven otherwise i.e., a paternity test that excludes the individual as the father).

Other documents may be utilized, if necessary, with Central Office approval. Please send email along with verifications and TANF Policy clarification form to HHS HCSD TANF <tanf@mt.gov>

RELATIONSHIP DETERMINATION GUIDE:

Kinship Chart

Degrees of Kinship
First
Second
Third
Fourth
Fifth



NOTE: All relationships include natural, adoptive, and step relations of that category

Effective Date: October 1, 2024