

# “Do You Know”

## Master Resource List for Kinship Caregivers in Washington State

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### Table of Contents

Introduction .....	3
Financial Help.....	3
• Non-Needy (Child Only) Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).....	3
• Kinship Caregivers Support Program (KCSP).....	3
Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) Resources .....	4
• Supports for Kinship Caregivers Involved with the Formal Child Welfare System .....	4
○ Relative Support Service Funds.....	4
○ Concrete Goods.....	4
○ Additional Resources .....	4
Health Resources .....	4
• Health Insurance for Children in Kinship Care .....	4
○ Caregivers.....	4
• Health Insurance for Children in Foster Care – Apple Health Core Connections .....	4
• Washington Poison Control Center .....	5
• Take-Back Your Meds.....	5
• Child Health Promotion.....	5
• Washington State Department of Health .....	5
Health Care Providers .....	5
• Accessing health care while enrolled in Washington Apple Health .....	5
• Consent to Health Care for the Child in Your Care (Consent for Medical Care form) .....	6
Dental Services for Children and Adults .....	6
• Washington Apple Health .....	6
• Locate-Low Cost Dental Clinics by County .....	6
• WA State Dental Association .....	6
• 2-11 Washington Information Network (WIN) .....	6
• Washington State Department of Health Dental Resources .....	6
• The Center for Pediatric Dentistry (CPD) .....	6
Help with Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorders .....	7
• StartTalkingNow.org .....	7
• Washington State’s Wraparound with Intensive Services (WISE) .....	7
• Resources for locating Behavioral Health services: Washington State Health care Authority.....	7
• Teen Link .....	7
Health Care Providers .....	7
• Suicide Prevention Lifeline.....	7
• Emergency Assistance: Call 911 .....	7
Children with Special Needs .....	8
• Washington State Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) .....	8
• Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) .....	8

- DSHS Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) ..... 8
- Informing Families ..... 8
- Children with Special Health Care Needs..... 8
- PAVE..... 8
- Child Care, Early Learning and Respite ..... 8
  - Working Connections Child Care (WCC) for employed caregivers ..... 8
  - Seasonal Child Care for seasonal agriculture workers:..... 8
  - Homeless Child Care for families who are temporarily homeless (limited to certain counties) ..... 8
  - Child Care Aware..... 9
  - Child Find ..... 9
  - Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) and Head Start..... 9
  - Lifespan Respite ..... 9
  - Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) Respite..... 9
- Educational Advocacy ..... 9
  - Office of the Education Ombuds (OEO) ..... 9
  - McKinney Vento..... 10
- Food Assistance ..... 10
  - Washington’s Basic Food Program ..... 10
  - Free and Reduced School Breakfast and Lunch ..... 10
  - Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program..... 10
  - Summer Meal Program ..... 11
- Child Support ..... 11
  - Division of Child Support (DCS) ..... 11
- Kinship Services..... 11
  - Kinship Navigators ..... 11
  - Local Relatives Raising Children Support Groups ..... 11
    - Alliance for Child Welfare Excellence ..... 11
    - Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF)..... 12
- Printed Kinship Care Materials ..... 12
  - Grandparents & Relatives-Do You Know about Services for You and the Children in Your Care? . 12
  - A Guide to Child Support Services for Relative Caregivers ..... 12
  - Kinship Care: Relative and Suitable Other Placement ..... 12
  - Understanding the Dependency Court Process for Caregivers ..... 12
- Legal Resources..... 12
  - Northwest Justice Project (NJP) ..... 12
  - Washington Law Help ..... 12
  - Legal Advice and Referral for Kinship Care (LAARK) ..... 12
  - Options for Caregivers: A Legal Guide for Washington State ..... 13
  - Consent to Health Care for the Child in Your Care: A Kinship Caregiver’s Guide ..... 13
- General Resources ..... 13
  - Kinship Care in Washington State..... 13
  - WithinReach Hotline ..... 13
  - Community Living Connections ..... 13
- Questions? For additional information, contact..... 13
  - Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF)..... 13
  - Economic Services Administration (ESA) ..... 13

- Health Care Authority (HCA)..... 13
- Aging and Long-Term Support Administration (ALSA)..... 13

## Introduction

Kinship care involves the full-time care of a child by a close family friend or relative. Over two million children currently reside with non-parental relatives within the United States.<sup>1</sup> Kinship care can take several forms including informal and formal kinship care. Informal kinship care is the most common form and occurs without any involvement from an outside entity.<sup>2</sup> As of September 2, 2020, 3,548 children (47%) within Washington State of children experiencing out-of-home placement were placed in kinship care (DCYF, 2020). However, 44,000 children lived with a grandparent through informal kinship care arrangements during that same time period in Washington State.<sup>3</sup> Nationally, 59% of kinship care arrangements involve grandparents, which is the most common placement type (2020). In 2018, the U.S. Census Bureau found that over 2.4 million households could be classified as grandparent head-of-households with no parent present (indicating that the grandparents cared for their own grandchildren under the age of 18).<sup>1</sup>

## Financial Help

- **Non-Needy (Child Only) Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF):** Monthly cash grants may be available for relatives who are the primary caregivers raising children. Only the child’s income is considered when determining eligibility. Relatives can choose to exclude a child’s income from the household see [WAC 388-408-0025](#) for more information. Caregivers may also be eligible for a TANF grant for themselves if they meet the eligibility criteria.
  - Recipients of Child-Only TANF may be eligible for additional, time-limited cash payments for help with emergency housing or utility needs through the Additional Requirements for Emergent Needs ([AREN](#)) program. Ask your local Community Services Office (CSO) about these funds.
  - To see if you qualify for assistance, visit <https://www.washingtonconnection.org/home/>

### **Find your local Community Services Office**

Phone: 1-877-501-2233

Web: [www.dshs.wa.gov/esa/esa-find-office](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/esa/esa-find-office)

- **Kinship Caregivers Support Program (KCSP):** Short-term funds may be available for relatives caring for children who are not involved with the formal foster care system to help pay for basic needs (food, housing, clothing, etc).

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census. (2018). 2009-2018 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC). Retrieved from [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

<sup>2</sup> Wallace, G.W. (2016). A family right to care: Charting the legal obstacles. *Grand Families. The Contemporary Journal of Research, Practice and Policy*, 3(1).

<sup>3</sup> Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2018). Children in kinship care in Washington. Retrieved from <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/10454-children-in-kinship-care#detailed/2/49/false/1687,1652,1564,1491,1443,1218,1049,995/any/20158,20159>

## How to Apply

Phone: 1-800-422-3263 or 360-584-2450

Locate a local KCSP Office (Aging and Long-Term Support Administration): 1-800-422-3263

Web: [www.dshs.wa.gov/altsa/hcs/kinship-care/benefits](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/altsa/hcs/kinship-care/benefits) (Click on "Financial Help")

## Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) Resources

- **Supports for Kinship Caregivers Involved with the Formal Child Welfare System**
  - **Relative Support Service Funds:** provide short-term support to relatives that are not licensed foster care homes and suitable others parenting a child that has been placed in their care by DCYF.
  - **Concrete Goods:** Funds to help support or maintain a child's placement with their family member. May be available for unlicensed kinship caregivers or those in the process of becoming licensed.
  - **Additional Resources:** Kinship caregivers may be eligible for additional supports such as a one-time clothing voucher or mileage reimbursement for transportation to activities such as counseling and medical appointments. Please talk with your child's caseworker for more information.

## Health Resources

- **Health Insurance for Children in Kinship Care:** Children living with a relative caregiver may be eligible for free Washington Apple Health coverage. An application must be filled out online or by calling the customer service center.
  - **Caregivers:** May be eligible for free or low-cost health insurance coverage for themselves and may apply at the same time they apply for the child in their care.

## Apply for Washington Apple Health

Phone: 1-855-923-4633

Web: [www.wahealthplanfinder.org](http://www.wahealthplanfinder.org)

- **Health Insurance for Children in Foster Care – Apple Health Core Connections:** Statewide program operated by the managed care contractor, Coordinated Care of Washington.
  - This program is for children and youth who are in foster care, Adoption Support, Extended Foster Care and alumni of foster care until age 26.
  - Tribal children remain in the Apple Health fee for service program unless their tribe or the Department of Children Youth and Families (DCYF) caseworker chooses to enroll the child into Apple Health Core Connections.
  - Children who are dependents of the State are automatically eligible for Washington Apple Health (managed care or fee for service) and no application is needed. DCYF electronically informs Health Care Authority when a child is taken into foster care and eligibility is rapidly established.
  - For more information, contact your child's case worker or call Coordinated Care of Washington.

**Contact Coordinated Care of Washington**

Phone: 1-844-354-9876

Web: [www.coordinatedcarehealth.com/members/foster-care.html](http://www.coordinatedcarehealth.com/members/foster-care.html)

- **Washington Poison Control Center:** Provides immediate, 24/7 free expert treatment advice and assistance by phone in case of exposure. All calls are confidential.

**Contact the Washington Poison Control Center**

Phone: 1-800-222-1222

Web: [www.wapc.org](http://www.wapc.org)

- **Take-Back Your Meds:** safely dispose of unused medication at a take-back location and mail back envelopes.

**Find a Take-Back Your Meds location**

Web: [www.takebackyourmeds.org](http://www.takebackyourmeds.org)

- **Child Health Promotion:** Materials for children ages birth to six years. Materials are age specific and include information about immunizations, growth, development, safety, nutrition and other parenting topics.

**Information about Child Health Promotion**

Phone: 360-236-4171

Web: [www.childprofile.org](http://www.childprofile.org)

- **Washington State Department of Health:** Publications available about hundreds of health related topics.

Web: [www.doh.wa.gov/publications](http://www.doh.wa.gov/publications)

**Health Care Providers**

- **Accessing health care while enrolled in Washington Apple Health:** Children and adults eligible for Washington Apple Health coverage are enrolled in a managed care plan that can help identify providers for their physical and behavioral healthcare needs.

- Tribe members are not automatically assigned to a managed care plan, but instead are enrolled in fee for service coverage. Tribe members can choose to enroll in one of the managed care plans listed below. Contact your managed care plan for help.

[Amerigroup Washington \(AMG\)](#)

1-800-600-4441

[Community Health Plan of Washington \(CHPW\)](#)

1-800-944-1247

[Coordinated Care of Washington \(CCW\)](#)

1-877-644-4613

[Molina Healthcare of Washington \(MHW\)](#)

1-877-385-5910

[United Healthcare Community Plan \(UHC\)](#)

1-844-701-2105

**Contact the Health Care Authority to find out which plan you're enrolled in or to request a change**

Phone: 1-800-562-3022

- Consent to Health Care for the Child in Your Care (Consent for Medical Care form): State law allows relative caregivers to give informed consent for medical care for the child in their care (including dental and mental health care), even if they do not have a court order.
  - Caring for a child in State custody? Talk with the social worker to understand the court's role in approving medical care.

**Information about Health Care Consent**

Web: [www.dshs.wa.gov/kinshipcare](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/kinshipcare) (\*click on Publications and search for the brochure titled *Consent to Health Care for the Child in Your Care: A Kinship Caregivers Guide*). PDF available in: [English](#), [Cambodian](#), [Russian](#), [Somali](#), [Spanish](#), and [Vietnamese](#)

Phone: 1-800-422-3263 or 360-584-2450

Request a legal packet from the Aging and Long-Term Support Administration: 1-800-422-3263

**For more in-depth information about healthcare consent, visit**

[www.washingtonlawhelp.org/issues/family-law/non-parents-caring-for-children](http://www.washingtonlawhelp.org/issues/family-law/non-parents-caring-for-children)

**Dental Services for Children and Adults**

- Washington Apple Health: Dental coverage information for children and adults can be found at <https://www.hca.wa.gov/free-or-low-cost-dental-care>
- Locate-Low Cost Dental Clinics by County: [www.theMightyMouth.org](http://www.theMightyMouth.org)
- WA State Dental Association: Find a dentist, reduced cost dentistry and special needs dentistry at [www.wsda.org](http://www.wsda.org)
- 2-11 Washington Information Network (WIN): Speak with an information and referral specialist for assistance finding local dentists. Translators available.
  - Web: <https://wa211.org/>
  - Phone: 2-1-1
- Washington State Department of Health Dental Resources: [www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/OralHealth/FindingDentalCare](http://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/OralHealth/FindingDentalCare)
- The Center for Pediatric Dentistry (CPD): a collaboration between the University of Washington and Seattle Children's Hospital that provides specialty dental care to children of all ages, including children with special needs. Apple Health is accepted.

### Contact the Center for Pediatric Dentistry

Phone: 206-543-5800

Web: [www.thecenterforpediatricdentistry.com](http://www.thecenterforpediatricdentistry.com)

### Help with Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorders

#### **Local Agencies Providing Substance Abuse Disorder Services**

Phone: 1-866-789-1511 Washington Recovery Help Line

Web: [www.warecoveryhelpline.org](http://www.warecoveryhelpline.org)

*For local agencies providing substance use disorder services to individuals enrolled in Apple Health coverage, contact your managed care plan.*

- **StartTalkingNow.org:** Sponsored by the Washington Healthy Youth Coalition (WHYC). The mission is to prevent and reduce under age alcohol and marijuana use.
  - Web: [www.StartTalkingNow.org](http://www.StartTalkingNow.org)
- **Washington State’s Wraparound with Intensive Services (WISE):** Comprehensive behavioral health services for Medicaid eligible youth from birth to age 21 with complex behavioral health needs and their families.
  - Web: <https://www.hca.wa.gov/billers-providers-partners/behavioral-health-recovery/wraparound-intensive-services-wise>
- **Resources for locating Behavioral Health services:** Washington State Health care Authority
  - Phone: 1-360-725-1500
  - Web: <https://doh.wa.gov/behavioral-health-resources>
- **Teen Link:** A confidential and non-judgmental help line for teens. Trained peer volunteers answer phone calls every evening from 6 – 10 pm. The volunteers listen to concerns and provide information about agencies serving youth in Washington State. Teen Link is a program of Crisis Connections.
  - Phone or Text: 1.866.789.1511
  - Web: [www.warecoveryhelpline.org/resources](http://www.warecoveryhelpline.org/resources)

### Health Care Providers

- **Suicide Prevention Lifeline**  
Phone: 9-8-8  
  
Web: [www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org)
- **Emergency Assistance:** Call 911 if someone needs help right away or if there is an immediate danger.

## Children with Special Needs

- Washington State Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT): provides intervention services for children aged birth to three.

**If you care for a child with a disability or have a concern about a child's development, contact the Family Health Hotline and ask for your local Family Resource Coordinator.**

Phone: 1-800-322-2558 (TTY 711)

Web: [www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/child-development-supports/esit](http://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/child-development-supports/esit)

- Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI): Information about Special Education in Washington State.
  - Phone: 360-725-6000
  - Web: <https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/special-education>
- DSHS Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA): Services for people diagnosed with an intellectual or developmental disability or delay. Services depend on need and funding. Services include individual and family support, personal care, employment support, day programs and residential care.
  - Web: [www.dshs.wa.gov/dda](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/dda) (*Information listed under "Eligibility"*)
- Informing Families: News and information for families and individuals to promote active participation in planning and building a network of support and opportunities. This resource is provided by the Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council in collaboration with the DDA and other statewide partners.
  - Web: [www.informingfamilies.org](http://www.informingfamilies.org)
- Children with Special Health Care Needs: Program that promotes an integrated system of services for infants, children and youth up to 18 years of age who have are at high risk for chronic physical, developmental, behavioral or emotional conditions and require special services.
  - Web: [www.doh.wa.gov/ChildrenwithSpecialHealthCareNeeds](http://www.doh.wa.gov/ChildrenwithSpecialHealthCareNeeds)
- PAVE: Support, training, information and resources to empower individuals, youth and families impacted by disabilities.
  - Phone: 1-800-5-PARENT
  - Web: [www.wapave.org](http://www.wapave.org)

## Child Care, Early Learning and Respite

- Relative caregivers may qualify for one of Washington State's funded child care programs, including:
  - Working Connections Child Care (WCC) for employed caregivers
  - Seasonal Child Care for seasonal agriculture workers: Caregivers may qualify even if only one person in a couple is working. If both are legal guardians of the child and listed in court documents, both must be working to qualify.
- Homeless Child Care for families who are temporarily homeless (limited to certain counties): Caregivers must not be eligible for any other state funded child care program and must be engaged in an approved activity, such as looking for work or housing.



### Contact the Washington State Customer Service Center

Phone: 1-844-626-8687

Web: [www.dcyf.wa.gov](http://www.dcyf.wa.gov)

- **Child Care Aware:** Offers childcare and early learning programs information and referral  
Phone: 1-866-446-1114  
Web: <https://childcareawarewa.org/>
- **Child Find:** An Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) mandate that seeks to identify all children with disabilities who would benefit from public services.
  - If you suspect your child under the age of three may have a disability, contact **[Within Reach of Washington State: 1-800-322-2588](#)**
  - Contact your local school district to locate the Child Find program for children over the age of three.
- **Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) and Head Start:** Free services for three- and four-year-olds who have risk factors that could interfere with school activities, including children in Kinship Care.

### Contact Early Child Education and Assistance Program and Head Start

Phone: 425-453-1227

Web: [www.wsaheadstarteceap.com](http://www.wsaheadstarteceap.com)

- **Lifespan Respite:** Provides temporary caregiving relief through planned or emergency respite for family caregivers that care for a child or adult with special needs. Respite care is provided in home and other settings, such as camps.

Contact Lifespan Respite, WA sponsored by PAVE

Phone: 1-800-572-7368

Web: [www.lifespanrespitewa.org](http://www.lifespanrespitewa.org)

- **Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) Respite:** Available services for licensed and unlicensed caregivers with the placement of children in DCYF or tribal custody. Caregivers are encouraged to access respite care services in emergency situations and to support the child's placement stability with caregiving family. Contact the child's caseworker with more information.

### Educational Advocacy

- **Office of the Education Ombuds (OEO):** Resolves complaints, disputes and problems between families and public schools in all areas that effect student learning.
  - The OEO operates independently from the public school system. Free services are available for students from kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> grade and are confidential.

**Contact OEO with questions about the public education system**

Phone: 1-866-297-2597

Web: [www.oeo.wa.gov](http://www.oeo.wa.gov)

- **McKinney Vento: Education of Homeless Children and Youth Assistance Act** is a federal law that ensures immediate enrollment and educational stability for homeless children and youth. McKinney Vento provides federal funding to states for the purpose of supporting district programs that serve homeless students.

**Learn more about McKinney Vento**

Phone: 360-725-6000 (*Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction*)

Web: <https://www.k12.wa.us/mckinney-vento-act>

Food Assistance

- **Washington's Basic Food Program:** monthly food benefits

**See if you qualify and apply for assistance**

Web: <https://www.washingtonconnection.org>

**Find your local Community Services Office (CSO)**

Phone: 1-877-501-2233

Web: [www.dshs.wa.gov/esa/esa-find-office](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/esa/esa-find-office)

- **Free and Reduced School Breakfast and Lunch:** If a child is eligible for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), foster care, McKinney Vento or Basic food, he/she may also be eligible for free or reduced school meals. Contact your child's school for more information.
- **Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program:** A supplemental food program for children ages 0-5 and new or pregnant mothers. Relatives and foster parents that are primary caregivers of children may also receive WIC services for the children in their care. WIC provides monthly checks to help purchase healthy food, nutrition education and health screenings and referrals.

**Find your local WIC office**

Phone: 1-800-841-1410

Web: [www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/WIC](http://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/WIC)

- **Summer Meal Program:** All children 18 years or younger, regardless of household income, are eligible for free meals from organizations that serve meals during summer.  
Phone: 1-866-3-HUNGRY  
Web: [www.fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks](http://www.fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks)

#### **Find your local Food Bank**

Phone: 211

Web: [www.211.org](http://www.211.org)

#### **Child Support**

- **Division of Child Support (DCS):** You can apply for DCS services even if you don't receive any public assistance. Receiving benefits from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) will automatically result in DCS establishing a case.
  - DCS establishing paternity can help the family access benefits the child may be eligible for such as Social Security and also help provide a family medical history.
  - If you are afraid that establishing paternity or enforcing child support may be dangerous for you or the child, contact your local Community Services Office to discuss "good cause" which is a waiver of child support enforcement.
  - DCS will enforce an existing child support order, such as a divorce decree, or will establish a support order is needed. DCS sets support obligations based on a parent's ability to pay. DCS will also attempt to have the parents cover the child on their own medical insurance, if available.

#### **Contact the Division of Child Support**

Phone: 1-800-422-KIDS (1-800-442-5437)

Web: [www.childsupportonline.wa.gov](http://www.childsupportonline.wa.gov)

#### **Kinship Services**

- **Kinship Navigators:** Experts that serve as a one-stop-shop providing information and assistance for people caring for their relative's child(ren). They can help connect you with lots of services in the community. Kinship Navigators serve most areas of the state. Tribal Navigators serve a limited number of tribes.

#### **Contact a Kinship Navigator**

Phone: 1-800-422-3263 or 360-584-2450

Web: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/altsa/kinship-care>

#### **Local Relatives Raising Children Support Groups**

Phone: 1-800-422-3263 or 360-725-3543 or 360-725-3544

Web: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/kinship-care-support-services> (Click on "Support Groups" and select your county or city)

- **Alliance for Child Welfare Excellence:** Offer free training for both kinship caregivers (licensed and unlicensed) and foster parents. Classes are offered during the evenings, weekends and online.

**Web:** <https://alliance.org/support-for-caregivers/>

- Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF): Information about kinship care, foster care and the child welfare system.

**Web:** [www.dcyf.wa.gov](http://www.dcyf.wa.gov)

[www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/foster-parenting](http://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/foster-parenting)

### Printed Kinship Care Materials

- Grandparents and Relatives – Do You Know about Services and Supports for You and the Children in Your Care? (*DSHS 22-1120*): A list of resources, benefits and support services available to relatives raising children.
  - Download online or request a print copy at
    - [DSHS Kinship Publications | DSHS \(wa.gov\)](#)
    - PDF available in: [English](#), [Cambodian](#), [Chinese](#), [Korean](#), [Laotian](#), [Russian](#), [Somali](#), [Spanish](#), and [Vietnamese](#).
- A Guide to Child Support Services for Relative Caregivers (*DSHS 22-1143*): An explanation of services provided by the Division of Child Support (DCS) for people caring for a relative's child.
  - Download online or request a print copy at <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/SESA/publications-library>
  - Available in [English](#).
- [Kinship Care: Relative and Suitable Other Placement](#): Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) publication providing basic information about what kinship caregivers can expect if DCYF places a child in kinship care.
- [Understanding the Dependency Court Process for Caregivers](#): A DCYF publication explaining the complex dependency court process and how it impacts family.
  - PDF Available in [English](#), [Arabic](#), [Cambodian](#), [Chinese](#), [Korean](#), [Laotian](#), [Somali](#), [Spanish](#), [Vietnamese](#), and [Russian](#)

### Legal Resources

- [Northwest Justice Project \(NJP\)](#): Free self-help information, including a website and 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.  
**Contact information for people under age 60 and low income**  
Phone: 1-888-201-1014  
Phone (King County): 206-464-1519 or 2-1-1  
**Contact information for people over the age 60 at any income level**  
Phone: 1-888-387-7111
- [Washington Law Help](#): Free legal services for low-income people in Washington, including legal education materials and basic information about legal problems. Legal forms with detailed instructions are available to help you represent yourself in court. Locate information about free legal aid programs, basic eligibility and contact information.  
**Web:** [www.washingtonlawhelp.org](http://www.washingtonlawhelp.org)
- Legal Advice and Referral for Kinship Care (LAARK) The mission of LAARK is to provide guidance and legal advice to kinship caregivers on matters that relate to their ability to meet physical, mental, social, educational, and other needs of children and youth in their care. Topics include

guardianship statutes, the child welfare system, and other issues relating to child custody. To connect with a LAARK attorney please [contact the Kinship Navigator](#) in your area.

- **Options for Grandparents and Other Nonparental Caregivers: A Legal Guide for Washington State**  
This handbook is for grandparents and other non-parent caregivers regarding legal relationships with the children in their care.
  - PDF available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)
  - Print copies are available through ALTSA (1-800-422-3263 or 360-584-2450) or Kinship Navigators.
- **Consent to Health Care for the Child in Your Care: A Kinship Caregiver’s Guide (DSHS 22-1119):** A publication describing a relative’s rights and responsibilities.
  - Download online or request a print copy at <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/SESA/publications-library>
  - PDF available in: [English](#), [Cambodian](#), [Russian](#), [Somali](#), [Spanish](#), and [Vietnamese](#)

### **Contacts for Receiving Legal Assistance**

Phone: 1-800-422-3263 or 360-584-2450 for a legal packet from the Aging and Long-Term Support Administration

Web: [www.washingtonlawhelp.org/issues/family-law/non-parents-caring-for-children](http://www.washingtonlawhelp.org/issues/family-law/non-parents-caring-for-children)

### General Resources

- **Kinship Care in Washington State:** Offers information about resources and services such as benefits, health care, legal issues and more  
Phone: 1-800-422-3263  
Web: [www.dshs.wa.gov/kinshipcare](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/kinshipcare)
- **WithinReach Hotline:** Provides information and referrals about 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.  
Phone: 1-800-322-2588 (TTY 771)  
Web: [www.parenthelp123.org](http://www.parenthelp123.org)
- **Community Living Connections:** Learn about services and support options in your community for older adults, persons with disabilities and caregivers.  
Phone: 1-855-567-0252  
Web: [www.washingtoncommunitylivingconnections.org](http://www.washingtoncommunitylivingconnections.org)

### Questions? For additional information, contact:

- Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF): [Geene Delaplane](#) 360-688-0391
- Economic Services Administration (ESA): [Sarah Garcia](#) 360-522-2214 or [Patrick Budde](#) 360-725-4769
- Health Care Authority (HCA): [Kristen Royal](#) 360-725-9412
- Aging and Long-Term Support Administration (AL TSA): [Rosalyn Alber](#) 360-584-2450