

NJ Kinship Connections

A Publication of the NJ Kinship Legal Guardianship Resource Clearing House



A PROGRAM OF CHILDREN'S AID AND FAMILY SERVICES

Winter 2014

Free Services for Kinship Legal Guardianship (KLG) Families Formed Through DCP&P

Raising a relative or friend's child can be a challenge. You may be experiencing more stress about this change in your life. The child may have feelings of abandonment, loss, and grief. As a result, they may:

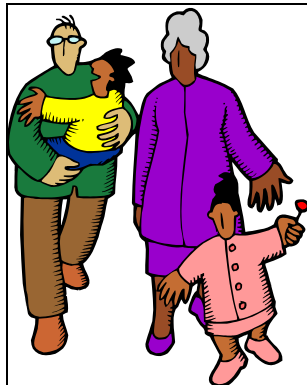
- experience problems at school
- act out at home
- not listen or follow rules
- abuse alcohol or drugs

Kinship Legal Guardianship (KLG) programs offer individual and family support services, such as weekly in-home counseling, help locating additional community resources, collaborating with your child's school, parent support groups, and providing respite funds for certain activities for your child.

Services are **free** for Kinship Legal Guardianship (KLG) families formed through the Division of Child Protection and Permanency

(DCP&P), formerly known as DYFS. Please consult the following list and/or check out our website to locate a provider in your county. Call and see how they may be able to help you and your family.

Bergen, Passaic and



Essex Counties (excluding Newark): Children's Aid and Family Services, 201-740-7128

City of Newark: Family Service Bureau of Newark, 973-412-2056

Union County: Family

and Children's Services, 908-352-7474

Burlington County: Twin Oaks Community Services: 609-953-5714

Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean Counties: Children's Home Society, 609-695-6274

Hudson County: Catholic Charities—Dioceses of Newark Family Resource Center, 201-798-9900

Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem Counties: Robins Nest, 856-881-8689

You are welcome to contact our KinKONNECT Warm Line at 877-KLG-LINE (877-554-5463) for other support services or log onto www.kinkonnect.org and view our resource page.

Points of Interest:

- ◆ FREE KLG SERVICES FOR DCP&P FAMILIES
- ◆ SUPPORT GROUPS
- ◆ KINKONNECT FREE LENDING LIBRARY
- ◆ PERFORM CARE

Inside this issue:

FREE KLG COUNSELING	1
KLG SUPPORT GROUPS	2
KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAMS	2
LIBRARY "KIN" KORNER	3
NJ FAMILY CARE	4

THOSE WITH COLLEGE STUDENTS!
FEDERAL APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA) DEADLINES ARE DUE MARCH 1 FOR SPRING SEMESTER AND JUNE 30 FOR FALL SEMESTER. CONTACT YOUR SCHOOL FOR DETAILS.

NJ Kinship Connections



DID YOU KNOW?

ARE YOU CARING FOR A CHILD/ GRANDCHILD WHO HAS A BEHAVIORAL ISSUE, DEVELOPMENTAL OR INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY AND/OR NEEDS SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT SERVICES?

CONSIDER CONTACTING PERFORMCARE.

PERFORMCARE HELPS FAMILIES ACROSS NEW JERSEY BY OFFERING SERVICES TO ELIGIBLE CHILDREN SUCH AS:
-IN-HOME THERAPY
-FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES
-BEHAVIORAL SUPPORTS
-MOBILE RESPONSE
-CARE MANAGEMENT
-OUT OF HOME TREATMENT
-SUMMER CAMP ASSISTANCE
AND MORE.

CONTACT THEM AT
1-877-652-7624
24 HRS A DAY/
7 DAYS A WEEK.

PerformCARE



Kinship Care Support Groups

Would you like to meet other kinship care givers? Consider these NJ support groups:

Foster and Adoptive Family Services (FAFS).

Each NJ county offers support groups for those who either adopted or completed KLG through the Division (DCP&P). For a group located near you, please see our website www.kinkconnect.org or give us a call.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Monthly Meetings. Englewood; sponsored by Family Support Organization of Bergen County: 201-796-6209 Ext 102.

Grandparents Support Group sponsored by the Family Partners of Morris and Sussex Counties. For information and directions call 973-940-3194.

Grandma K.A.R.E.S

Monthly support group, South Orange NJ. www.grandmakares.vpweb.com; 973-327-4114.

For a list of statewide Family Support Organizations that offer parent/grandparent support groups, log onto www.state.nj.us/dcf/families/support/support/ or contact us at 877-KLG-LINE to find a group near you.

Kinship Navigator Programs:

CarePlus, NJ - (201) 797-2660 or (201) 398-9110, serving Bergen, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Sussex, and Warren Counties

The Salvation Army - (973) 373-5045 serving Essex County.

Children's Home Society - 1-800-396-4518 serving Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Somerset, Hunterdon, and Union Counties

Family Service Association, 1-877-569-0350 serving Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties

Or call 2-1-1 or 877-652-1148

For details log onto: www.nj.gov/dcf/families/support/kinship/

Kinship caregivers are special people who have taken on the responsibility of caring for their relative's children. These children might be the caregiver's siblings, nieces, nephews, or, most often, grandchildren.

The children may be eligible for monthly payments through the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program as well

as Medicaid health insurance. The local Kinship agencies serve three main functions:

- Staff from the agencies help caregivers "navigate" other forms of government assistance.
- Kinship agencies determine if the caregiver's family is eligible for Kinship Navigator program benefits (e.g., vouchers for child care, help with short-term expenses for the relative child, etc.)

- Kinship agencies provide technical support and guide the family through the process of Kinship Legal Guardianship if the caregiver wishes to make a legal commitment to the child.

The telephone numbers of the four Kinship agencies and the counties they serve are listed above or log onto www.kinkconnect.org for information.

Library “Kin” Korner

Hello Readers. Welcome to Natalie’s “Kin” Korner.

Let me introduce myself. My name is Natalie and I am the librarian for both the NJ Adoption Resource Clearing House (NJ ARCH) and KinKconnect programs. In this issue, I will be reviewing a few children’s books that discuss the topic of parents or relatives in prison and their children’s reactions to their absence from home. Although it is a part of life that is stressful and unhappy for families, it is a reality that some families must face.

There are some excellent books that have been written especially for children that explain, with sensitivity and compassion, the subject of parental incarceration.

What Is Jail, Mommy?

By Jackie A. Stanglin, was inspired by a much-loved, five-year-old girl, whose father has been incarcerated for most of her life. One day after visiting with friends who have both their parents, this little girl blurted out to her mother in frustration, “What is jail anyway,

and why can’t Daddy be home with us?” She needed answers. This book not only explains why the parent is incarcerated but what his/her life is like as an inmate.

Visiting Day

by Jacqueline Woodson, is another excellent book for children that will gently and lovingly help them to understand the situation of a parent being in prison. On visiting day, a little girl and her grandmother take the long bus ride upstate to visit her father. On the ride, they share food and hope and give comfort to others who make the trip with them. The waiting is hard, and it all takes time. Grandma and the little girl count their blessings, and “love each other up,” and wait for the time when Daddy will come back home.

“Love knows no boundaries. Here is a strong family that understands the meaning of unconditional love.” This beautifully worded text is the result of the author’s personal recollections of a time long ago. The magnificent illustrations

are the renderings of the artist’s visions of a time long ago.

My Daddy Is in Jail

by Janet M. Bender, is a resource for helping children with the incarceration of a loved one. It includes a read-aloud story, discussion guide, caregiver suggestions and optional small group counseling activities.

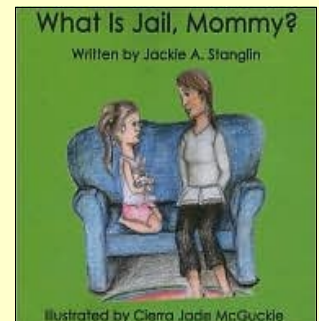
With this book, helping professionals and other caring adults, will find themselves better equipped to provide information and support to those vulnerable children and their families.

The author of this book, Janet M. Bender, M. Ed. is a retired elementary school counselor, author and consultant.

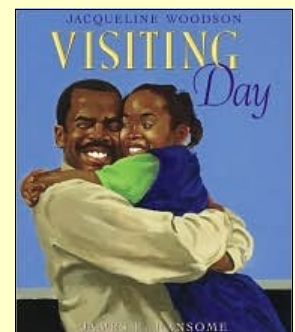
I personally think all of the books reviewed are appropriate and helpful resources for families touched by incarceration.

If you have a suggestion of a book for us to purchase or review, please contact us. We would love to hear from you!

The KinKconnect Free Lending Library
1-877-KLG-LINE
(1-877-554-5463)



What is Jail, Mommy?



Visiting Day



My Daddy is in Jail

Like to borrow a book?

Contact us at
warmline@kinkconnect.org
or call 877-KLG-LINE



NJ KINSHIP LEGAL GUARDIANSHIP
RESOURCE CLEARING HOUSE

WWW.KINKONNECT.ORG

A PROGRAM OF CHILDREN'S AID AND FAMILY SERVICES

WWW.CAFSNJ.ORG

Children's Aid and Family Services
76 South Orange Avenue, Suite 209
South Orange, NJ 07079

KLG Warmline: 877-KLG-LINE
877-554-5463

E-mail: warmline@kinkonnnect.org
Visit us at: www.kinkonnnect.org

Children's Aid and Family Services is one of northern New Jersey's leading non-profit human service agencies. Since 1899, we have built better lives for thousands of disadvantaged children who have been abused, neglected, or abandoned. For more information, visit our website: www.cafsnj.org.

DISCLAIMER

While NJ Kinship Legal Guardianship Resource Clearing House (KinKonnnect) or Children's Aid and Family Services makes every effort to present accurate and reliable information, neither KinKonnnect nor Children's Aid and Family Services guarantees the completeness, efficacy or timeliness of such information. In addition, reference herein to any specific product, process, service, organization, or viewpoint does not constitute or imply endorsement, recommendation or favoring by KinKonnnect or Children's Aid and Family Services.



On January 1, 2014, new healthcare rules began in New Jersey. The Department of Human Services, which administers the state subsidized health insurance program called NJ FamilyCare, wants to ensure that individuals who have applied for health insurance know their status and where to go for assistance:

- If you applied for NJ FamilyCare coverage through the website www.njfamilycare.org, or by phone, you can track your application's status by calling 1-800-701-0710.

- If you applied for NJ FamilyCare coverage through a county welfare office or board of social services, your application still may be in process. Please wait for communication by mail regarding your eligibility or your local office to follow-up. A list can be found on: <http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/dfd/programs/njsnap/cwa/index.html>.

- If you applied for NJ FamilyCare coverage through the federal government's website, www.HealthCare.gov, technical issues with the Marketplace may impact your coverage. Individuals who applied through the federal government's website and were determined eligible or potentially eligible for NJ FamilyCare discover they were not enrolled. This is because the accounts have not been transferred from the Marketplace to New Jersey

The New Jersey Department of Human Services is working with the Marketplace to obtain the necessary information to complete the enrollment process as quickly as possible. If you applied before January and are eligible, your coverage will be retroactive to January 1, 2014.

Who is Eligible?

Beginning October 1, 2013, new federal rules change Medicaid eligibility. NJ FamilyCare will include: children, pregnant women, parents/caretaker relatives, single adults and childless couples. Financial eligibility will be determined by the latest federal tax return which, when filed, will be electronically verified.

Children 18 and under will continue to be eligible with higher incomes up to 350% FPL (\$82,425 for a family of four). Parents still need to renew the coverage each year.

Parents/Caretaker Relatives with income up to 133% FPL (\$31,322 for a family of four) must have tax dependent children in their household in order to be eligible under this category. This is a new Medicaid Expansion eligibility group. Dependent children in the household must be insured also.

Adults without dependent children ages 19-64 and incomes up to 133% FPL (\$15,282 single/ \$20,629 couple) are considered to be another new Medicaid Eligibility Expansion Group.

Pregnant Women up to 200% FPL. There are no changes to pregnant women.

Aged, Blind or Disabled programs or Long Term Care, there are no changes in eligibility. **For other medical assistance programs log onto:** www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/clients/medicaid/. For a full listing of who is eligible for NJ Family Care, please log onto www.njfamilycare.org/docs/elig_groups.pdf or contact our KinKonnnect Warm Line at 877-KLG-LINE (877-554-5463) and we would be happy to send you the worksheet.