

**Suggested Referral Guidance**

***SFFC can host a child with a volunteer Host Family when…***

* Parent/family is in crisis
* Parent/family is homeless
* Parent needs to be hospitalized for an acute medical procedure (i.e. labor & delivery, surgery, rehabilitation, drug and alcohol rehabilitation)
* Parent has a mental health issue (i.e., bi-polar, depression)
* An identified perpetrator is currently in the parent’s home (i.e., domestic violence)
* Parent needs a break (is at wits end)
* There is a gap in services and child needs a safe place to stay
* Parent/family is isolated and has few if any extended family or external support relationships
* All parties involved are committed to reunite the family as soon as possible
* Safety of the child is paramount

***SFFC cannot host a child with a volunteer Safe Families for Children Host Family Home when…***

* there is evidence of current abuse (we will defer to Child Protective Services)
* the child has severe behavioral, mental health, or medical problems that cannot be safely managed in a family-like setting
* the child needs substance abuse rehabilitation
* we are unable to obtain consent from one or both parents who have legal custody

***SFFC can provide a family friend for parents who are …***

* Stressed and isolated parents who may not need their children hosted but are seeking informal supports

***Key Elements involved when referring a parent(s) to SFFC for Hosting or Family Friend arrangements: Parent (s):***

* understand that a SFFC referral and participation is 100% voluntary
* requesting a teen be hosted – or teen aging out of foster care – teen needs to be in agreement
* understand that SFFC families and other volunteers have been vetted, 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 Host Family and will let referee know when a Host Family becomes available

**To make a referral**

**Online** - [www.safe-families.org](http://www.safe-families.org)/Get-Help

**Intake Hours 9am-5pm - Phone**: 919-346-7051

**Email**: raleighNC@safefamilies.net