

Kinship Care

Support and legal information for kinship caregivers throughout Missouri



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Kinship caregivers provide a critical safety net for children who must leave their parents' home because it is no longer safe to live there. Kinship caregivers may be grandparents, great-grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, or family friends or other non-relative loved ones who take in children and care for them when the children's biological parents cannot provide safe care.

Formal and Informal Care Placements

Formal kinship care placements typically result from child welfare involvement while informal kinship care placements generate from an informal agreement between the parents and caregivers with no child welfare involvement in the placement.



Formal Kinship Care Placement Qualifications

Potential kinship caregivers with formal placements must pass a background check and home inspection. Specialists provide support with the assessment and licensing process. Families are provided with any additional resources they may need to meet the child's needs in the home.



Support for Caregivers

The Missouri Kinship Navigator Program provides in-person and virtual training and support across the state. Educational resources, legal information and support groups are available, often at no cost! Legal clinics provide quality information about legal options available for caregivers such as guardianship, legal custody, and adoption. Supports are available for formal and informal kinship caregivers.



Contact us to learn more and register for Legal Clinics

MU ParentLink is working with entities throughout the state to host free in-person, legal clinics. Local transportation (in some areas), child care, and refreshments are provided. Attendees can receive gift cards and credits towards foster parent licensure! Call ParentLink at 833-546-4543 or email parentlink@missouri.edu for more information and to register for a clinic in your area.

