

Kinship Care

Tribal Summit – Spring 2021

Who are Kinship Caregivers?

Kinship Caregivers: Grandparents,
Aunts/Uncles, Siblings, Cousins, Steps....

Types of Kinship Families

Formal Kinship Families

- Children that have an open case or dependency with Children's Services through the Tribal Court/ Indian Child Welfare (ICW) or Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF).
- These children are removed from the parents' custody and placed with a family member or suitable other.
- The goal here is to reunite the child with their birth parent when possible or to establish permanency with the family member or suitable other when reunification is not deemed appropriate for the child well being.

Informal Kinship Families

- Children that live with a relative without any formal child welfare system involvement.
- Often times, the family member has taken the child into their home to avoid any formal interventions from the child welfare system.
- These caregivers may or may not have pursued formal legal custody arrangements through the courts.
- You may say taking care of your grandchildren or nieces/nephews we call that informal kinship care.

What is a Kinship Navigator?

- Listen, support and advocate for Kinship families
- Collaborate with multiple agencies (tribal, state, community agencies)
- Provide information, referral, education and advocacy
- Kinship is Prevention
- Families that are served by KN are made stronger
- Community Involvement

Tribal Kinship Navigators

- Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
- Lummi Tribe
- Makah Tribe
- Port Gamble/S'kallam Tribe
- Quileute Tribe
- Samish Tribe
- Yakama Nation

Tribal Kinship Navigators

Families served through the Tribal KNP:

- 663 kinship caregivers received services
- 1321 different types of information and referrals to various services
- 950 children living with a tribal caregiver

Tribal Navigators Response to COVID

- Food
- Activity kits
- Reaching out to families on a regular bases because of social isolation
- Assisting kinship caregivers with pivoting to home schooling children.
- Staff were diligent in connecting with caregivers and continuing to serve their needs – even though the tribal communities were hit so hard by COVID.

Tribal Respite Projects

- Lummi – Pre-covid hosted a multiagency (tribal and non-tribal partners) day long Tribal Respite Summit. Agencies and tribal departments gathered and shared resources and information on respite.
- Port Gamble was going to host a Tribal Respite Summit but COVID happened.
- Port Gamble has been working with the SEUI union to develop a training for community members to get trained to become paid respite providers. They have 9 families who will start training soon.

2018

Statewide Kinship Care Legal Aid Coordinator

- SB 5651 passed creating a Statewide Kinship Legal Aid Coordinator position.
- Duties of the Coordinator include the establishment of a statewide kinship caregivers legal aid support and training and to identify and facilitate the development of local and regional kinship care legal aid initiatives.
- The coordinator must develop training materials designed to help free and low cost attorneys provide legal advice and assistance 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.

New Minor Guardianship Law Effective January 1, 2021

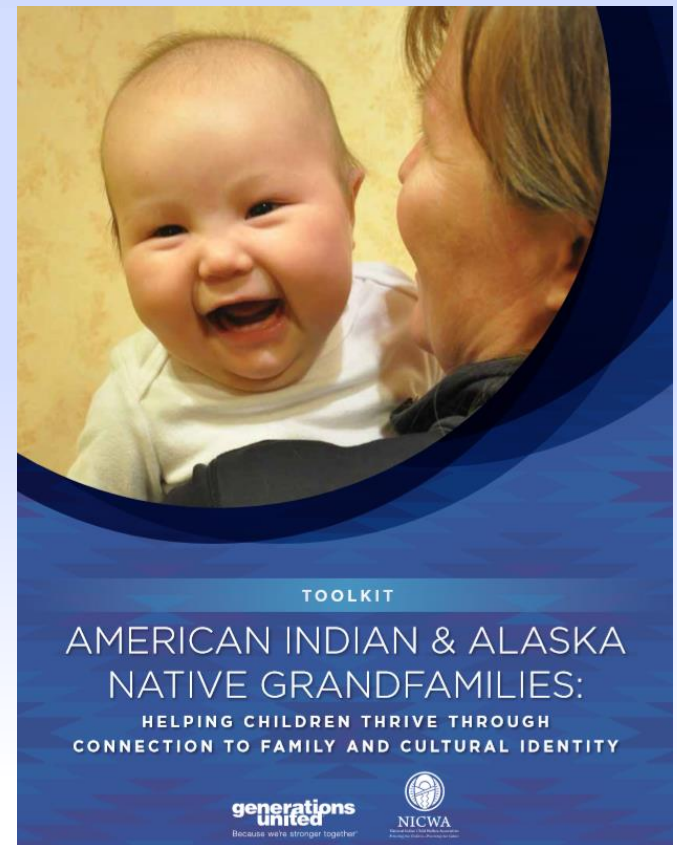
- RCW 11.130
- Washington State's non-parent custody law is ending in 2021 and a new court procedure will be taking its place.
- FAQs – This FAQ should not be considered legal advice. The information provided below is for informational purposes only. You are advised to consult with an attorney to assist you in determining your options.
- The new law is not effective until January 1, 2021. Information about local court procedures, such as case schedules or local rules and forms, is limited as of the date of this document. Please check with your local courts for more information.
- Helpful links:
- [FAQs about Minor Guardianship](#)
- [Resources and Forms](#)

Kinship Tool Kit

Generations United and NICWA

American Indian & Alaska Native Grandfamilies: Helping Children Thrive Through Connection to Family and Cultural Identity

<https://www.gu.org/resources/american-indian-alaska-native-grandfamilies-helping-children-thrive-through-connection-to-family-and-cultural-identity/>



Helpful Websites and General Information

“Do You Know” brochure (DSHS 22-1120)

- <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/SESA/publications/documents/22-1120.pdf>

DSHS — ALTA Kinship Care Webpage

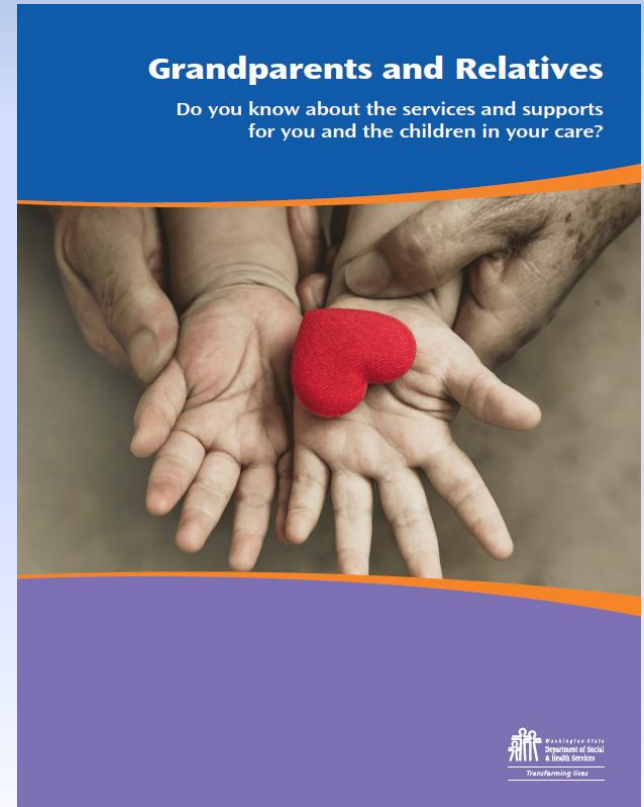
- <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/altsa/home-and-community-services-kinship-care/kinship-care>

211 Washington

- <https://wa211.org/>

Apply for public food, cash and child care benefits

- Washington Connection--
<https://www.washingtonconnection.org>



Thank you!

- **We appreciate all the work you do on behalf of children and families.**

Contact Information

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