



Capacity Building  
CENTER FOR STATES

## Perspectives on Normalcy Handout: You Get a Call, “Do You Want These Kids?”

This handout is part of the series, “Perspectives on Normalcy: Videos and Discussion Questions.” It is designed to facilitate discussion about the issues raised in the video, “Kinship Adoption: You Get a Call, ‘Do You Want These Kids?’”

### About the Interviewees:

Bruce and Brenda have been married for 33 years and have four daughters. From 2006 to 2009, the couple provided a kinship placement for their four grandchildren. In 2010, they adopted Bruce (now 18 years old), Tre’Nae (now 15 years old), Mason (now 13 years old), and Kiaunna (now 10 years old).

### Quote From the Interviewee:

“As a kinship family, one of the main differences is that we are already family. This fact helps with normalcy and belonging—knowing and having contact with extended family and some connection with our daughter, their birth mother.” – *Bruce*

“We had a long history of our grandchildren being placed with us and then being removed, so it has been hard to find normalcy and belonging when you are left in ambiguity. For us, normalcy and belonging wasn’t until our adoption, when we knew that the children would be ours for life; then we were able to make plans for the future.” – *Bruce*

### Questions for Discussion:

- ▶ How did Bruce and Brenda create normal experiences for their grandchildren?
- ▶ What could the system have done differently to support Bruce and Brenda and their grandchildren? How does your system support kinship families (i.e., emotionally, financially)?
- ▶ What system barriers did Bruce and Brenda encounter?
- ▶ How might the system unintentionally be creating barriers when facilitating normalcy in kinship settings?
- ▶ What did the family say about providing a safe and stable environment?
- ▶ What images in the video suggest that the family was promoting healthy development for their grandchildren? What outcomes would you expect to see?

To access the video, please visit <https://capacity.childwelfare.gov/states/focus-areas/foster-care-permanency/perspectives-normalcy/kinship-video>

