

GRANDFACTS

STATE FACT SHEETS FOR GRANDFAMILIES



The GrandFacts state fact sheets for grandfamilies include state-specific data and programs as well as information about public benefits, educational assistance, legal relationship options and state laws. Visit www.grandfamilies.org to find this and all GrandFacts state fact sheets.

Washington

136,224

Children living in homes where a relative is head of household

43,000

Children being raised by kin with no parent present

3,789

Children in foster care being raised by kin

39,266

Grandparents responsible for their grandchildren in Washington

For every **1** child raised by kin in foster care, there are **10** being raised by kin outside foster care

The data presented in these graphics is from the [United States Census Bureau](#), the [Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count Data Center](#) and the [Adoption and Foster Care Analysis Reporting System \(AFCARS\)](#).

- To learn more about children in Washington living in homes where relatives are heads of household, click [here](#). For national data, click [here](#).
- To learn more about children in Washington being raised by kin with no parents present, click [here](#). For national data, click [here](#).
- To learn more about children in Washington in foster care being raised by kin, click [here](#). For national data, click [here](#).
- To learn more about grandparents in Washington responsible for their grandchildren, click [here](#). For national data, click [here](#).

For more information on kinship care and caregivers, and for detailed instructions on accessing and interpreting this data, please visit: www.gu.org/resources/accessing-and-interpreting-grandfamilies-data/

Programs That May Help

Local programs that provide support, resources and assistance to grandfamilies can often be found by contacting your local school, area agency on aging, community center, faith-based organization or children's services office.

Kinship Navigator Programs

Department of Social and Human Services; Aging & Long-Term Support Administration- Kinship Care Program Manager

Website: www.dshs.wa.gov/altsa/home-and-community-services-kinship-care/kinship-care

Contact: Geene Delaplane

Phone: 1-800-422-3263 (Office); 360-584-3666 (Direct Line)

Email: geene.delaplane@dshs.wa.gov

Description: Kinship Navigators can assist families in getting answers to questions and finding services, programs and support in the community. They are here to help.

To find a Kinship Navigator, follow this link:

www.dshs.wa.gov/altsa/kinship-care-support-services

Central Washington

Program: Aging and Adult Care of Central Washington- Kinship Caregivers Support Program and Navigator

Website: www.aacw.org

Contact: Jean Fitzgerald

Service Area: Adams, Grant and Lincoln Counties

Phone: 509-766-2568

Email: jean.fitzgerald@dshs.wa.gov

Contact: Jeanette Palmer
Service Area: Northern portions of Chelan, Douglas, Grant and all of Okanogan County
Phone: 509-886-0700; ext. 410
Email: Jeanette.palmer@dshs.wa.gov

Eastern Washington

Program: Rural Resources Community Action
Website: www.ruralresources.org/program/kinship-care/

Contact: Art Mathew
Service Area: Ferry, Pend Oreille and Stevens Counties
Phone: 509-685-6073
Email: amathew@ruralresources.org

Contact: Tosha Killinger
Service Area: Whitman County
Phone: 509-332-0365; or 509-715-0357
Email: tkillinger@ruralresources.org

Program: Frontier Behavioral Health
Website: www.ruralresources.org/program/kinship-care/
Contact: Debra Edwards
Service Area: Spokane County
Phone: 509-458-7450
Email: DEdwards2@fbhwa.org

Northwest Washington

Program: Opportunity Council
Website: www.opcco.org/basic-needs/child-care-resources
Contact: Naomi Siegel
Service Area: Island, San Juan and Whatcom Counties
Phone: 360-734-5121, ext. 246
Email: Naomi_siegel@opcco.org

Olympic Area- Western Washington

Program: Olympic Area Agency on Aging
Website: www.o3a.org/programs/caregiver-support/kinship-caregiver-support-program-kcsp-relatives-as-parents-rap/
Contact: Fran Koski
Service Area: Clallam County
Phone: 1-800-801-0070; 360-417-8549

Email: koskiff@dshs.wa.gov

Contact: Janice Svien

Service Area: East Jefferson County

Phone: 1-800-801-0050; 360-385-2552

Email: svienjl@dshs.wa.gov

Contact: Eric Nessa

Service Area: Grays Harbor County

Phone: 1-866-582-1485; 360-538-2458

Email: NessaEM@dshs.wa.gov

Contact: Bob Powel

Service Area: Pacific County

Phone: 1-888-571-6558; 360-642-3634

Email: powelrm@dshs.wa.gov

Contact: Susie Brandelius

Service Area: West Clallam & Jefferson Counties

Phone: 1-888-571-6559; 360-374-9496

Email: brandcs@dshs.wa.gov

Puget Sound- King County

Program: Catholic Community Services- Kinship Services

Website: www.ccsww.org

Contacts: Suzanne Cabrera; SuzanneC@ccsww.org; 206-328-5951 (Navigator)
Kimberly Nyland; KimberlyN@ccsww.org; 425-282-2714 (Navigator)
Cynthia Green; CynthiaG@ccsww.org (Assistant/Intake)

Service Area: King County

Phones: 206-328-6858 (Intake Line)

Program: Family Education and Support Services

Website: <http://familyess.org/program-list/kinship/>

Contacts: Anatha Atthar; Anatha@FamilyESS.org (Kinship Navigator)
Rosa Venancio; Rosa@FamilyESS.org (Spanish-speaking Assistant)

Service Area: Lewis, Mason and Thurston Counties

Phone: 1-877-813-2828; or 360-754-7629

Program: HopeSparks
Website: www.hopesparks.org
Contacts: Chris Blosser; cblosser@hopesparks.org (Kinship Navigator)
Kim Sturgis; ksturgis@hopesparks.org (Kinship Navigator)
Service Area: Pierce County
Phone: 253-565-4484

Program: Homage- Caregiver Programs
Website: <https://homage.org/services/caregiver-programs/>
Contact: Amy Dennis
Service Area: Snohomish County
Phone: 425-256-2287
Email: adennis@homage.org

Southeast Washington

Program: Catholic Charities Serving Central Washington
Website: catholiccharitiescw.org
Contacts: Mary Pleger; mpleger@catholiccharitiescw.org (Kinship Navigator)
Laura Dow; ldow@catholiccharitiescw.org (Spanish-speaking Assistant)
Service Area: Asotin, Benton, Columbia, Franklin, Garfield, Kittitas, Walla Walla and Yakima Counties
Phone: 1-800-246-2962

Southwest Washington

Program: Area Agency on Aging & Disabilities of Southwest Washington
Website: www.helpingelders.org/
Contact: Sarah Revord
Service Area: Clark, Cowlitz, Klickitat, Skamania and Wahkiakum Counties
Phone: 360-759-4317
Email: kinshipnavigator@dshs.wa.gov

Contact: Carmen Garcia-Allen
Service Area: Cowlitz and Wahkiakum Counties
Phone: 360-686-6135
Email: carmen.garcia-allen2@dshs.wa.gov

Tribal Kinship Navigator Programs

Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

Website: www.colvilletribes.com/
Phone: 509-634-2759

Contact: Larry Robinette, Program Manager; larry.robinette.aaa@colvilletribes.com

Lummi Nation

Website: www.lummi-nsn.gov

Contacts: Taliah Toby; taliaht@lummi-nsn.gov

Topsy (Adele) Kinley; TopsyK@lummi-nsn.gov

Makah Tribe

Website: www.makah.org

Phone: 360-645-2173 (Office); 360-640-0401 (Cell); 360-645-3028 (Fax)

Contacts: Maria Secor, Kinship Navigator; kinship@makah.com

Maureen Woods, Program Director; maureen.woods@makah.com

Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe

Website: www.pgst.nsn.us

Contacts: Star Hagen; starla@pgst.nsn.us

Cheryl Miller; cmiller@pgst.nsn.us

The Quileute Tribe

Website: www.quileutenation.org

Phone: 360-374-0756

Contacts: Melissa Burnside, Kinship Navigator; melissa.burnside@quileutenation.org

Samish Indian Nation

Website: www.samishtribe.nsn.us/departments/social-services

Phone: 360-899-5282; or 877-470-8737 (toll-free)

Contacts: Caritina Gonzalez, Program Manager; cgonzalez@samishtribe.nsn.us

Sarah Beach, Kinship Navigator; sbeach@samishtribe.nsn.us

Donna Furchert, Kinship Navigator; efurchert@samishtribe.nsn.us

Reina Roethe, Kinship Navigator; rroethe@samishtribe.nsn.us

Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation

Website: www.yakama.com/programs/nak-nu-we-sha

Phone: 509-865-5121, ext. 6800

Contacts: Laura Day, Kinship Navigator; Laura_Day@yakama.com

Michael Thompson, Kinship Navigator; Michael_Thompson@yakama.com

Other Key Programs

Childhaven-RAYS Kinship

Website: <https://childhaven.org/programs/>

Phone: 206.957.4841

Service Area: South Seattle and South King County (Skyway)

Description: Twice monthly meetings for kinship caregivers to connect and receive support. A light meal is included. Also provides information and referral.

King County Bar Association - Kinship Care Solutions Project

Website: www.kcba.org/For-the-Public/Free-Legal-Assistance/Kinship-Care-Solutions

Phone: 206-267-7086 leave call back information on intake screening line

Email: PBS@kcba.org

Service Area: King County

Description: Screens cases for referral to volunteer attorneys in minor guardianship cases; income eligibility requirement.

KCBA Statewide Kinship Care Legal Aid Coordinator

Contact: Celeste Miller

Phone: 206-267-7073

Email: celestem@kcba.org

Description: The coordinator develops legal aid resources and training materials to help pro-bono and low-bono attorneys provide legal advice and assistance to kinship caregivers. She also works in consultation with kinship navigators and volunteer lawyer programs to identify and develop kinship care legal aid initiatives throughout the state. She also develops trainings and resources for kinship caregivers regarding the recent changes to Washington guardianship laws.

Northwest Justice Project (NJP)

Website: <https://nwjustice.org>

Phone: Over age 60 and any income level: 1-800-387-7111 (toll-free)
Under age 60 and low-income: 1-888-201-1014 (toll-free)

Service Area: Statewide

Description: Free self-help information including a website and a toll-free hotline. NJP's Coordinated Legal Education, Advice, and Referral (CLEAR) program provides free legal assistance with civil legal problems for eligible low-income people.

Parents of Addicted Loved Ones (PAL)

Website: <https://palgroup.org/>; find a local meeting at <https://meetings.palgroup.org/meetings>

Phone: 480-300-4712 (8:00 a.m. to 8 p.m. MST)

Email: info@palgroup.org

Service Area: Marysville, Sequim and Vancouver

Description: PAL is a national faith-based nonprofit that helps families learn healthy ways to deal with an adult child struggling with addiction. Meetings are facilitated by parents who complete the

training program and receive ongoing education. Weekly meetings include an evidence-based educational component using a curriculum written by a licensed Substance Abuse Counselor, and peer-to-peer support. Meetings are offered free of charge to both the facilitator and the attendees.

University of Washington, Alliance for Child Welfare Excellence

Website: <https://allianceforchildwelfare.org/>

Service Area: Statewide

Description: Free training classes for both relatives and foster parents. Classes are often held on weeknights and weekends and some on-line trainings are available.

Washington Law Help

Website: www.washingtonlawhelp.org

Service Area: Statewide

Description: A guide to free legal services for low-income persons and seniors in Washington, including senior caregivers. Legal education materials and tools that give basic information on legal issues and detailed instructions and forms to help you represent yourself in court, including an extensive section on grandfamily caregivers or non-parents caring for children, found at <https://www.washingtonlawhelp.org/issues/family-law/non-parents-caring-for-children>. You can also locate information on free legal aid programs, basic eligibility, and contact information.

Within Reach

Website: <https://withinreachwa.org/>

Phone: 1-800-322-2588 (toll-free) (TTY 711)

Service Area: Statewide

Description: “WA Help Me Grow” hotline provides information and referrals on many health and social services related to raising children of all ages including health insurance, nutrition, immunization, child care, child development, and children with special needs. Families can also find and apply for programs using a benefit finder.

Public Benefits

Federal and state public benefits programs can help with income, food, healthcare, home energy, telephone and other needs for those who are eligible. Eligibility requirements vary with each public benefit and sometimes are different from state to state. Some benefits are for the family and others are for children or older adults individually. Children are often eligible for public benefits even if their caregivers do not have guardianship or legal custody. Relative caregivers may become eligible for benefits programs when their household size increases.

Help with Public Benefits

BenefitsCheckUp

Powered by the National Council on Aging, BenefitsCheckUp offers a free and private way to complete a questionnaire to find out if older adults and people with disabilities qualify for certain programs that pay for food, increase income, and cover home and health care costs. The specific programs covered by the questionnaire on the website are listed below. Once the questionnaire is completed, the website generates a list of eligible programs and contact information. BenefitsCheckUp does not currently connect individuals to programs for grandparents raising their grandchildren, but their [Frequently Asked Questions page](#) includes links to websites for the [Children's Health Insurance Program \(CHIP\)](#), the [State Children's Health Insurance Program \(SCHIP\)](#), [Temporary Assistance for Needy Families \(TANF, Child Only Grant\)](#), and [Supplemental Security Income \(SSI\) for Children](#).

<https://benefitscheckup.org/>

BenefitsCheckUp State, Territory, and Federal Public Benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medicare Savings Programs• Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage• Medicare Rx Extra Help• State Pharmaceutical Assistance Programs (SPAP)• Medicaid for Aged, Blind, and Disabled• Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)• Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)• Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)• State Property Tax Relief/Rebates• Supplemental Security Income (SSI)• Employment Programs• Telephone and Cellphone Assistance• Transportation Assistance

Benefits.gov

An official website of the federal government, this resource has state- and territory-specific information on benefits, in addition to a screening tool to find out which programs you may be eligible to receive.

www.benefits.gov

Eldercare Locator

The National Eldercare Locator service helps you find your local area agency on aging and other state and local resources that can help with public benefits, local programs and other services for older adults.

1-800-677-1116 (toll-free)

<https://eldercare.acl.gov/Public/Index.aspx>

Key Public Benefits: Income

Each state administers federal funds that provide cash assistance to families in need. Some states also offer other forms of financial assistance.

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

Cash assistance may be available to eligible children and their relative caregivers. There are two types of TANF grants: child-only and family grants. Under virtually all states' policies, caregiver income is not considered in determining eligibility for TANF child-only grants. TANF child-only grants are based solely on the income of the child, and are designed to help meet the needs of just the child. Child-only grants are not subject to time limits and work requirements like TANF family grants.

Washington TANF and Support Services

Department of Social and Health Services

1-877-501-2233 (toll-free)

www.dshs.wa.gov/onlinecso/TANF_Support_Services.shtml

To see if you qualify and to apply online – go to <https://www.washingtonconnection.org/home/>

Generations United's Grand Resources:

[A Fact Sheet for Grandparent and Relative Caregivers to Help Access Support through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families \(TANF\) Program](https://www.gu.org/resources/)

<https://www.gu.org/resources/>

Social Security

A multigenerational program, Social Security provides income benefits to adults, older adults and children. In addition to [Retirement](#) and [Disability](#) benefits, [Survivor's Benefits](#) are based on a child's parent's earnings and may help if a child's parents die. Your grandchild may also qualify for benefits based on your work record. The [Supplemental Security Income](#) (SSI) program pays benefits to disabled [adults](#) and [children](#) who have limited income and resources. SSI benefits are also payable to people 65 and older without disabilities who meet the financial limits.

[Online Directory](#) - To find your local Social Security Administration office.

1-800-772-1213 (toll-free)

<https://secure.ssa.gov/>

Key Public Benefits: Nutrition

Relative caregivers and their families may be eligible for assistance with groceries, meals, infant formula and nutrition education. These are some of the key nutrition benefits programs and resources.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

SNAP is the new name for the federal Food Stamp Program. It helps low-income individuals and families buy the food they need for good health. Although SNAP is the national name, your state may use a different name.

Washington Basic Food Program

Department of Social and Health Services

1-877-501-2233 (toll-free)

www.dshs.wa.gov/esa/community-services-offices/basic-food

To see if you qualify and to apply online – go to www.washingtonconnection.org/

Food and Nutrition Services of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Child Nutrition Program - The schools, early childhood education programs, child care centers, afterschool programs or other programs that children attend may offer free or reduced meals through the federal Child Nutrition Program, which provides breakfast, lunch, snacks, summer meals and milk. Contact the school, center or program to ask if they participate in any of the child nutrition programs and how to apply. Relative caregivers should inform the program that they are raising the child and whether or not they are doing so through a court order.

Online State Directory - To find your state office that manages the Child Nutrition Program.

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/contacts>

Women, Infant and Children (WIC) - States administer federal funds for supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and to infants and children up to age five who are found to be at nutritional risk.

Online State Directory - To find your state office that manages the WIC program.

www.fns.usda.gov/wic/wic-contacts

Foodbanks

Organizations that provide free food and sometimes other items, such as diapers, to families in need.

Online State Directory - To find local food banks.

www.feedingamerica.org/foodbank-results.aspx

Key Public Benefits: Health Care

Relative caregivers and the children they are raising may be eligible for health insurance through Medicare and/or Medicaid and help with prescription drugs. **Benefits QuickLINK** can help you find these benefits.

www.aarp.org/quicklink

Health Insurance for Children

Relative caregivers may apply for free or low-cost health and dental insurance for the children they are raising through the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), which provides health coverage to eligible children through both Medicaid and separate CHIP programs. CHIP and Medicaid are the national names, and your state may use different names.

Washington Apple Health for Kids

1-855-923-4633

<https://www.hca.wa.gov/free-or-low-cost-health-care/apple-health-medicaid-coverage/children>

To see if you qualify and to apply online – Go to www.wahealthplanfinder.org

Consent to Obtain Health Care

Even with insurance, consenting to health care for a child can be a challenge for relative caregivers who do not have legal custody. Some states have laws that allow these caregivers to “consent” to such treatment.

[Grandfamilies.org Online Database](https://www.grandfamilies.org/Online-Database) - To see if your state has such a law.
www.grandfamilies.org/Search-Laws

Key Public Benefits: Tax Credits

The following information is about tax credits from the federal government available throughout the United States. Similar tax credits may exist in your state for state taxes. For example, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP), 29 states and the District of Columbia offer a state tax credit based on the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and four states offer a Child Tax Credit. See CBPP’s [“Get it Back Campaign”](#) for more information on state tax credits.

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is an income tax credit for workers who do not have high incomes. It is a refundable tax credit, which means you could get a refund check from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) even if you don't earn enough to pay taxes.

Child Tax Credit is a tax credit per dependent child. Generally, it is not refundable, although it was for the 2021 tax year.

Additional Child Tax Credit may help if you don’t owe enough taxes to benefit from the child tax credit. Unlike the child tax credit, this tax credit is refundable.

Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit may help you if you’ve hired someone to help care for the child so you could work or look for work. If so, you may be able to claim up to \$3,000 in expenses per child.

Adoption Tax Credit can help if you have adopted your grandchild or other relative. It can give you a credit for the money you spent to adopt. If you adopted a child from the foster care system with special needs, you may be eligible for the maximum amount of credit for the year you adopted regardless of whether you had any qualifying expenses. If you did not adopt from the foster care system, you must have qualifying expenses like legal fees. This tax credit allows adoptive parents to claim up to \$15,950 per child in 2023, with the amount increasing incrementally each year.

Please note that tax credits themselves are not counted as income. They will not be counted when you apply for financial help.

[Center for Budget and Policy Priorities \(CBPP\)](https://www.cbpp.org) – To find out about tax credits in your state.
www.cbpp.org

[The U.S. Internal Revenue Service \(IRS\)](https://www.irs.gov) – To find out more information about each of these tax credits
www.irs.gov

Education

The **U.S. Department of Education** offers a [parent site](#) that has a wide range of helpful information for parents **and** caregivers regarding children's education from early childhood through college, special needs, disabilities, language challenges and gifted students.

1-800-USA-LEARN (1-800-872-5327) (toll-free)

www.ed.gov/parents

Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction

360-725-6000

www.k12.wa.us

The Office of the Education Ombuds (OEO)

1-866-297-2597 (toll-free)

www.oeo.wa.gov

Educational Enrollment

Relative caregivers can contact their local school district's administrative office or their local school to find out how to register the child and what paperwork is needed. Caregivers may need birth records, health records or previous school records. Some states have laws that allow relative caregivers without legal custody or guardianship to enroll the children they are raising in school. These laws are often called education "consent" laws, but they may be called something else in your state.

Grandfamilies.org Online Database - To find out if your state has an education consent law.

www.grandfamilies.org/Search-Laws

Early Intervention, Special Education and Related Services

The Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) - From birth to age 21, children who have learning disabilities, physical disabilities or other special needs may be able to get early intervention, preschool and special education services in school through the federal IDEA. Services may include speech, physical and occupational therapies.

The IDEA requires that states identify, locate and evaluate all children ages 3 to 21 with disabilities who may need special education and related services. Once the evaluation team, which includes a child's caregivers, has decided if a child is eligible for early intervention, preschool or special education services, an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP; birth to three years of age) or an Individual Education Plan (IEP; three to 21 years of age) is developed and services should begin shortly.

Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Special Education

360-725-6075

<http://www.k12.wa.us/specialed/>

Washington State Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT),

Washington State Department of Early Learning

1-866-482-4325 (toll-free)

<https://del.wa.gov/esit>

Watch Me Grow Washington

Washington State Department of Health

1-866-397-0337 (toll-free)

<https://doh.wa.gov/you-and-your-family/watch-me-grow-washington>

Parent Centers across the country provide information to help parents *and* caregivers with children who have special education needs and disabilities.

Online State Directory - To find Parent Centers in your state.

www.parentcenterhub.org/find-your-center/

Generations United's Grand Resources:

A Grandparent's and Other Relative's Guide to Raising Children with Disabilities

www.gu.org/resources/

Early Childhood Education

Head Start and **Early Head Start** are early education programs for eligible children.

Online Directory - To find Head Start or Early Head Start centers in your state.

1-866-763-6481 (toll-free)

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/center-locator>

Child Care Aware provides information, resources and connection to local Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (CCR&R) that help you find local child care.

Online Directory - To find your local Child Care Resource & Referral Agency.

1- 800-424-2246 (toll-free)

www.childcareaware.org/families/

Legal

The following legal relationships may be options for both those children exiting the foster care system and those outside the system. For those families who do not want to establish a legal relationship, consent and power of attorney laws are available in several states.

All of the following options are presented in general terms. This area of the law is created at the state level, so how these options are defined and which ones are available can vary significantly by state.

Adoption

With adoption, the relative caregiver becomes the parent in the eyes of the law. This fact makes access to services on behalf of the child the same as for any parent. Adoption ends all of the birth parents' rights and responsibilities, which means that birth parents cannot go to court later and reclaim those rights and responsibilities.

Adoption assistance payments may be available to relative caregivers who choose to adopt children in their care from the child welfare system.

North American Council on Adoptable Children - To get information about your state's subsidy, in addition to other adoption information.

www.nacac.org

Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption - To find adoption resources that may be helpful to you.

www.davethomasfoundation.org

Guardianship

The biggest difference between adoption and guardianship is that guardianship does not take away all the birth parents' rights and responsibilities. Parents typically keep certain rights and the obligation to financially support the child. Unlike adoption, the parents can go back to court and ask for the guardianship to be ended. For caregivers, a guardianship allows them to access services on behalf of the child that otherwise might prove impossible while not changing family relationships, like making grandma legally mom.

Guardianship assistance payments may be available to relative caregivers who choose to get guardianship of the children in their care who are exiting the child welfare system.

Subsidized Guardianship- Washington has an approved Title IV-E Guardian Assistance Program (R-GAP)
<https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/4340-guardianship/43401-relative-guardianship-assistance-program-r-gap>

Comparing Adoption and Guardianship

The following chart, created by Generations United in collaboration with the King County Bar Association, and support from the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, is designed to help kinship foster families in Washington State compare the options of adoption and guardianship as they exit foster care and create permanent families.

<https://www.gu.org/app/uploads/2022/05/2021-Grandfamilies-Adoption-Guardianship-State-Chart-Washington.pdf>

Legal Custody

Legal custody is similar to guardianship, but it is usually granted by a different court that has different procedures.

Other Options

In some states, relative caregivers who do not want or have a legal relationship to the children in their care have laws that make it possible to access health care treatment and educational services on behalf of the children without going to court.

For more information on all these options, and to see what exists in your state, see www.grandfamilies.org.

State Laws

Grandfamilies.org is a collaboration between [Generations United](#), the [American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law](#) and [Casey Family Programs](#). It contains an easy-to-use, searchable [database](#) of state laws and legislation directly impacting kinship families. You will also find explanations of legal topic areas, practical implementation ideas, personal stories and many other resources.

Topics Covered:

- Adoption
- Care and Custody
- Education
- Federal Laws
- Foster Care Licensing
- Financial Assistance
- Healthcare
- Housing
- Kinship Navigator Programs
- National Family Caregiver Support Program
- Notification of Relatives
- Subsidized Guardianship

The online database of laws and legislation is at www.grandfamilies.org/Search-Laws.

Updates

If you have an update or a resource to be included in this or any of the other GrandFacts State Fact Sheets, please email grandfamilies@gu.org.

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Disclaimers: None of the sponsoring organizations or foundations of this fact sheet assessed or evaluated listed programs for their responsiveness or effectiveness. Consequently, none of the sponsoring organizations or foundations assume any liability for any program's usefulness or accuracy of their listed information. The programs are included solely based on their own claim that they provide services or supports to grandfamilies. Omission of any relevant program is not intentional. We welcome feedback and updates via email to grandfamilies@gu.org.

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