



**Session 2: Practical
Navigation and
Support Systems**

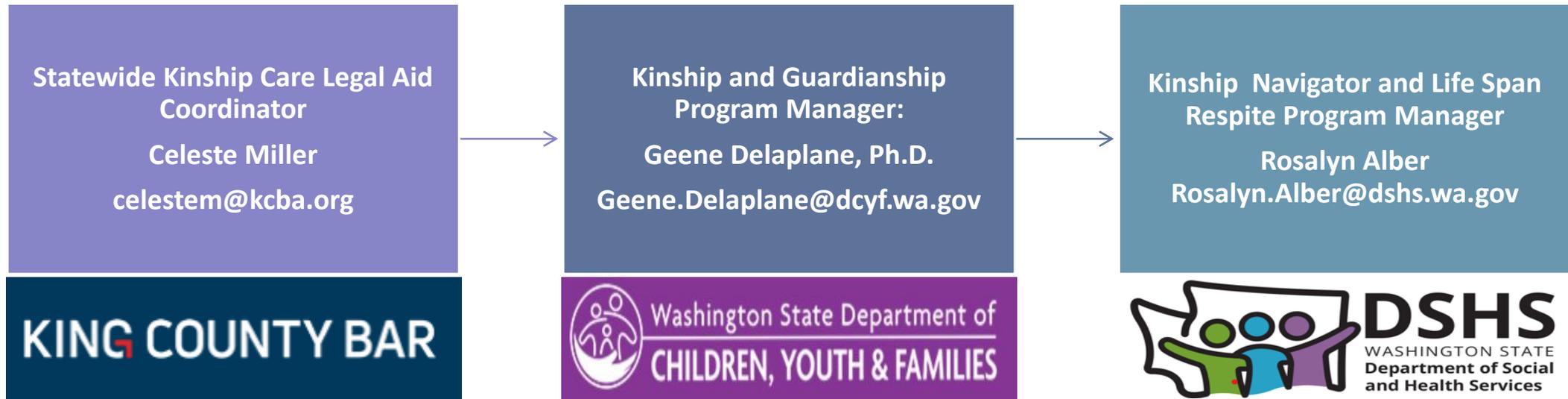
**Bridging Systems:
Understanding Guardianship
Across Courts, DCYF, and
Communities Series**



**WASHINGTON
COURTS**

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTES

Trainers



Definition of Kinship

Children raised by grandparents, other extended family members, and adults such as close family friends because biological parents are unable to do so

Kinship caregivers are typically classified into two categories:

- Formal kinship-involved with child welfare system
- Informal kinship-not involved with child welfare system



Why this topic matters?

Judges and commissioners influence legal pathways, not service design—but pathways affect access.

Attorneys advise caregivers who often assume “guardianship is guardianship.”

DCYF and community partners see the effects when supports are missing.



Services and Funding Disparities

Financial Supports

- GAP / EGAP → only available through dependency
- Non-needy TANF → limited, flat, and not child-specific
- Private guardians often rely on fixed income or retirement

Support Services

- Case planning and referrals
- Behavioral health coordination
- Post-permanency supports

Navigation Burden

- Title 11 caregivers must self-navigate:
 - Courts
 - Benefits
 - Education
 - Healthcare

Kinship in Washington State

Children in kinship care refers to situations in which children are cared for full time by blood relatives or other adults with whom they have a family-like relationship, such as godparents or close family friends.

[Washington Fact Sheet 2024 Update.pdf](#)



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



What Services do Kinship Caregivers Actually Need?

Washington State Kinship Navigator Pilot Evaluation Results: 12 Months Post

Legal information and legal services

- Help understanding custody, guardianship, consent, and benefits eligibility
- Ongoing legal navigation remains important well beyond initial placement

Access to financial supports

- Assistance enrolling in Child-Only TANF and other existing benefits
- Financial stability improves caregiver capacity to sustain care

System navigation (not just referrals)

- Help understanding and following up with complex systems
- Support over time, not one-time information

Emotional support for caregivers

- Validation, listening, and stress management
- Improved caregiver wellbeing is linked to placement stability

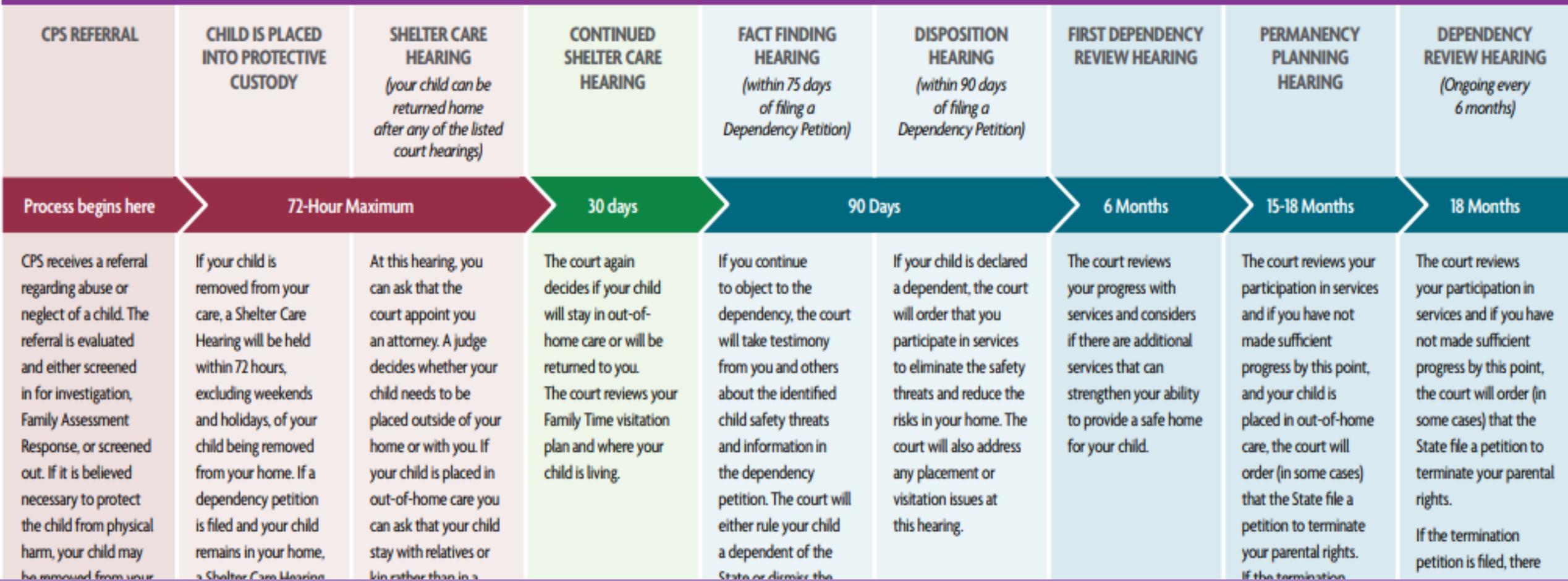
Peer support and connection

- Participation in kinship support groups reduces isolation
- Peer networks help normalize challenges and problem-solve

Short-term material supports (as needed)

- Durable goods, school supplies, and basic needs
- Most effective when paired with longer-term navigation

Dependency Court Process Timeline – Please make sure you talk with your attorney about your court hearings.



DCYF Involved Families

[CWP_0044 Understanding Dependency Court](#)

DCYF – Supports for Kinship Homes

Unlicensed

- DCYF can provide Vouchers/Services/Concrete Goods
- Encouraged to apply for Non-Needy TANF

Initial License

- 90 days of Basic Foster Level will be paid
- Encouraged to apply for Non-Needy TANF while waiting for the Initial License funding to begin.
- DCYF can provide Vouchers/Services/Concrete Goods

Full Kinship License

- Ongoing Basic Foster and Level (if applicable) will be paid
- DCYF cannot pay for rent, utilities, clothing,* personal incidentals

*Clothing vouchers can be approved only when there is an exceptional clothing need not met through local community resources or the standard clothing allowance in the foster care monthly payment.

TANF and Food Benefits

Non-Needy TANF

- All non-licensed and Initial licensed families should apply
- Based on child's income

SNAP

- Some families may qualify
- Based on family's income

WIC

- Children 0-5 in foster care qualify

In All Cases

- Apply as soon as possible
- Child Support Collection/Good cause request (SNAP/TANF)
- Report to DSHS after first licensing payment (SNAP/TANF)

Why a License?

Foster Care Maintenance Payments for Licensed Caregivers Only: Current January 2024

Ages	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7
	Basic Maintenance Foster Care	Support Needs: Adolescent Low Needs	Support Needs: Chronic Physical Health	Support Needs: Developmental Disability	Support Needs: Developmental Disability & Chronic Physical Health	Support Needs: Moderate Mental Health Needs	Support Needs: Complex Health
Rates for Caregiver Support Levels Based on Age – Levels 2-7 include Basic							
0 - 5 years	\$722.00	N/A	\$1,407.00	\$1,749.50	\$2,092.00	\$2,434.50	\$2,777.00
6 - 11 years	\$846.00	N/A	\$1,531.00	\$1,873.50	\$2,216.00	\$2,558.50	\$2,901.00
12 years and older	\$860.00 (Initial license only)	\$1,202.50	\$1,545.00	\$1,887.50	\$2,230.00	\$2,572.50	\$2,915.00

Non- Needy TANF Grant	
1 Child	\$450
2 Children	\$570
3 Children	\$706

Licensed Home

Family of 3 children –
Licensed Foster Home (level 1 \$722 per child) = \$2,166

Family of 3 children –
Non-needy TANF Grant = around \$706
Total

Non-needy TANF

Caregiver Supports Project (Phase 2)

Behavioral Case Aide Hours Child or Youth are Level 3-7

Placement Support Level	Pre-Authorized Monthly Behavioral Case Aide Hours
1	0
2	0
3	9
4	12
5	15
6	17
7	20

Types of Support for Caregivers

Education advocacy

Health and well-being coordination

Childcare support

Culturally and developmentally appropriate care

Transition to adulthood

Developing specific behavioral strategies

Crisis support

The Alliance CaRES* Program

CaRES provides:

- Different kinds of support groups
- Referrals to trainings
- General guidance on getting licensed
- Robust website full of information and resources alliancecares.org
- Linkage to community resources
- Caregiver mentors with lived experience who:
 - Provide a supportive, listening ear
 - Support open communication
 - Assist with system challenges

CaRES contacts kinship caregivers:

- With a new placement within seven business days.
- Who inquire or are referred within five business days.

You can refer a caregiver to CaRES:

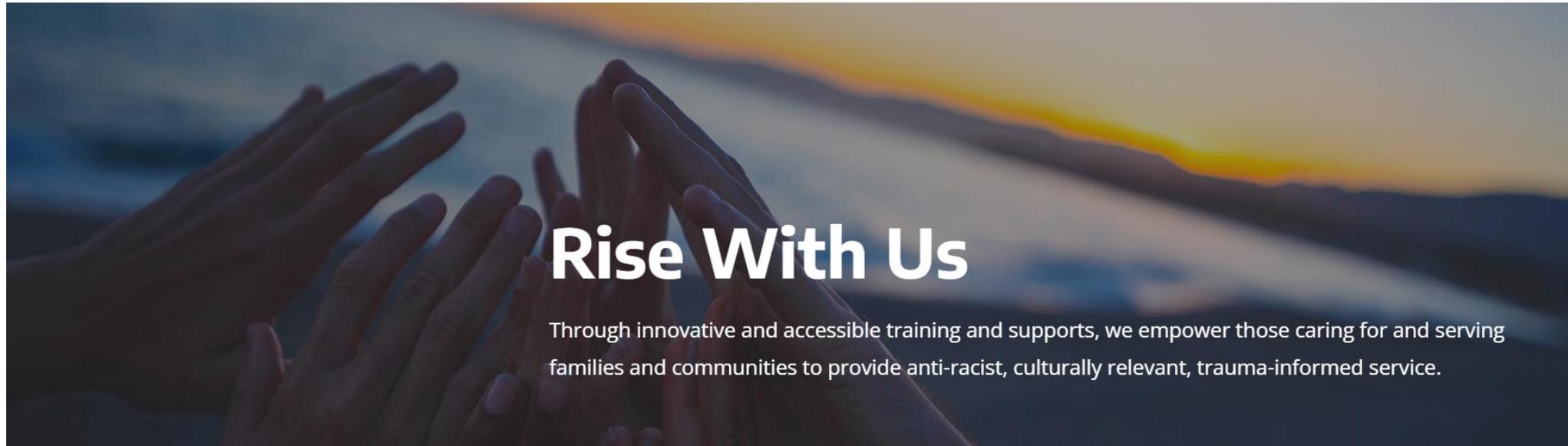
- Email alliancecares@uw.edu
 - Caregiver(s) name, email, and phone number
 - Type of support needed
 - Preferred language
- Let the caregiver know that CaRES will contact them.
- Give the caregiver CaRES' email address. They can self-refer, too!

*CaRES stands for Caregiver Retention, Education, and Support.
They are contracted by DCYF to provide caregiver retention and support services.

Training for caregivers



ABOUT THE ALLIANCE ▾ PROGRAMS ▾ COURSES CALENDAR TECH SUPPORT



Rise With Us

Through innovative and accessible training and supports, we empower those caring for and serving families and communities to provide anti-racist, culturally relevant, trauma-informed service.

[Alliance-courses](#)

CWP 0074 Kinship Care: Relatives and Suitable Others



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Guardianship and Adoption Comparison Guide

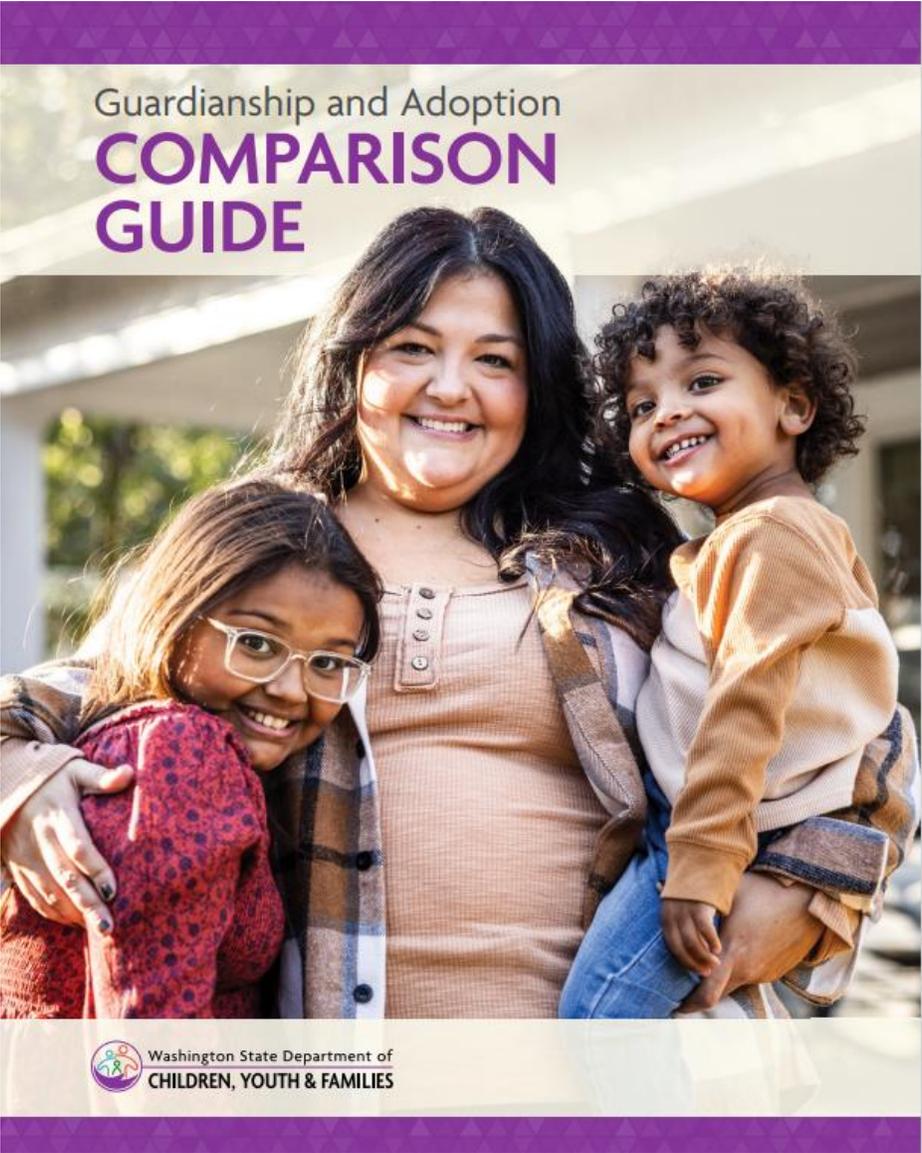


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Extended Support Programs for Youth and Young Adults

Navigating the complexities of adoption, guardianship, and foster care can be challenging, especially for youth, their attorneys, and caregivers. When making decisions about the future, it's important to understand what support programs are available and their differences. This publication highlights three key programs available to youth after the age of 18: Extended Adoption Support, Extended Guardianship Assistance Program, and Extended Foster Care.



By understanding these programs, youth, their attorneys, and caregivers can make informed decisions that will positively impact their lives. This publication aims to provide clear, concise information to help navigate these options and choose the best path forward.

✔ Extended Adoption Support (EAS):

Adoption Support will automatically end on the youth's 18th birthday. If the youth was adopted at age 16 or over, they may be eligible to receive benefits through the Extended Adoption Support program. The Extended Adoption Support program may offer benefits until the youth reaches 21 if they are eligible.

✔ Extended Guardianship Assistance Program (EGAP):

Guardians who receive a GAP subsidy benefit for a youth in their care should be aware this benefit will automatically end on a child's 18th birthday. The extended GAP program may offer extended benefits until the youth reaches 21 if they are eligible. This program was established to help ensure that guardians can continue to provide a stable environment to assist a youth to transition into adulthood.

✔ Extended Foster Care (EFC):

Supports youth who age out of the foster care system, providing them with continued assistance as they transition to adulthood. This program offers services such as housing, education, and employment support, helping young adults build a strong foundation for their future.



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Extended Support Programs For Youth and Young Adults

Post-Permanency Subsidy and More

GUARDIANSHIP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Post Permanency Subsidy Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP) Subsidy Eligibility

Guardianship Title 13 – Eligibility

1. The child must be under 18 years old when the GAP agreement is signed and the guardianship is finalized in court.
2. The child must be in a dependency through DCYF or a federally recognized tribe in Washington State. (Both parents)
3. The child must have been removed from their home by a court because it was not safe or it was in their best interest to not be in their home.
4. The caregiver must be:
 - a. A fully licensed foster parent(s).
 - b. Received foster care payments for at least 6 consecutive months for the child or youth named in the guardianship before the guardianship is finalized. The time in the Initial License does not count towards the 6 months.
 - c. Licensed at the time the guardianship is finalized.

The guardian **MUST** enter into a subsidy agreement prior to the establishment of the guardianship.

Guardianship Title 11

SOME Title 11 Guardianship of a Minor (**excludes temporary and immediate**) may be eligible for GAP subsidies if they meet all eligibility criteria for a Guardianship Title 13 GAP subsidy.

Post Permanency Subsidy Monthly Financial Assistance

Guardianship Title 13

Guardianship Title 11

Monthly Cash Subsidy:

- Monthly payment to help cover the child's living expenses.
- The amount is based on the needs of the child and the caregivers' circumstances.
- The amount is received by a check or direct deposit once the guardianship is finalized.
- Per state law, may not exceed 80 to 95% of the foster care maintenance payment for that child, depending on the child's age at guardianship.
- It is rare for the monthly amount be at the maximum statutory rate.

Post Permanency Subsidy Monthly Financial Assistance – Determination

Guardianship Title 13

Guardianship Title 11

Medical/Dental Coverage (Medicaid):

- If the family remains in Washington state, then Apple Health Core Connections (AHCC) may continue to be available.
- If family lives or moves out of state, Washington may not be able to provide medical coverage.
- Some states may be able to open Medicaid coverage for children/youth with a GAP Agreement.
- Contact the Medicaid Office in the state you are moving to for additional information.
- Some guardians have private policies that allow the child to be included, but not all.
- GAP does not cover access to non-Medicaid contracted specialized care including but not limited to group homes, treatment facilities, etc.
- Families may be able to access CLIP and WISE through Medicaid.

How will the Guardianships Assistance Program affect other Public Benefit Programs?

PLEASE CONTACT EACH PUBLIC BENEFIT PROGRAM DIRECTLY FOR QUESTIONS AND MORE INFORMATION AS ELIGIBILITY CHANGES.

Program	Guardianship Title 13	Guardianship Title 11
Receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Non-Needy TANF	<p>Non-needy Grant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You cannot receive a GAP Subsidy and a non-needy TANF grant for your kinship child at the same time. • The non-needy relative and legal guardian grant provides TANF benefits including cash and medical assistance for children in the care of a guardian. • The child income, not the caretaker’s income, is used to determine eligibility. • The income of the guardian is not considered, but GAP benefits may impact eligibility. • To apply for Non-needy TANF visit dshs.wa.gov/esa/community-services-offices/non-needy-relative-loco-parentis-and-legal-guardian-grant <p>Needy TANF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income based. • GAP benefits are not counted towards household income. • To apply for Needy TANF visit https://www.dshs.wa.gov/esa/community-services-offices/tanf-and-support-services 	
State Food Benefits: (SNAP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A family may apply for SNAP food benefits. • The guardians’ income is used to determine the household’s eligibility for SNAP. • GAP assistance payments count as income for purposes of determining SNAP eligibility. 	

Program	Guardianship Title 13	Guardianship Title 11
Free and Reduced School Meals	<p>Children or youth who exit foster care during the school year remain eligible for free school meals for the remainder of the school year.</p> <p>After that, the parent/guardian/adoptive parents' income is used to determine if the child is eligible.</p>	
Working Connections Child Care (WCCC)	<p>DCYF will no longer pay your child care once the case is closed.</p> <p>Guardians may qualify for WCCC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The youth's income and not the guardian's income is considered when determining WCCC eligibility. ✓ Guardian(s) must be in an approved work activity may be eligible for WCCC. <p>**** Note this has been significantly impacted by the Governor's Budget this Legislative session so it could be changing.</p>	

Program	Guardianship Title 13	Guardianship Title 11
Women, Infants, & Children (WIC) Nutrition Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guardians with children under 5. Please contact WIC directly for more information at https://doh.wa.gov/you-and-your-family/wic/wic-eligibility If the child receives Title 19 Medicaid as their medical insurance, they are automatically eligible to receive benefits through the WIC program. 	
HeadStart/ECEAP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families are encouraged to access HeadStart/ECEAP. For guardianship, kinship care children, children adopted from foster care only the child and their income are counted when determining eligibility (ex: Adoption Support) For more information contact your local HeadStart/ECEAP Program. <p>Early Learning: www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/earlylearning-childcare/getting-help</p> <p>HeadStart information: https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/earlylearning-childcare/eceap-headstart</p> <p>Kinship Care in ECEAP handout: https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/EL_0002.pdf</p>	

Guardianship Post 18-Support for Youth Extended Guardianship Assistance Program (EGAP)

1. **Have been in a GAP subsidy prior to their 18th birthday.**
2. Joint application process between guardian and youth.
3. Meet one of the five activities:
 - a. Enrolled in high school or high school equivalency program.
 - b. Enrolled, has applied for, or can show intent to timely enroll in a post-secondary academic or vocational program.
 - c. Participating in a program to promote or remove barriers employment, including part-time employment.
 - d. Employed 80 hours or more a month.
 - e. Unable to engage in any of the above activities due to a documented medical condition.
4. Must continue to meet EGAP eligibility and provide verification every six months.

Similar to EFC.



Resources for Any Family!

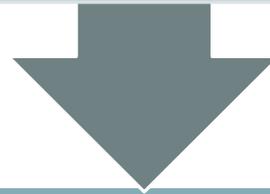
Non-Subsidized Kinship Families

Who are these families?

Non-licensed DCYF families
Title 13 Guardianship

Most -Title 11 Guardianship

Kinship families neither the
courts or DCYF is involved with.



Families may still be eligible for:

Child-Only TANF grant

Apple Health

General Information



! Not getting your SNAP benefits? Find Food Resources.

Topics

Holidays and Winter

- Severe Weather Shelters
- Thanksgiving Meals
- Thanksgiving Baskets
- Christmas Meals
- Christmas Baskets



Disabilities

- Early Intervention
- Employment
- Financial Support
- Assistive Technology



Domestic Violence

- Hotline
- Shelter



Employment

- Job Search
- Job Seeking Skills
- Youth

211 of Washington

- <https://wa211.org/>

Healthcare

Healthcare

- Children in an unsubsidized guardianship or a kinship caregiver (no court order) may be eligible for free Washington Apple Health coverage.
- When applying for medical coverage it is important to apply as the guardian, so the guardians' income is not counted.
- An application must be filled out online or by calling the customer service center. Apply for Washington Health Care Finder by calling 1-855-923-4633 or visiting <http://www.wahealthplanfinder.org/>

EDUCATION



- **Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) Foster Care Program** <https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/access-opportunity-education/foster-care>
- **Treehouse Education Advocacy (only with open dependency)** <https://www.treehouseforkids.org/our-services/educational-advocacy/>
- **Children and Families of Incarcerated Parents Support** <https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/access-opportunity-education/children-and-families-incarcerated-parents>
- **McKinney Vento (many kinship children qualify)** <https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/access-opportunity-education/homeless-education>
- **Office of the Education Ombuds** <https://oeo.wa.gov>

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- **Office of the Education Ombuds** <https://oeo.wa.gov>

OTHER FREE STUFF.....

Pass programs

- Please be sure to review the websites listed below for eligibility and admission details
- Washington State Parks <https://parks.state.wa.us/205/Passes>
- Pacific Science Center <https://www.pacificsciencecenter.org/access/>
- Seattle Aquarium <https://www.seattleaquarium.org/connections-program>
- Woodland Park Zoo <https://www.zoo.org/discounts>
- CaRES List for Free and Discounted Opportunities--
<https://alliancecares.org/resources/>

Support/Resource	DCYF Involved Families		Non-DCYF Families
Benefit	Initial or Unlicensed Kinship Caregivers	Fully Licensed Kinship Caregivers and Community Foster Parents	Informal Kinship Caregivers
Financial Assistance	<p>Yes</p> <p>Non-Needy Relative, In Loco Parentis, and Legal Guardian Grant</p> <p>Child-only means test.</p> <p>Or CWP_0115 Initial Licensing Process</p> <p>OR Initial Licensing Stipend: • Age 0–5: \$722 • Age 5–11: \$846 • Age 12+: \$860</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Foster Care Maintenance (FCM) Payments</p> <p>Caregiver Supports Rates</p> <p>7 Levels - Per Month</p> <p>7 levels by age group (0–5, 5–11, 12+) Levels 1–7 ranging from \$722 to \$2,951</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Non-Needy Relative, In Loco Parentis, and Legal Guardian Grant</p> <p>Child-only means test. Amounts by number of children: 1 = \$450, 2 = \$570, 3 = \$706, 4 = \$833, 5 = \$959</p>

Support Pathways for Caregivers	DCYF Involved Families		Non-DCYF Families
Benefit	Initial or Unlicensed Kinship Caregivers	Fully Licensed Kinship Caregivers and Community Foster Parents	Informal Kinship Caregivers
Concrete Goods (personal care items, baby essentials, help with gas, groceries, utilities)	Yes	Some (FCM expected to cover basic needs; limited concrete goods may be available.)	No (See Kinship Caregiver Support Program)
Kinship Caregiver Support Program (KCSP)	No	No	Some. There is limited funding available
Caregiver Emotional Support CaRES Kinship Navigators	Yes –CaRES Limited – Kinship Navigators	Yes –CaRES Limited – Kinship Navigators	Kinship Navigators
Respite Care	Yes	Yes	No. (Lifespan Respite - PAVE available for disabilities or chronic conditions.)

Support Pathways for Caregivers	DCYF Involved Families		Non-DCYF Families
Benefit	Initial or Unlicensed Kinship Caregivers	Fully Licensed Kinship Caregivers and Community Foster Parents	Informal Kinship Caregivers
Other Educational Supports Foster Care and McKinney-Vento Foster Care Liaisons/DCYF Contacts	Yes	Yes	Some for Students Experiencing Homelessness
Free and Discounted Events Resources - Alliance CaRES	Yes	Yes	Yes
Family Voluntary Services (FVS) In home services. FVS Publication	Yes	Yes	Yes

Grandparents and Relatives

Do you know about the services and supports
for you and the children in your care?



DSHS Kinship Navigators

What is a Kinship
Navigator?

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

How to Find a
Navigator -

https://www.dshs.wa.gov/altsa/kinship-care-support-services?field_counties_value=All&field_kinship_care_resource_type_value=All&field_city_value=All

“Do You Know”
brochure (DSHS
22-1120)

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

Kinship Program Services 2026

WA State

Home and Community Living Administration

(HCLA)

Washington State HCLA Kinship Program Services

Kinship
Navigator
Program
(KNP)

Kinship
Caregiver
Support
Program
(KCSP)

Tribal
Kinship
Navigator
Program

Kinship
Navigator
Case
Management
EBP

Kinship Navigator

- Statewide-funded by the state legislature since 2005.
- Based at HCLA
 - contract with Area Agencies on Aging (AAA's)
 - AAAs provide services or subcontract with local agencies

Kinship Navigators

Kinship Navigators provide information, assistance, and support to caregivers raising their relatives' children both inside and outside of the formal child welfare system.

They help find resources such as:

- Financial
- Medical
- Behavioral health
- Childcare
- Education
- Legal
- Social



Navigating ALTSA/DSHS Kinship Website

<https://bit.ly/wakinship>

- How to find local Navigators
- Examples of what Navigators typically help with
- KCSP -Not available to families with open DCYF cases.
- Support groups



KCSP and Tribal Kinship Navigator Programs

KCSP funds are to provide durable goods for kinship caregivers who are not involved with the child welfare system. These funds can also be used for camps and youth activities as a form of respite

Tribal Kinship Navigator Program-seven of 29 federally recognized tribes in WA state partner with HCLA to provide Tribal Kinship Navigator Program.

- Lummi,
- Quileute,
- Makah,
- Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe,
- Samish,
- Colville, and
- Yakama Nation



Legal Advice and Referral for Kinship Care

What is LAARK?

Legal Advice and Referral for Kinship Care (LAARK) is a free legal advice program for kinship caregivers.

LAARK provides legal advice to kinship caregivers in Washington on matters related to the children in their care. Topics include minor guardianship, the child welfare system, education, housing, and public benefits.

LAARK opened in Fall 2022 and is housed at the King County Bar Association.

Kinship caregivers: family friends and relatives, such as grandparents, who are caring for children when their parents are unable to do so.

- They do **not** have to be a relative to access LAARK services.

Residing anywhere in Washington State.

No income eligibility limits.

Child already in care of the kinship caregiver.

Who is Eligible for LAARK?

What does LAARK do?

- LAARK provides consultations, legal advice, referrals, and brief services.
- LAARK **does not provide representation in court, or full representation.**
- LAARK clients are primarily “informal” kinship caregivers.
 - If the child is subject to a dependency or termination case, LAARK advice is mostly limited to a LAARK publication about how the process works and the caregiver’s rights in the child welfare system.

Categories of Legal Aid



Legal Advice and Referral

- Discuss the client's legal options after a thorough intake
 - Call client back to answer questions
 - Review court documents that the client drafted
 - Recommend and send publications
 - Make referrals
-
- **LAARK's primary focus**

Brief Service

- A narrowly defined service such as drafting the client's initial court paperwork or a legal brief
-
- **LAARK will do some brief service, depends on capacity**
 - Cases prioritized based on multiple factors
 - Some caregivers will need/prefer in-person help

Full Representation

- Attorney does everything
- Representing client in court, all the way through trial if necessary
-
- **LARRK does not do full representation**
- Researching pro bono options
- Maintain a list of affordable "low bono" attorneys (please let us know if you know lawyers to add to the list!)

When does LAARK help “formal” kinship caregivers?

- If there is an active dependency case and the caregiver is seeking advice about permanent plans (difference between guardianship and adoption).
- NOTE: DCYF is required to talk to the caregiver about these options. But if the caregiver wants to seek separate legal advice about the decision, they are welcome to call LAARK.
- If the caregiver is a 13.36 guardian but needs to terminate the guardianship or request a substitute guardian to take over for them.

[Guardianship Self Help Portal](#) with Title 13 guardianship tipsheets

How to Apply

I. Kinship Navigators and Advocates

- Kinship Navigators and Advocates that partner with LAARK have access to an internal referral link.
- The navigator or advocate fills out the form – they do not give the form to the client.

II. Public Application

- Any kinship caregiver can apply online at [LAARK's website](#).
- Any kinship caregiver can call and leave a voicemail with their callback number at 206-267-7075.



Steps in LAARK Process



Step 1:

Client is referred or applies on their own. LAARK screens for conflicts of interest and eligibility.

Step 2:

LAARK collects further screening information and sets up an attorney appointment.

Step 3:

Telephone appointment with a LAARK attorney

Step 3 and beyond – Attorney Appointment



Step 3 and Beyond:

Phone
Appointment
with
Attorney for
Legal Advice

Initial client intake - appointments set up for one hour time slots

Attorney legal advice

Publications LAARK will send by email or mail

Set up follow-up call as needed

- Attorneys may need to conduct legal research
- Client may need to gather more information
- Client may need to think – attorney call back in one week

Referrals – LAARK may refer client or the youth to other legal resources in their area

LAARK provides court paperwork help in some cases – “brief service”

What can the kinship caregiver expect?



Legal advice, which includes listening to the client's story and their objectives and providing legal options based on the law.

- Client-centered approach, respecting the client's needs and decisions.
- Help the client understand risks and benefits.

Attorneys cannot predict how a case will turn out or how a court will rule (most of the time). We can:

- Help the client identify the strengths and weaknesses of their case.
- Discuss strategies and practical considerations.
- Start to identify possible issues or challenges in the case.

Patience. Most kinship caregivers will need time to think about the options.

Trauma-informed approach. We recognize that many kinship caregivers have themselves experienced trauma. Awareness and acknowledgment of racism in our clients' lives.

What types of legal questions does LAARK hear?



“CPS recently got involved but there is no dependency case filed. Can I file my own guardianship? I am not sure what to do next.”

“There is a dependency case for my grandchild. I am interested in Chapter 13.36 guardianship. Am I better off adopting my grandchild? “

These are just examples. We hear a variety in many topic areas.

“I don’t want to go to court against my child but I want something that gives me custody. What can I do?”

“I have non-parental custody of my nephew under the old law. The mother wants to get custody back and served me court paperwork. What should I do?”

“I started a Minor Guardianship case and I don’t know how to finish. What should I do?”



LAARK Team

- Celeste Miller (she/her), Statewide Kinship Care Legal Aid Coordinator;
- Kerry Clayman (she/her), LAARK attorney;
- Catherine West (she/her), LAARK attorney;
- Deshanna Brown (she/her), Legal Assistant;
- Howsai Sahak (she/her), Legal Assistant.

LAARK Resources



Resources and Publications

- LAARK Resources [web page](#):
 - Things to Consider When Deciding to File for Minor Guardianship (English and Spanish)
 - Immigration Resources for Kinship Caregivers (English and Spanish)
 - Caregivers and Dependency Cases
 - Health Insurance FAQs for Kinship Caregivers
 - How to Change the RCW 11.130 Minor Guardian of a Child
 - Filing for a Substitute RCW 13.36 Guardian
 - How to Serve and Give Notice in A Minor Guardianship Case
 - Minor Guardianship Forms Checklist
 - Washington Law Help guides for Minor Guardianship, Health Care for Minors, Power of Attorney for Parents
 - Legal Voice Options for Grandparents
 - Kinship Care Solutions Project how-to file guide

Helpful Resources

Washington Law Help: <https://www.washingtonlawhelp.org/resource/file-a-minor-guardianship-petition>

Self-Help Portal Guardianship Page: <https://www.courts.wa.gov/self-help/guardianship/>

LAARK Resources and Publications Page, with information about 11.130 minor guardianship, power of attorney, a little about 13.36 guardianship, and other legal resources. <https://www.kcba.org/?pg=LAARK-Publications-and-Resources>

Washington Law Help Child Guardianship Page, with a forms generating survey:
<https://www.washingtonlawhelp.org/topics/family/child-guardianship>

King County Law Library presentation on minor guardianships: <https://kcll.org/category/videos/video-guardianship/> 4/19/2023

King County guardianship instructions: <https://kingcounty.gov/en/court/superior-court/courts-jails-legal-system/ex-parte-probate/guardianship/minor-guardianships>

Washington Court Forms for Minor Guardianship: <https://www.courts.wa.gov/forms/?fa=forms.contribute&formID=141>

KCBA Kinship Care Solutions: <https://www.kcba.org/?pg=Kinship-Care-Solutions>

Family Law Facilitators or similar court staff may be able to assist

Helpful Resources

Title 11 Minor Guardianship Bench Book Chapter: <https://fyjp.org/benchbook/chapter-31-title-11-minor-guardianship/>

Title 13 Guardianship Bench Book Chapter: <https://fyjp.org/benchbook/chapter-21-title-13-guardianship/>

2021 Overview of WA Uniform Guardianship Act for Kinship Caregivers Kinship Care Legal Aid Coordinator: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9esUo48-aXg>

DCYF Permanency Planning Matrix: https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/CWP_0088.pdf

Kinship Care Legal Aid Coordinator Videos: <https://www.youtube.com/@kinshipcarelegalaidcoordin1824>

Webinar - An Introduction to Minor Guardianship (9/17/2021) King County Law Library: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BG4JE4d_22g

Webinar - Minor Guardianships (4/19/2023) King County Law Library: www.youtube.com/watch?v=do1IERaPkQE

Webinar - Washington's 2021 Minor Guardianship Law Beresford Booth: www.youtube.com/watch?v=AjtUiHEMloc

Many counties have local resources and instructions available online



Questions?

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