

Using the California Caregiver Affidavit for Unaccompanied Immigrant Children Recently Released from ORR Custody

What is a Caregiver Affidavit, and what does it do?

A Caregiver Authorization Affidavit is a [form](#) that can be used by a caregiver who is not the parent or legal guardian of the child in their home.¹ Sponsors of unaccompanied immigrant children may use the Caregiver Affidavit whether or not they are related to the child.

The Caregiver Affidavit lets people such as school officials and doctors know that the caregiver is the primary adult caring for the child and gives the caregiver the legal right to do certain things on behalf of the child, such as enroll the child in school or consent for medical care.

Who is a caregiver?

A caregiver is an adult who is caring for a child in their home but does not have formal legal custody of that child. A caregiver can fill out a Caregiver Affidavit if they are 18 years or older, caring for a child under 18 years old, and not the parent or legal guardian of the child. A caregiver does not need to be documented (have legal immigration status) in the United States to fill out a Caregiver Affidavit.

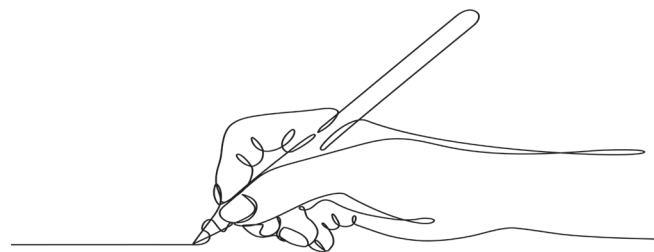
The Caregiver Affidavit can be used by relative caregivers and non-relative caregivers. However, it gives different authority to “qualified relative” caregivers than it does to “non-relative” caregivers.

What should I do with the Caregiver Affidavit after I fill it out?

1. Make several copies. Keep one copy at home in a safe place and keep another copy with you at all times.
2. For school enrollment, give a copy to the child’s principal, the child’s teacher, and the school district’s office.
3. For medical care, give a copy to the child’s doctor, as well as any hospital or medical care facility where the child will receive care.
4. Make a list of all the people to whom you have given a copy.

Keep in mind:

- You do not need to submit any additional information with the Caregiver Affidavit for it to be valid.
- You do not need to notarize the Caregiver Affidavit.
- The child’s parent or legal guardian does not need to sign the Caregiver Affidavit.



| | Qualified Relative Caregiver | Non-Relative Caregiver |
|---|---|--|
| Am I a Qualified Relative or Non-Relative Caregiver? | You are a qualified relative if you are the child's brother/sister, stepbrother/sister, half-brother/sister, grandparent, great-grandparent, aunt/uncle, great-aunt/uncle, grand-aunt/uncle, niece/nephew, first cousin, spouse, or spouse of any of the prior categories (even if now divorced or widowed). ² | You do not need to be related to the child to use the Caregiver Affidavit. If you are 18 years or older, caring for a child under 18 years old, and are not the parent or legal guardian of the child, you may fill out the form. |
| What can I use the Caregiver Affidavit to do? | You may use the Caregiver Affidavit to enroll the child in school and give consent for general medical care. | You may use the Caregiver Affidavit to enroll the child in school and give consent for school-related medical decisions, such as immunizations and physical exams. ³ |
| How do I fill out the Caregiver Affidavit? | Fill out questions 1-8 and sign and date the form. You must list either your California driver's license or identification number for question 8. If you do not have a California driver's license or identification number, you may list your Medi-Cal or Social Security Number. | Fill out questions 1-4 and sign and date the form. You are not required to fill out questions 5-8. You are not required to provide any additional documentation. |

Does the Caregiver Affidavit ever expire?

The Caregiver Affidavit does not expire as long as the child lives with you. If the child moves out, you must notify anyone who you provided with a Caregiver Affidavit.

If you move within the state of California, fill out a new Caregiver Affidavit with your new address and send it to the child's school and medical provider. If you move outside of California, the Caregiver Affidavit is no longer valid.

For more information on Caregiver Affidavits, see our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) resource.

Endnotes

- 1 Cal. Fam. Code § 6550.
- 2 Cal. Fam. Code § 6550 (h)(2).
- 3 Cal. Fam. Code § 6550(h)(3).