

LONG TERM OPTIONS

Adoption From Foster Care

What is it?: After undergoing a background check, home study, and training, you adopt the child through Family Court or Surrogate Court. At that time, there is no longer supervision by the local child welfare agency or Family Court.

Parental Involvement: The parents' rights are terminated or surrendered. You assume all rights and responsibilities relating to the child. In some cases, there may be court approved post adoption contact by the parent.

Financial Help: You may qualify for adoption subsidy and other supports.

Future Options: This is a permanent legal arrangement.

Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program (KinGAP)

What is it?: You agree to support the child through adulthood. This option only becomes available after adoption and reunification have been ruled out, and the child has lived with you in a foster care arrangement for six consecutive months.

Parental Involvement: The parents could maintain their rights and may have visitation. They could petition the court to get the child back.

Financial Help: KinGAP payments and other supports may be available.

Future Options: With this option, adoption from foster care is ruled out.



Questions

Now that you have read the options available to you, there are several important questions to consider before making your decision:

1. Are you prepared to take the child into your home right now?
2. Do you have enough money and space to care for the child?
3. How long can you care for the child?
4. Will caring for the child affect your relationship with the child's parents?
5. Which of the kinship care options is best for you and the child?
6. How well can you work with the local department of social services and other agencies?
7. How much support do you need?

Contact Information

Caseworker: _____

Phone number: _____

Supervisor: _____

Phone Number: _____



Office of Children
and Family Services

This pamphlet is an introduction to ways to support a family during a difficult time.

Discuss these options with the caseworker, your family and anyone else who may help you make a decision regarding caring for a child.

If you have questions about kinship care, visit ocfs.ny.gov/kinship

Select the "Helpful Resources" button to access ***Having a Voice and a Choice: New York State Handbook for Relatives Raising Children*** and ***Know Your Options: Relatives Caring for Children***.

OR

Call 1 (800) 345-KIDS (5437)

The following kinship resource will also provide you with more information:

www.nysnavigator.org

OR

Call 1 (877) 454-6463

OR Email navigator@nysnavigator.org

"...promoting the safety, permanency, and well-being of our children, families, and communities."

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Office of Children and Family Services will make this material available in an appropriate format upon request.

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Know Your Options: **Kin Caring for Children**



Kin can be family members like grandparents, aunts or uncles, and also friends of the family.



Office of Children
and Family Services

What Is Kinship Care?

Sometimes a child cannot live safely with their parents. Relatives or friends of the family may then provide full time care to the child in the relative or family friend's home. This is known as kinship care.

This can be done informally by the family, or formally by Family Court when the local child welfare agency is involved in a child protective case.

There are several different kinds of kinship care, with varying levels of obligation and financial help.

It is important that you fully understand your options before making a decision.

Above all, you must carefully consider the needs of the child when deciding what is best for you and your family.



“Children being raised by relatives thrive.”

- Grandparent Caregiver



Benefits of Kinship Care

The benefits of kinship care are well established.

- Reduces the stigma and trauma of separation from parents and family
- Results in placement with, and connections to, siblings and parents
- Respects family cultural traditions
- Provides stability
- Reduces behavioral, educational, and mental health problems

Kinship caregivers often know the child's history and unique needs, which can help lessen the effects of trauma experienced by a child being separated from the child's parents.

Informal Care

What is it?: You are caring for the child on a temporary basis. You do not have legal custody or guardianship of the child.

Parental Involvement: The child may return to his or her parents at any time.

Financial Help: You may be eligible for a number of social service programs and supports.

Future Options: You may seek legal custody or guardianship in court. If you later seek to adopt the child, you will not be eligible for subsidy payments.

Direct Placement (Article 10)

What is it?: After the local child welfare agency removes a child from their home, the family court places the child in your temporary legal custody. You will care for the child under supervision of the local child welfare agency and family court.

Parental Involvement: The parents may be allowed to visit the child, but they can not regain custody without a court order.

Financial Help: You may be eligible for a number of social services programs and supports.

Future Options: If you later seek to adopt the child, you will not be eligible for subsidy payments.

Legal Custody or Guardianship (Article 6)

What is it?: You petition Family Court to become the child's legal custodian or guardian.

At that time, there is no longer supervision by the local child welfare agency or Family Court.

Parental Involvement: The parents may be allowed to visit the child, but they cannot regain custody without a court order.

Financial Help: You may be eligible for a number of social services programs and supports.

Future Options: If you later seek to adopt the child, you will not be eligible for subsidy payments.

Kinship Foster Care

What is it?: After the child is removed from his/her home, and the local child welfare agency takes legal custody, the child is placed with you in a foster care arrangement.

You must undergo foster parent training, background checks, and approval or certification.

Parental Involvement: The parents may be allowed to visit the child, but they cannot regain custody without a court order.

Financial Help: You are eligible for a foster care stipend and other supports.

Future Options: If you later seek to adopt the child, you may be eligible for adoption subsidy payments.

If adoption is ruled out and returning to the parent is not possible, another future option may be the Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program (KinGAP) which includes KinGAP payments.