

NJ Kinship Connections

A Publication of the NJ Kinship Legal Guardianship Resource Clearing House



A PROGRAM OF CHILDREN'S AID AND FAMILY SERVICES

Winter 2016

Kinship Family Supports in New Jersey

Are you raising your grandchild(ren), your niece/nephew or other relative? It may be surprising that according to the 2010 Census, almost 8 million children in the U.S. under the age of 18 live in homes where the grandparents or other relatives are the head of the household (11% of all the children under 18). In NJ alone, there are over 180,000 children or 8.2% of NJ's children living in such homes.* So where can you find emotional support to help answer your questions and gain some additional guidance? Check out the support groups below. One of them may be just what you need.

* www.aarp.org/grandfactsNJ

Foster and Adoptive Family Services (FAFS):

Each NJ county offers support groups for those who either adopted or completed Kinship Legal Guardianship (KLG) through the Division

(DCP&P). To locate a group in your area, call us 877-554-5463 or visit their website at www.fafsonline.org.

Grandma K.A.R.E.S Monthly support group, South Orange NJ:
www.grandmakares.vpweb.com; 973-327-4114

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Monthly Support Group:
 Family Support Organization of Bergen County; Meetings in Englewood, NJ. Call 201-796-6209 Ext. 102 for information.

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

Other Family Support Organizations (FSO's) that offer parent/grandparent support

groups; www.state.nj.us/dcf/families/support/support/ or contact us at 877-KLG-LINE to find a support group near you.

If you obtained KLG through the Division (DCP&P) and need some counseling, consider contacting one of the following agencies and ask about their free KLG Counseling services:

Bergen, Passaic and Essex Counties (excluding Newark): Children's Aid and Family Services, (201) 740-7124

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

Union County: Family and Children's Services, (908) 352-7474

Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem Counties: Oaks Community Services: (609) 953-5714

(Continued on page 2)

Points of Interest:

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

Inside this issue:

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THOSE WITH COLLEGE STUDENTS!

FEDERAL APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA) DEADLINES VARY BY COLLEGES. CHECK WITH THE COLLEGES YOUR CHILD IS APPLYING TO FOR THEIR DEADLINES. WORK WITH YOUR HIGH 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.

CALL
1-877-652-7624
24 HRS A DAY/
7 DAYS A WEEK.

PerformCARE



Kinship Family Supports in NJ (Con't)

Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean and Somerset 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

New Jersey Division of Child Behavioral Health Services (DCBHS) serves children and teens with emotional and behavioral health care challenges,

and provides counseling services. For information, call 1-877-652-7624.

Need additional resources or have other questions? Please contact our KinConnect Warm line at 877-KLG-LINE (877-554-5463) or log onto www.kinconnect.org.

Kinship Navigator Programs:

Kinship caregivers without Division (DCP&P) involvement may get help addressing immediate problems, and be referred to a local Kinship agency which work with caregivers to access additional services. The local Kinship agencies serve three functions: 1) to help "navigate" other forms of government assistance 2) determine if the caregiver's family is eligible for Kinship Navigator program benefits such as help with short-term expenses for the relative child, (eg:furniture, moving expenses and clothing) and 3) 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. Please see below for the number to call to get started:

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/

Summer Camps

It's time to start thinking about Summer Camp! What a great opportunity to have your grandchild or relative meet new friends, learn a new skill and just have fun! It will

also give you some rest during those hot summer months! For a list of NJ Camps, please log onto our website or give us a call at 877- KLG LINE 877-554-5463.



Library “Kin” Korner, by Natalie, our Librarian

Hello, Readers!

Welcome! This newsletter is a perfect opportunity to review three books on kinship care which I feel offer wisdom that can only come from people who have not only talked the talk but have walked the walk. The first book is *Second Time Around: Help for Grandparents Who Raise Their Children's Kids* by Joan Callander. The story is based on the author's experience of raising her daughter and her grandson, and her search for healing for her family. She retired from a successful business career and became the parent her grandson needed, a role that called for “flexibility and creativity, a youthful attitude, and a belief in God.” Some topics taken from the Index of the book include: addictions, abuse, alcohol, birth control, boundaries, caseworkers, child care, choices and consequences, communication, counseling, courts, curfews, custody, discipline, drugs, finances, foster care, fun and laughter, grief, guardianship, guilt, humor, image, incarceration, legal, mental health, parenting, praise, pregnancies, priorities, religion, role models, safety, school, stability, stress, supervision, support, tough love, values, violence and visitation.

Raising Our Children's Children by Deborah Doucette-Dudman with Jeffrey R. LaCure is another resource for grandparents who are raising their grandchildren. The author is a grandparent who is parenting her grandchild whom she and her husband have legally adopted. She became a support group leader for the organization Grandparents As Parents (GAP).

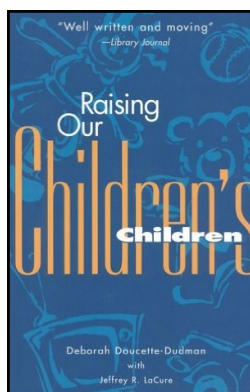
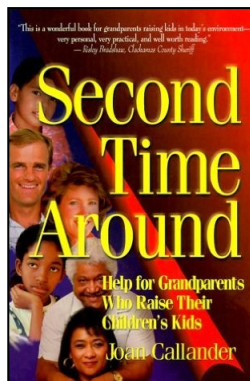
There are nine chapters in this book: 1) The “Bad” Parent 2) Family Secrets 3) When Grandparents Don't Agree 4) Healing the Wounds 5) Integrating the Birth Parent 6) What's in a Name? 7) Mothers in Prison 8) Guardianship-Adoption-Letting Go 9) Grandchildren Having Their Say.

A Kinship Guide to Rescuing Children by Helene LaBrecque Ellis asks the question: When difficulties strike a family, who takes the children?

Today a staggering number of children are living without their parents at their grandparents or other relatives. You or someone you know may be caring for a kinship child. Grand families take on a terrific rescue at a considerable cost to themselves, and provide a significant service to society at large.

This book shares information that may help families navigate the difficult world of public services through four main sections: How Did This Happen? The Long-Term Commitment; Types of Community Kinship Care Supports and Resources. KinKconnect is not part of this book, but we recommend contacting us first to get started on your resources.

We have all these books and more in our Free Kinship Care Lending Library. Please contact us at 877-KLG LINE (877-554-5463) to borrow a book or speak to us about the books and resources YOU need.

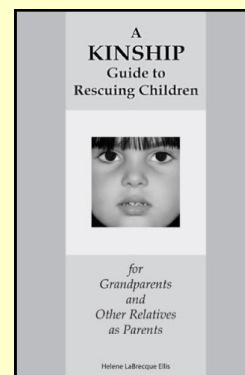


The KinKconnect Free Lending Library
1-877-KLG-LINE
(1-877-554-5463)

Did you know that our KinKconnect Program has over 2000 Books, that you may borrow? Many focus on Kinship Care!

No PC? No Problem!

Contact a KinKconnect warm-line representative at 877-KLG-LINE ((877) 554-5463) to request a book or ask a question about Statewide resources!



March is National Women's History Month!

CELEBRATING

**Women of Character
Courage & Commitment**



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

KLK 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.



Affordable health coverage. Quality care.

Affordable health coverage. Quality Care - NJ FamilyCare - New Jersey's publicly funded health insurance program - includes CHIP, Medicaid and Medicaid expansion populations. That means qualified NJ residents of any age may be eligible for free or low cost health insurance that covers doctor visits, prescriptions, vision, dental care, mental health and substance use services and even hospitalization. NJ FamilyCare is for people who do not have employer insurance. The entire application process can be completed online at <https://njfc.force.com/familycare/quickstart> or call **1-800-701-0710**; multi-lingual operators are available. Number for hearing impaired individuals please call 1-800-701-0720.

Easily navigate the **new** online NJ FamilyCare application with:

- ◆ New menus, subheadings and smart technology.
- Applicants can register to:
- ◆ Save partially completed applications
 - ◆ View submitted applications, and
 - ◆ Receive future Medicaid notifications electronically.

Who is Eligible?

NJ Family Care includes: 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 are eligible with higher incomes up to 355% FPL (\$7,174/month for a family of four). Parents still need to renew the coverage each year. Children age 18 and under who are lawfully admitted can be eligible even if they have lived in this country fewer than five years.

Parents/Caretaker Relatives with income up to 138% FPL (\$2,789/month for a family of four) must have tax dependent children in their household in order to be eligible under this category. The dependent children in the household must be insured also. Immigrant adults must have Legal Permanent Resident status in the US for at least five years in order to be eligible for NJ FamilyCare.

Adults without dependent children with ages 19-64 and income up to 138% FPL (\$1,354/month for a single person and \$1,832/month for a couple). Immigrant adults must have Legal Permanent Resident status in the US for at least five years in order to be eligible for NJ FamilyCare.

Pregnant Women up to 205% FPL (\$4,143/month for a family of four). Pregnant women who are lawfully admitted can be eligible even if they have lived in this country fewer than five years.

Aged, Blind, Disabled program including Long Term Care

Individuals ineligible for NJ FamilyCare can find information on other insurance affordability programs at www.healthcare.gov.