



Why Kinship Care?

When serious concerns arise, sometimes it isn't safe for children to remain with their birth family.

When this happens, out-of-home placement with a relative or close family friend, known as kinship care, can be the best option for children and their family during a stressful, challenging time.

Become a Kinship Care Provider

To become a kinship care provider, you must be at least 18 years old. Additional factors taken into consideration may include:

- 🌀 Family make-up
- 🌀 Criminal background check (including fingerprinting)
- 🌀 Employment history
- 🌀 Marital/personal relationship history
- 🌀 Financial history/current financial situation
- 🌀 Home environment (safety inspection)
- 🌀 Physical and/or mental health assessment
- 🌀 Drug/alcohol assessment
- 🌀 Review of juvenile court records for any minors residing in the home

Some kinship care providers elect to become licensed foster care providers. Since every kinship situation is unique, Franklin County Children Services can help you determine if this makes sense for your family.

For more information, please call **614-341-6161** or email kinship@fccs.us

About Franklin County Children Services

The agency is mandated by law to provide protection, care and permanency for children who are abused, neglected or dependent.

Children Services believes in the importance of family and strives to keep the entire family involved in solving the problems that brought them to the agency. This is done through a wide variety of resources and services, including:

- 🌀 Investigation of abuse and neglect reports that come into the **24-Hour Child Abuse Hotline: 614-229-7000.**
- 🌀 **Social workers and other professionals** to help children and families.
- 🌀 **Partnerships and Community Involvement** with local agencies and organizations to provide services and support.

Questions?

Please contact our **Kinship Care Department** at **614-341-6161** or email kinship@fccs.us



Protecting Children by Strengthening Families

855 W. Mound St. Columbus, OH 43223

General Information
(614) 275-2571

Adoption
(614) 341-6060

Volunteers and Mentors
(614) 275-2690

Client Rights
(614) 275-2621

**To Report Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect,
Call the Franklin County Children Services
24-Hour Child Abuse Hotline (614) 229-7000**

www.fccs.us



KINSHIP CARE

Protecting Children
by Strengthening Families



Franklin County
Children Services



What is Kinship Care and Why Is It Important?

Kinship care is when family members or friends provide loving, stable homes for children who are temporarily or permanently unable to live with their birth families.

Kinship care is the most beneficial living arrangement for children who cannot live with their parents. It helps children preserve a sense of identity and belonging as well as maintain vital connections to culture and tradition. By minimizing disruptive life changes, kinship care ensures that children have consistency in their daily lives, such as the ability to stay in the same school.






When a kinship placement becomes a consideration, Franklin County Children Services works closely with birth families to identify anyone who may have a close, nurturing connection with the children, and who may be able and willing to provide kinship care.

The Kinship Care Program

Franklin County Children Services Kinship Care Program provides a range of support services to enhance a family's overall well-being during and after involvement with our agency.






Since involvement with the child welfare system can be stressful and frustrating for a family in crisis, FCCS partners with families to provide support and encouragement during this difficult time.

Kinship care services may include:

-  An Orientation program
-  Home visits to provide support & guidance
-  Linkage to community resources
-  Workshops & support groups
-  Possible material assistance, such as bedding, car seats, or a clothing stipend for the children

Strengthening community ties and connecting families to resources in their neighborhoods is a fundamental aspect of kinship care. FCCS actively partners with community-based resources such as faith-based organizations, neighborhood settlement houses, and other area social-service providers.

FCCS Kinship Permanency Stipend Program

-  If it is determined that the child(ren) placed in your home cannot return home and you are granted legal custody, you may be eligible for a monthly stipend for the child
-  Prior to the granting of legal custody, a kinship permanency stipend agreement would be completed for each child and signed by the kinship caregiver and FCCS designee
-  The kinship permanency stipend would be effective on the date legal custody is granted to the kinship caregiver
-  The kinship permanency stipend would be issued monthly to the legal custodian and would continue until the child reaches age 18, as long as the child remains in the home and legal custody is maintained
-  The legal custodian would be subject to an annual redetermination of continued eligibility for the program



Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program (KGAP)

The Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program is a state funded program that offers assistance payments to relatives who assume legal custody/guardianship of kinship children whom they have cared for as foster parents for a minimum of six consecutive months prior to assuming legal custody.

Post-Guardianship Kinship Special Needs Assistance

Kinship caregivers who obtained legal custody from FCCS are eligible for up to \$1,500 per child each fiscal year for special needs assistance.

Applicable services can include (not an all-inclusive list):

-  Rent
-  Utilities
-  Child Care Expenses
-  Respite
-  Services Not Covered by Medical Card

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