



WELCOME TO KINSHIP 101

A collaborative training by DSHS/ALTSA and DCYF

Pre- and Post-Test

This training has a pre- and a post- test that must be completed.

- Pretest link is in chat
- **Please make to write you Pre-Test ID Code so you have if for the Post-test.**





DEFINITION OF KINSHIP

- Kinship care is a term used in the United States for the raising of children by grandparents, other extended family members, and adults with whom they have a close family-like relationship such as godparents and close family friends because biological parents are unable to do so for whatever reason.
- Kinship caregivers are typically classified into two categories:
 - Formal kinship care
 - Informal kinship care

TYPES OF KINSHIP

Formal Kinship Care

- Kinship families caring for children with an open case or dependency with Tribal Court or the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF).
- Formal kinship families may choose whether or not to become licensed but they must have an approved home study.
- The goal of child welfare interventions is to reunite children and youth with their families when it is safe to do so.



TYPES OF KINSHIP

Informal Kinship Care

Children that live with a relative without any child welfare system involvement.

The kinship caregiver may have taken the child into their home to avoid any formal interventions from the child welfare system.

These caregivers may or may not have pursued legal custody arrangements through the courts; these can include adoption, guardianship and non-parental custody.



REASONS CHILDREN MAY LIVE IN KINSHIP CARE:



- Child abuse and/or neglect
- Parental domestic violence
- Family homelessness
- Parent or child medical and/or mental health
- Death of a parent
- Substance misuse
- Incarceration of parent
- Parental deportation
- Parental deployment



KINSHIP STATS

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total population <18*					
National	73,649,701	73,583,015	73,399,342	data unavailable	
Washington	1,632,931	1,651,822	1,663,285	data unavailable	
Living with neither parent*					
National	3,692,000	3,730,000	3,792,000	data unavailable	
Washington	69,000	70,000	75,000	data unavailable	
Living with a grandparent*					
National	2,881,000	2,734,000	2,787,000	data unavailable	
Washington	45,000	47,000	44,000	data unavailable	
Children in WA in out-of-home care **					
	8833	9086	9185	9160	8165
Kinship	3896	3895	3980	3954	3762
Non-kinship	4937	5191	5205	5206	4403

▪ *Data from the Annie E. Casey KIDS COUNT data center available at <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/>

▪ **Data from Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting Systems; INFOFAMLINK Relative Versus Non-Relative Placements, January 29, 2020. Data reflects the number of children in out-of-home care as of January 29 of the indicated calendar year.



UNIQUE BENEFITS OF KINSHIP CARE



Improved placement stability

Decreased behavior problems

Higher levels of permanency

Increased rate of placement with siblings

Greater preservation of cultural and community connections

“Children Thrive in Grandfamilies” fact sheet 2016, available at www.grandfamilies.org and www.gu.org





UNIQUE CHALLENGES OF KINSHIP CARE

- Navigating the child welfare system
- Navigating complex family dynamics
- Lack of resources and barriers to resources
- Barriers to traditional permanency

“Relatives Raising Children,” Ed. Dr. Joseph Crumbley and Robert L. Little. CWLA Press. 1997 grandfamilies.org: Children Thrive in Grandfamilies Fact Sheet

2001

The legislature appropriated \$1,000,000 to create the Relative Support Services Funds for relatives caring for child welfare involved children.

2004

The Kinship Caregiver Support Program (KCSP)
AND
annual “Voices of Children” contest are created.

2005

Two Kinship Navigator projects are funded by the legislature
AND
SHB 1281 allows kinship caregivers to consent to medical care for children in their care.

2006

The “Kinship Caregiver’s Consent for Mental Health Care of Minors” (HB3139) allows kinship caregivers to consent to mental health care.

2017

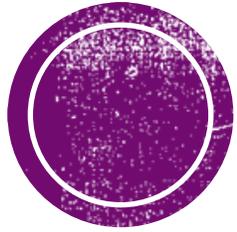
The legislature funds eight Tribal Nations Kinship Navigator positions.

2018

With the passage of the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), Washington State applies and receives funding to evaluate the kinship navigator program and strengthen infrastructure to support kinship families. An evaluation of the kinship navigator program is launched in October 2018.

KINSHIP MILESTONES





KINSHIP RESOURCES



KINSHIP NAVIGATORS

How kinship navigators support kinship families:

- Listen, support and advocate for kinship families.
- Assist families with navigating multiple agencies (tribal, state, community agencies).
- Provide information and referral to community, state, and tribal resources including food, furniture and clothing banks.
- Facilitate support groups.
- Provide emergency assistance funds for eligible families.
- Identify respite supports and extracurricular activities.

Where to find your local kinship navigator, visit https://www.dshs.wa.gov/altsa/kinship-care-support-services?field_counties_value=All&field_kinship_care_resource_type_value=Kinship+Navigators&field_city_value=All&=Apply

For a list of all kinship navigators in Washington and their services areas, visit <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/AL TSA/hcs/documents/kinship/WA%20State%20AAA%20and%20Tribal%20Kinship%20Navigator%20Contact%20List.pdf>





FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Information for all kinship families

Non-Needy Child Only TANF Grants

- No income requirements.
- Apply online at [Washington Connection](#) or visit your local Community Services Office (CSO).
- Recipients of child-only TANF are eligible to apply for one-time emergency assistance through the Additional Requirements for Emergent Needs (AREN) program.

Information for informal kinship families

Emergency Assistance

- Kinship families who are not child welfare involved can access Kinship Care Support Program (KCSP) funds from a kinship navigator or Area Agency on Aging.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES--continued

Information for formal kinship families

Monthly Foster Care Reimbursement

- Licensed foster parents can access the largest ongoing source of financial support for kinship caregivers. Lowest basic rate for children with no special needs is \$562.00 per month and is more for children over 12.

Relative Support Service Funds

- These funds can be accessed through the assigned DCYF caseworker and are used to support temporary placement needs.

Concrete Goods

- Concrete goods can be used to support unlicensed kinship caregivers or those with a pending foster care license. The purpose of the funds is to support or maintain a child's placement and to facilitate licensing. These funds are most frequently accessed by Licensing Division staff.





Information for formal and informal kinship families

- New Uniformed Guardianship Act (UGA)- RCW 11.130

FAQ for new UGA

<https://www.courts.wa.gov/guardianportal/title11minor/docs/FAQs%20RCW%2011.130%20Minor%20Guardianship%20starting%20January%201%202021.pdf>

- Northwest Justice Project <https://nwjustice.org/home>
- Washington Law Help <https://www.washingtonlawhelp.org/>
- “Understanding the Dependency Court Process for Caregivers” brochure (DSHS 22-1741)
<https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/22-1741.pdf>
- “How the Child Welfare System Works” available on the Child Welfare Information Gateway
<https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubpdfs/cpswork.pdf>



Behavioral health resources for all kinship families

- Wraparound with Intensive Services (WISe) provides intensive support and services to Medicaid eligible youth under the age of 21 and their families. Learn more at <https://www.hca.wa.gov/billers-providers-partners/behavioral-health-recovery/wraparound-intensive-services-wise#what-do-i-need-to-know>
- Learn more about other behavioral health options at <https://www.hca.wa.gov/billers-providers-partners/behavioral-health-recovery/child-and-youth-behavioral-health-services#what-treatment-services>

Coverage for informal kinship families

- Apple Health <https://www.hca.wa.gov/health-care-services-supports/apple-health-medicaid-coverage>
- Health Care Authority (for changing enrollment, etc.) <https://www.wahealthplanfinder.org/>

Consenting to health care for children in informal kinship care

- Consent to Health Care for the Child in Your Care (DSHS 11-2219) <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/AL TSA/hcs/documents/22-1119.pdf>

Coverage for formal kinship families

- All children in out-of-home care have medical, including vision, dental and mental health coverage
- To learn more about medical coverage, including vision, please contact Apple Health Core Connections at 1-844-354-9876
- To learn more about dental coverage, please contact 1-800-562-3022 or visit <https://www.hca.wa.gov/health-care-services-supports/apple-health-medicaid-coverage/dental-services>
- To learn more about mental health services, please visit <https://www.coordinatedcarehealth.com/members/foster-care/mental-health.html>

DECLARATION SAMPLE
Use of this declaration is authorized by RCW 7.70.065.

Kinship Caregiver's Declaration of Responsibility for a Minor's Health Care

(Including medical, dental and mental health)

I Declare That:

Minor's Information:

1. I consent to health care for the child: _____
(print name of the child)

2. The child's date of birth is: _____

Caregiver's Information:

3. My name is: _____
(print your name)

4. My home address is: _____

5. I am 18 years of age or older and I am a relative responsible for the health care of the minor, including medical, dental and mental health care.

6. My date of birth is: _____

7. I am the _____ of the minor.
(print your relationship to the child, e.g. grandparent, aunt/uncle)

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the above is true and correct.

Date: _____ City and State: _____

Washington State's Kinship Care Website

For information on resources, services,
publications and more go to:
www.dshs.wa.gov/kinshipcare/

Free Publication

Relatives as Parents: A Resource Guide for Relatives Raising Children in Washington State (DSHS 22-996x) is a valuable resource guide for all relative caregivers. The booklet helps Washington State families find the services, support and information they need while raising a relative's child.

To order, go to www.prt.wa.gov and click on "General Store" or call the Department of Printing at 360-570-3062.

Consent to Health Care for the Child in Your Care



A Kinship Caregiver's Guide

As a kinship caregiver, can I consent to health care for a child in my care?

Yes. Two state laws* allow kinship caregivers to consent to health care for a child when the parents are not available. This is true even if he or she does not have legal custody.

As a kinship caregiver, you may consent to health care for a minor child if you are an adult and:

- have a signed authorization from the child's parent to make health care decisions for the child;
- are a relative responsible for the health care of the child; or
- are a relative caregiver who has signed and dated a declaration (RCW 7.70.065).

What types of health care is included?

Health care can include medical, dental or mental health.

What if I am a relative caregiver involved with Children's Administration?

A relative still must have a court order to consent to surgery for a child placed with them through the Division of Children and Family Services.

* SHB 1281 (2005)

What is a declaration?

A declaration is a dated and signed written document that states certain information is true. As an adult kinship caregiver, you can sign a declaration saying you are a relative responsible for the health care of a minor child.

Although a signed declaration is not required under the law, health care providers may require it. A sample declaration can be found in this brochure or downloaded off the internet at: www.washingtonlawhelp.org. You may use this sample form or write a declaration of your own.

Keep in mind a declaration is "under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington". Signing a declaration that you know to be false is a Class B felony.

How long is the declaration good for and what should I do if it expires?

A declaration is only good for six months from the date that it is signed. After six months, the declaration expires. You must then fill out and sign another declaration.

Does signing a declaration mean that I have legal custody of the child?

No. Signing the declaration only allows you to consent to health care for the child. The declaration has no effect on legal custody of the

What should I do if a health care provider asks for additional proof that I am a relative responsible for the child's health care?

Under the current laws, a provider may ask for proof that shows you are responsible for the child's health care. A health care provider can include a medical, dental or mental health provider. If this happens, the following items may be useful:

- (1) A will that lists your relationship to the child.
- (2) A letter from a social worker, school personnel, lawyer, religious leader, or a licensed medical, mental health, or behavioral professional that shows your relationship to the child.
- (3) Records from a school, hospital, clinic, or other public health or social service agency that shows your relationship to the child.
- (4) Proof that you receive a public benefit, such as TANF, SSI, medical coupons, food stamps, or free/reduced school lunch on behalf of the child.
- (5) Records from the Department of Social and Health Services that show that you are the contact for the child.
- (6) Proof that a child lives in your apartment or other housing and is related to you.
- (7) Insurance for you or the child that states your relationship.
- (8) Your Federal Income Tax return in which the child was listed.

Where can I get help?

There are several organizations that offer free legal information and referrals over the phone and/or information on the internet.

For more information

The Coordinated Legal Education, Advice and Referral (CLEAR)

If you are under 60 and low-income, call **1-888-201-1014***

If you are over 60 at any income level, call CLEAR toll-free at **1-888-387-7111**.

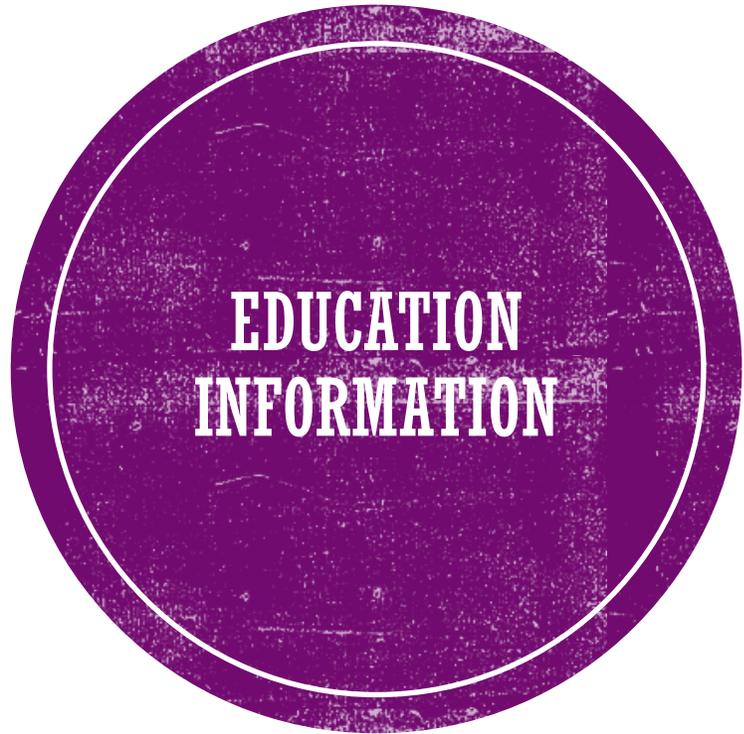
You can download a sample of the declaration at:
www.washingtonlawhelp.org

The Northwest Women's Law Center

Call **206-621-7692** (for both women and men)

Visit the website at:
www.nwwlc.org/

* Not available in King County. King County residents should call 206-464-1519 for information and referral.



Information for formal kinship families

- Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) Foster Care Program <https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/access-opportunity-education/foster-care>
- Treehouse Education Advocacy <https://www.treehouseforkids.org/our-services/educational-advocacy/>

Information for all kinship families

- Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)
 - Children and Families of Incarcerated Parents Support <https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/access-opportunity-education/children-and-families-incarcerated-parents>
 - McKinney Vento (many kinship children qualify) <https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/access-opportunity-education/homeless-education>
- Office of the Education Ombuds <https://oeo.wa.gov>
 - For information, questions, concerns and complaints about Washington State's public education system
- Partnerships for Action, Voices for Empowerment (PAVE) <https://wapave.org/>
 - PAVE offers information about supporting children with disabilities



Information for all kinship families

- Working Connections Child Care (assistance paying for childcare for employed caregivers)
<https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/earlylearning-childcare/getting-help/wccc>
- Child Care Aware (to locate child care provider)
<https://www.childcareaware.org/>

Information for formal kinship families

- Employed caregivers may access child care through the child's caseworker

Respite for informal kinship families

- LifeSpan Respite Washington
<https://www.lifespanrespitewa.org/>

Respite for formal kinship families

- Available to licensed and unlicensed caregivers and can be accessed through the kinship child's caseworker

RESOURCES—OTHER SUPPORTS

Subsidy programs

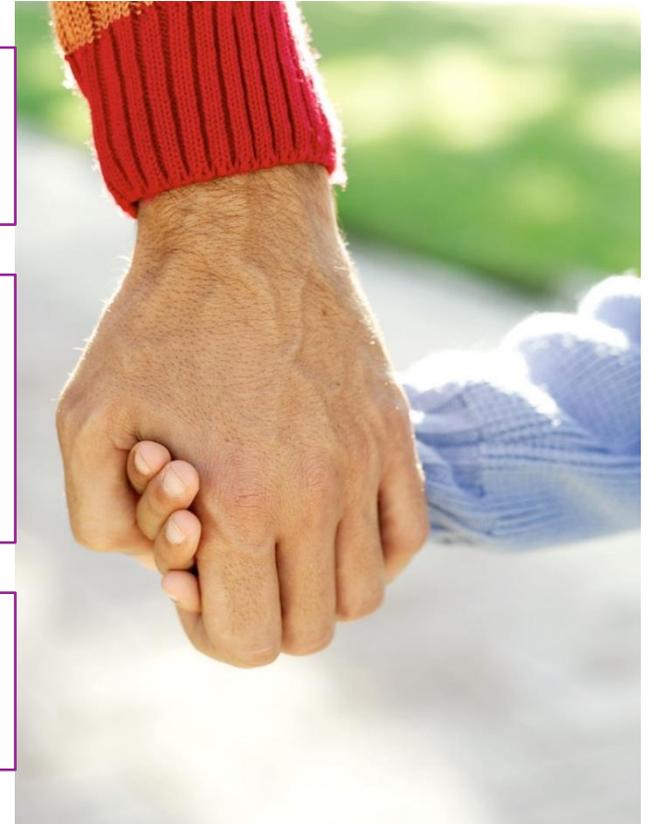
- Relative Guardianship Assistance Program (R-GAP) subsidy for eligible, licensed, kinship caregivers
- Adoption Support

Pass programs

- Please be sure to review the websites listed below for eligibility and admission details
- Washington State Parks <https://parks.state.wa.us/205/Passes>
- Pacific Science Center <https://www.pacificsciencecenter.org/access/>
- Seattle Aquarium <https://www.seattleaquarium.org/connections-program>
- Woodland Park Zoo <https://www.zoo.org/discounts>

Training

- Kinship 101: Information for Relatives and Suitable Others and more. Learn more online at www.allianceforchildwelfare.org
- Kinship Navigators are aware of community based trainings and opportunities





Information for formal kinship families who have just had a child placed in their home

- “Kinship Care: Relative and Suitable Other Placement” (DCYF 22-1765)
<https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/22-1765.pdf>

Information about licensing and home studies

- “Unlicensed Home Study Road Map” (DCYF 24-533)
https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/LIC_0007.pdf
- Kinship caregivers interested in becoming licensed can learn more by reviewing “Foster Care Licensing for Relatives” (DCYF 22-1493)
https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/CWP_0015.pdf

General information about formal kinship care and foster parenting

DCYF “Foster Parenting and Kinship Care” webpage
<https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/foster-parenting>

Answers to commonly asked questions can be found at
<https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/foster-parenting/foster-parent-kinship-care-faq>

Other resources

- Fostering Together and Fostering Washington support groups
- Clothing Vouchers
- Mileage Reimbursement

Grandparents and Relatives

Do you know about the services and supports for you and the children in your care?



HELPFUL WEBSITES AND GENERAL INFORMATION

“Do You Know” brochure (DSHS 22-1120)

- <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/SESA/publications/documents/22-1120.pdf>

DSHS — AL TSA Kinship Care Webpage

- <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/altsa/home-and-community-services-kinship-care/kinship-care>

211 Washington

- <https://wa211.org/>

Generations United — Grandfamilies

- <http://www.grandfamilies.org/>

Child Welfare Gateway

- <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/outofhome/kinship/>

Apply for public food, cash and child care benefits

- Washington Connection--<https://www.washingtonconnection.org>



KINSHIP CARE



POST- TEST

LINK FOUND IN CHAT

Once you have finished your post-test we will resume for questions and answers.

Thank you for taking the post-test.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Department of Children, Youth, and Families

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Department of Social and Health Services

Aging and Long Term Supports Administration
Rosalyn Alber
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Rosalyn.Alber@dshs.wa.gov



KINSHIP CARE

QUESTIONS.....

