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**KINSHIP RESOURCES**

**Comprehensive Overview Resources**

**The Grandfamilies State Law and Policy Resource Center**

A project of the American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law, Generations United, and Casey Family Programs, **the Grandfamilies State Law and Policy Resource Center** serves as a national resource on state laws and policies that support kinship care. The website includes a searchable database of laws and legislation, narrative analysis of legal topic areas, practical implementation and advocacy ideas, personal stories, relevant resources and publications. The resources, analyses and legislative database are updated regularly.

[www.grandfamilies.org](http://www.grandfamilies.org)

**The State of Grandfamilies in America: 2014**  
This report shines a light on the challenges grandfamilies face and the incredible service they provide our country. The report includes an infographic that shows 7.8 million children live in grandfamilies, where grandparents or other relatives are the householders, and offers recommendations to help guide the development of supportive policies and services for grandfamilies.

[gu.org/RESOURCES/Publications/StateofGrandfamiliesinAmerica2014.aspx](http://gu.org/RESOURCES/Publications/StateofGrandfamiliesinAmerica2014.aspx)

**Children in Kinship Care Experience Improved Placement Stability, Higher Levels of Permanency, and Decreased Behavioral Problems: Findings from the Literature**

Research shows that children experience better outcomes with kin across three major domains: improved placement stability, higher levels of permanency, and decreased behavior problems. ChildFocus reviewed some of the more recent literature on kinship care, summarized across these three outcome areas.

<http://childfocuspartners.com/tools-publications/reports/>

**Grand Resources: A Grandparent’s and Other Relative’s Guide to Raising Children with Disabilities**   
This 2013 publication is designed to equip relative caregivers with the national resources they need to help their children with disabilities thrive, now and in the future.

[www2.grandfamilies.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=vS5zWEw1Xmo%3d&tabid=41&mid=403](http://www2.grandfamilies.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=vS5zWEw1Xmo%3d&tabid=41&mid=403)

**Stepping Up for Kids: What Government and Communities Should Do to Support Kinship Families**

This 2012 Kids Count policy report summarizes the latest data and research on kinship care for children inside and outside the child welfare system. The report explores the needs of kinship families and includes a comprehensive set of recommendations for ensuring that these needs are met to help children in kinship care thrive.

[www.aecf.org/resources/stepping-up-for-kids/](http://www.aecf.org/resources/stepping-up-for-kids/)

**Foster Care**

**Model Foster Family Licensing Standards**

The ABA Center on Children and the Law, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Generations United, and the National Association for Regulatory Administration in partnership developed Model Foster Family Licensing Standards. These standards are the first ever family foster home licensing standards to protect children and ease the way for caregivers to become foster parents. This model is accompanied by an interpretive guide and a crosswalk tool.

[www.grandfamilies.org/Portals/0/Model%20Licensing%20Standards%20FINAL.pdf](http://www.grandfamilies.org/Portals/0/Model%20Licensing%20Standards%20FINAL.pdf)

**Improving Foster Care Licensing Standards around the United States: Using Research Findings to Effect Change**

This report summarizes the findings of a comprehensive review of foster care licensing standards in all fifty states and the District of Columbia, and makes recommendations to improve the licensing of all foster parents, including relatives.

[grandfamilies.org/Portals/0/Improving%20Foster%20Care%20Licensing%20Standards.pdf](http://grandfamilies.org/Portals/0/Improving%20Foster%20Care%20Licensing%20Standards.pdf)

**The Kinship Diversion Debate: Policy and Practice Implications for Children, Families and Child Welfare Agencies**

This report, which is based on the insights of more than 50 child welfare and judicial personnel, advocates, and researchers, explores the practice of diverting children from foster care to live with kin when they cannot remain with their families. It explores perspectives “for” and “against” diversion and identifies critical components that should be in place whenever agencies practice kinship diversion.

[www.aecf.org/resources/the-kinship-diversion-debate/](http://www.aecf.org/resources/the-kinship-diversion-debate/)

**Kinship Process Mapping: A Guide to Improving Practice in Kinship Care**

Kinship Process Mapping is a tool that allows child welfare agencies to assess their agency practices with identifying, approving, and supporting kin for children who cannot safely live with their parents. The Kinship Process Mapping guide outlines a step-by-step process that agencies can use to prepare for, conduct, and analyze the results of kinship process mapping sessions. The Guide also includes best practices for ensuring that children have an opportunity to be placed with and connected to their kin whenever possible

Guide: [www.aecf.org/resources/kinship-process-mapping-full/](http://www.aecf.org/resources/kinship-process-mapping-full/)

Executive Overview: [www.aecf.org/resources/kinship-process-mapping-executive-overview/](http://www.aecf.org/resources/kinship-process-mapping-executive-overview/)

**Legal Relationships**

**State Educational and Health Care Consent Laws: ensure that children in grandfamilies can access fundamental services**

Using specific examples and language from the states with educational and health care consent laws, this publication and its summary are designed to give policymakers and advocates the tools they need to pursue similar legislation or amend their existing state laws.

Brief:[www2.grandfamilies.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=8-0Q2w7ylTU%3d&tabid=41&mid=403](http://www2.grandfamilies.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=8-0Q2w7ylTU%3d&tabid=41&mid=403)

Summary:[www.grandfamilies.org/Portals/0/GU%20Brief%20Summary%20Ed%20and%20Health%20consent%20Ocotber%202014.pdf](file:///\\dca-fs-01\UserData\RedlichH\AECF\Kinship%20Network\www.grandfamilies.org\Portals\0\GU%20Brief%20Summary%20Ed%20and%20Health%20consent%20Ocotber%202014.pdf)

**Kinship Adoption: Meeting the Unique Needs of a Growing Population**

This issue brief highlights the unique needs of children who are adopted by their relatives. It explores why kinship adoption is on the rise, how kinship adoption differs from adoption by foster parents, and policies and practices agencies should consider to best support kin families who adopt.

[childfocuspartners.com/wp-content/uploads/CF\_Kinship\_Adoption\_Report\_v5.pdf](http://childfocuspartners.com/wp-content/uploads/CF_Kinship_Adoption_Report_v5.pdf)

**Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)**

**Improving Grandfamilies Access to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)**This 2013 practical publication and its summary have a "checklist" of specific policies, programs, and policies that can help state and community policymakers and advocates improve grandfamilies' access to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

Brief: [www.grandfamilies.org/Portals/0/documents/Home%20page/GU%20Policy%20Brief%20-%20TANF%20Assistance%20Final%202.pdf](http://www.grandfamilies.org/Portals/0/documents/Home%20page/GU%20Policy%20Brief%20-%20TANF%20Assistance%20Final%202.pdf)

Summary: [www.grandfamilies.org/Portals/0/documents/Home%20page/GU%20Brief%20Summary%20-%20TANF%20Assistance%20\_3.pdf](http://www.grandfamilies.org/Portals/0/documents/Home%20page/GU%20Brief%20Summary%20-%20TANF%20Assistance%20_3.pdf)

**Grand Resources: A Fact Sheet for Grandparent and Relative Caregivers to Help Access Support through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program**

This factsheet is designed to help grandfamilies access TANF supports.

[www2.grandfamilies.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=xVYWod10AIQ%3d&tabid=41&mid=403](http://www2.grandfamilies.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=xVYWod10AIQ%3d&tabid=41&mid=403)