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.
GRANDFACTS: Washington

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
GRANDFACTS: Washington

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.oppco.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@oppco.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: Lynn Urvina; Lynn@FamilyESS.org (Kinship Navigator)
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.cct-aaa.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

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: http://rays.org/programs/kincare/
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/](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](http://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](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.

**WithinReach**

**Website:** [https://withinreachwa.org/](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**

**AARP Foundation’s Benefits QuickLINK**

Benefits QuickLINK, powered by BenefitsCheckUp of the National Council on Aging, offers a free and private way to complete a questionnaire to find out if relatives and/or the children they are raising qualify for certain
programs that pay for food, increase income and cover home and healthcare costs. The specific programs covered by the questionnaire in the website are listed below. Once the questionnaire is completed, the website generates a list of eligible programs and contact information.

www.aarp.org/quicklink

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**Benefits.gov**
An official website of the federal government, this resource has state 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 www.washingtonconnection.org/

**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/

**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
**GRANDFACTS: Washington**

**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 - 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 for up to $2,000 per dependent child. But, it is not refundable.

**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 $14,300 per child in 2020, 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)** – To find out about tax credits in your state.  
  www.cbpp.org
- **The U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS)** – 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

Child Profile
Washington State Department of Health
1-866-397-0337 (toll-free)
www.childprofile.org

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](https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/4340-guardianship/43401-relative-guardianship-assistance-program-r-gap)

**Comparing Adoption and Guardianship**
This chart, created by Generations United with support from the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, is designed to help kinship foster parents compare adoption and guardianship as two options that you and the children in your care can pursue to exit foster care and create permanent families.


**Comparing Adoption and Guardianship in Washington**
The following chart, created by Generations United in collaboration with the King County Bar Association, 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.grandfamilies.org/Portals/0/Documents/WAGrandfamilies-Adoption-Guardianship-StateChart%20FINAL.pdf](https://www.grandfamilies.org/Portals/0/Documents/WAGrandfamilies-Adoption-Guardianship-StateChart%20FINAL.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](http://www.grandfamilies.org).

**State Laws**
[Grandfamilies.org](http://www.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](http://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](mailto:grandfamilies@gu.org).

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