Suggested Readings and Resources for Advocates

*Stepping Up for Kids: What Government and Communities Should Do to Support Kinship Families.* By the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

16-page report defines kinship care and why it’s such a common solution. Provides data on the incidence of all forms of kinship care, including the percentage of kids who experience kinship care at some point in their lives. Challenges facing kinship families and recommendations for how communities and government can help kinship families thrive.

<https://www.aecf.org/resources/stepping-up-for-kids/>

**DCYF Practices and Procedures**

<https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/practices-and-procedures>

DCYF Policy 4527. *Kinship Care: Searching for, Placing with, and Supporting Relatives and Suitable Other Persons.*

Once you scroll down to #5, the policy is incredibly useful for understanding the department’s process for screening and supporting kinship placements.

<https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/4500-specific-services/4527-kinship-care-searching-placing-and-supporting-relatives-and-suitable>

**DCYF licensing application information**

A comprehensive webpage to help you learn what is needed prior to becoming licensed or receiving an approved home study.

<https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/foster-parenting/training-requirements>

*Working with Kinship Caregivers*. By Child Welfare Information Gateway-Dept. of HHS

Publication also includes terrific resources and references on the last two pages.

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/kinship.pdf>

**Grandfamilies.org** - Website

Provides free access to a wide variety of resources that support grandfamilies; educate individuals about State kinship laws; and assist legislators, caregivers, attorneys, and policymakers about kinship support options, including a guide on raising children with disabilities.

<https://www.grandfamilies.org/>

**Generations United** – website

A national advocacy organization for policies and programs to help “grandfamilies”— kinship families in which children are being raised by grandparents or other family members—and promote intergenerational collaboration

<https://www.gu.org/resources/grandfamilies-as-advocates/>

**Child Welfare Information Gateway** – website - Department of HHS

*About Kinship Care*- This page is also a treasure trove of information. It provides basic information about kinship care, including definitions; discuss the benefits of kinship care for children and families; present information on the needs of and challenges faced by kinship caregivers; and describe the prevalence of kinship care in the United States.

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/outofhome/kinship/about/>

**Alliance for Child Welfare Excellence** website– Numerous free trainings and supports designed to help caregivers navigate family dynamics and support the children they are raising. Trainings offered are for both professionals and caregivers. Training topics include: *Why children lie, African American Hair and Skin Care* and *Effects of Abuse and Neglect on Child Development*

<https://allianceforchildwelfare.org/caregivers>

*Kinship Care: Relative and Suitable Other Placement*

Printable brochure for kinship families.

<https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/22-1765.pdf>

Understanding the Dependency Court Process for Caregivers

Printable brochure for caregivers

<https://www.dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/documents/22-1741.pdf>

Washington State Dept. of Social and Health Services – Kinship Publications

Another great webpage with numerous publications that can be downloaded and printed. These publications are designed for kinship families both within and outside of the child welfare system.

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

Child Trends website – State-level data for understanding child welfare in the United States

<https://www.childtrends.org/publications/state-level-data-for-understanding-child-welfare-in-the-united-states>

Washington State Fact Sheet for Grandfamilies

Information in this resource is written for relatives caring for children both within and outside of the child welfare system, so some of these resources will be facilitated by the social worker. Starting on Page are links to the various public benefits available.

<https://www.grandfamilies.org/Portals/0/State%20Fact%20Sheets/Grandfamilies-Fact-Sheet-Washington0919.pdf>

*Grandfamilies: Strengths and Challenges*

General facts and data about families raising relatives.

<https://www.gu.org/app/uploads/2020/05/Grandfamilies-GeneralFactSheet.pdf>

Supporting Kinship Caregivers Podcast Series – Child Welfare Information Gateway (2017)

Part I[**https://www.childwelfare.gov/more-tools-resources/podcast/episode-11/**](https://www.childwelfare.gov/more-tools-resources/podcast/episode-11/)

Part II[**https://www.childwelfare.gov/more-tools-resources/podcast/episode-12/**](https://www.childwelfare.gov/more-tools-resources/podcast/episode-12/)

**Video Training Series:**

“Engaging Kinship Caregivers with Joseph Crumbley.” Annie E. Casey Foundation

<https://www.aecf.org/blog/engaging-kinship-caregivers-with-joseph-crumbley/>

**Attachment and Bonding**

[**https://www.nicwa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Attachment-and-bonding-NICWA-final-breif-092817.pdf**](https://www.nicwa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Attachment-and-bonding-NICWA-final-breif-092817.pdf)

**Understanding ICWA Placements Using Kinship Research**

[**https://www.nicwa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/2019-Understanding-ICWA-Placements-Using-Kinship-Care-Reasearch-Final.pdf**](https://www.nicwa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/2019-Understanding-ICWA-Placements-Using-Kinship-Care-Reasearch-Final.pdf)

**A few of the State Laws Relating to Placement**

*Current through January 2018, however I don’t have information that confirms there are any changes.*

**Relative Placement for Foster Care and Guardianship Citation: Rev. Code §§ 13.34.130; 13.34.060; 74.15.020(2)(a)**

Placement of the child with a relative or other suitable person shall be given preference by the court. Unless there is reasonable cause to believe that the health, safety, or welfare of the child would be jeopardized or that the efforts to reunite the parent and child will be hindered, priority placement for a child in shelter care, pending a court hearing, shall be with a relative or other suitable person. If a child is not initially placed with a relative or other suitable person requested by the parent, the supervising agency shall make an effort within available resources to place the child with a relative or other suitable person requested by the parent on the next business day after the child is taken into custody. The supervising agency shall document its effort to place the child with a relative or other suitable person requested by the parent.

A relative includes a person related to the child in any of the following ways: • Any blood relative, including those of half-blood, and including first cousins, second cousins, nephews or nieces, and persons of preceding generations as denoted by prefixes of 'grand,' 'great,' or 'great-great' • Stepfather, stepmother, stepbrother, and stepsister • A person who legally adopts a child or the child's parent as well as the natural and other legally adopted children of such persons and other relatives of the adoptive parents in accordance with state law • Spouses of any persons named above, even after the marriage is terminated • The relatives of any half-sibling of the child • Extended family members, as defined by the law or custom of the Indian child's tribe or, in the absence of such law or custom, a person who has reached age 18 and who is the Indian child's grandparent, aunt or uncle, brother or sister, brother-in-law or sister-in-law, niece or nephew, first or second cousin, or stepparent who provides care in the family abode on a 24-hour basis to an Indian child

**Requirements for Placement with Relatives Citation: Rev. Code § 13.34.130; Admin. Code § 388-25-0445**

Unless there is reasonable cause to believe that the health, safety, or welfare of the child would be jeopardized or that efforts to reunite the parent and child will be hindered, the child shall be placed with a person who is willing, appropriate, and available to care for the child, and who is: • Related to the child as defined above and with whom the child has a relationship and is comfortable • A suitable person if the child or family has a preexisting relationship with that person, and the person has completed all required criminal history background checks and otherwise appears to the department or supervising agency to be suitable and competent to provide care for the child The court shall consider the child's existing relationships and attachments when determining placement. If the relative or other person appears otherwise suitable and competent to provide care and treatment, the criminal history background check need not be completed before placement but as soon as possible after placement. Any placements with relatives or other suitable persons shall be contingent upon cooperation by the relative or other suitable person with the agency case plan and compliance with court orders related to the care and supervision of the child, including, but not limited to, court orders regarding parent-child contacts, sibling contacts, and any other conditions imposed by the court. In regulation: Relatives who are licensed as foster parents may choose to receive foster care payments. A relative who is not a licensed foster parent at the time of placement may apply to become a foster parent.

**Requirements for Placement of Siblings Citation: Rev. Code § 13.34.130**

The department may consider placing the child, subject to review and approval by the court, with a person with whom the child's sibling or half-sibling is residing or a person who has adopted the sibling or half-sibling, as long as the person has completed all required criminal history background checks and otherwise appears to the department or supervising agency to be competent to provide care for the child. If the court has ordered a child removed from his or her home, the court shall consider whether it is in a child's best interest to be placed with, have contact with, or have visits with siblings. There shall be a presumption that such placement, contact, or visits are in the best interests of the child provided that: • The court has jurisdiction over all siblings subject to the order of placement, contact, or visits or the parents of a child for whom there is no jurisdiction are willing to agree. • There is no reasonable cause to believe that the health, safety, or welfare of any child subject to the order of placement, contact, or visits would be jeopardized or that efforts to reunite the parent and child would be hindered by such placement, contact, or visits. In no event shall parental visiting time be reduced in order to provide sibling visits. The court also may order placement, contact, or visits of a child with a stepbrother or stepsister provided that, in addition to the factors listed above, the child has a relationship and is comfortable with the stepsibling.

**Relatives Who May Adopt Citation: Admin. Code § 388-27-0035**

The department prefers to place a child for adoption with a fit and willing relative who is known to the child and with whom the child is comfortable. The department shall: Conduct searches for relatives who are fit and willing to adopt the child, who are known to the child, and with whom the child is comfortable