



## Kinship Caregivers



### What is Kinship care?

Kinship care refers to a temporary or permanent arrangement in which a relative – or any non-relative adult who has a long-standing relationship or bond with the child and/or family – has taken over the full-time, substitute care of a child whose parents are unable or unwilling to do so.

Kinship care can be established by an informal arrangement, a legal custody or guardianship court order, a relative foster care placement, or a kinship adoption. For more information on the topics below, and additional topics such as education and medical services, check out the Ohio Resource Guide for Relatives Caring for Children.

<http://ocwtp.net/PDFs/ProtectOHIO/OhioResourceGuideforRelatives.pdf>



### A Few Financial Options:

Kinship Permanency Incentive (KPI): provides temporary financial support for minor children in the legal and physical custody of grandparents, relatives, or other kinship caregivers. Apply at your local public children services agency.

Ohio Works First: monthly cash assistance. To be eligible, you must be related by blood or marriage to the child, or be a legal guardian or custodian. You can receive money for the children only (meaning your income will not be counted) until the child turns 18. Apply at your local Department of Job and Family Services.

SNAP/FOOD ASSISTANCE: formerly known as “food stamps.” Eligibility/amount determined based upon the gross income and liquid assets of all household members. Apply at your local Department of Job and Family Services.

Post Adoption Special Services Subsidy: offers financial assistance to help pay for the child’s mental health treatment, respite care, and counseling services. Apply through your local public children services agency.



### Legal Options for Custody:

If you are a grandparent and your grandchild is living with you, you can access the child’s medical care and school needs with a Grandparent Caretaker Affidavit or a Grandparent Power of Attorney form.

If you want to file for legal custody, you can file a Complaint or Motion with the Domestic Relations Court (if the parents are married) or the Juvenile Court (if the parents are not married). Before a Court can award custody to a non-parent, the court must first determine that the parents are unfit or “unsuitable.”

If the local child protective services has filed a case in the court and you want the child to be placed with you, you should contact the local protective services agency and ask for placement AND file a Motion for Custody with the Court prior to the disposition hearing. Even if child protective services does not place the child with you, you still have the right to ask the Court to consider you as a legal custodian for the child.



## Seek Help!

Your local county or region has a Kinship Navigator that can help you, answer questions, and provide information on available resources for kinship caregivers. To find your local Navigator, call 1-844-OHIO-KAN (1-844-644-6586).

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**The information on this flyer is not legal advice.  
If you are seeking representation or legal advice, please contact SEOLS.  
An attorney-client relationship does not exist between you and SEOLS.**

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### **How to contact SEOLS:**

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