

Grandparents/ Relative Caregivers



Starting Points Resource Guide 2007

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Purpose of this Guide

Finding services and resources can be a long, frustrating process that can sometimes seem overwhelming. Determining where to begin can be the most difficult and time-consuming task of all. This guide has been developed as a joint effort between the Kansas Department on Aging and the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services. It gives grandparents raising grandchildren a quick overview of services,

programs and general information to get needed assistance. It also provides tips for grandparents or other relatives providing kinship who are considering taking on the responsibility of raising their grandchildren.

This guide is by no means an exhaustive listing of all agencies and services available to grandparents raising grandchildren.

We have attempted to list

resources and services that are statewide that serve as clearinghouses for further referrals. For additional information, please contact Marva Williams with the Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP). RAPP works to help relatives who are raising children; especially as it relates to grandparents raising grandchildren.

Kansas Department on Aging (RAPP)

Marva Williams or Sharon Dabzadeh

503 S. Kansas Avenue

Topeka, KS 66603-3404

Telephone: (785) 296-4986

or 1-800-432-3535

FAX: (785) 291-3427

E-Mail: MarvaWilliams@aging.state.ks.us

SharonDabzadeh@aging.state/ks.us

SRS

Denise Kelly

Grandparents as Parents Program Mgr.

TAF Program Manager- SRS

915 SW Harrison, 681-W

Topeka, KS 66612-1505

Telephone: (785) 296-8867

FAX: (785) 296-0146

E-Mail: ldlk@srs.ks.gov

- Assistance in developing the guide was also provided by the Kansas State Department of Education, the Kansas Health Policy Authority, Attorney Suzanne Carey McAllister and grandparents who are now raising their grandchildren. We express thanks to all of them for their invaluable contributions.

How to Use This Guide

While we recognize you will have some of your own situations that are unique to your family. We have chosen to begin each section with a descriptive scenario of the more common situations occurring in families today.

- Page 5: Child development, health and safety needs
- Page 18: Child care, schools and educational needs
- Page 20: Challenges facing today's children
- Page 25: Obtaining documents
- Page 32: Grandparent's rights
- Page 39: Coping strategies
- Page 44: Resources for grandparent caregivers

For ease and readability, we have used the following symbols in the guide:



A light bulb for ideas, tips and information.



A telephone for phone numbers.

Emotional Ups and Downs

Joys

Faith that your grandchildren's lives will be stable and sound.

Satisfaction in knowing you are making a better life for your grandchildren.

Comfort in knowing your grandchildren are safe with you.

Gratification in knowing you are making a difference in your grandchildren's lives.

Patience to cope with yourself and your grandchildren.

Courage to take on the responsibility of parenting, which is a big commitment.

Inspiration that comes from hearing your grandchildren say, "I love you."

Gain in personal satisfaction knowing you are strong enough for this task.

Sense of order when things go right.

Happiness that you made it through another day.

Pride in yourself and your grandchildren for persevering through tough times.

Compassion in your relationships with your grandchildren, their friends and others.

Hope that the situation will get better.

Determination and persistence that you will not be denied the services you are eligible for to support your grandchildren.



Challenges

Denial of the current situation; unrealistic expectations that the parents will become responsible.

Fear of how you will be able to financially and emotionally care for your grandchildren.

Guilt thinking you should have or could have done things differently with your own child.

Anger at your child for abandoning or not being a responsible parent.

Sacrifice in order to keep your family together.

Loss of the grandparent-grandchild relationship, as well as peer contacts.

Frustration when things don't go as planned.

Sadness at the loss of a child and of the typical grandparent role.

Disappointment in not being able to do the things you wanted at this stage in your life.

Confusion in understanding the issues facing today's children.

Embarrassment at having to ask for assistance for raising your "new family."

Isolation from your friends and "child-free" social networks.

Determination to work through the bureaucratic maze.

A Special Note to Grandparents:

Do any of these emotions sound familiar? If so, you are not alone. Grandparents raising their grandchildren, and other relatives acting as surrogate parents, experience all kinds of emotional ups and downs. These emotions and many more represent the feelings of grandparents who are confronted with the challenge of raising their children's children. Parenting is a difficult, emotional job even in the best of situations. Remember to take a moment now and then to commend yourself for what you are doing — making a difference in a child's life by giving her or him the chance to be a safe, loved and nurtured child.

Child Development Health & Safety Needs



Wanda never thought much about when children should begin doing key developmental tasks, such as pulling themselves up, crawling, walking and talking. After all, she had made the decision not to have children of her own. Her husband, Jim, had children from a previous marriage. Jim suffers from medical problems. Now, at age 40, Wanda cares for Jim and raises her stepchild's 2 year old.

Wanda's situation is not unusual. Many grandparents raising their grandchildren are concerned that they lack the knowledge and ability it takes to raise a child. Some grandparents (and relative caregivers) may be parenting for the first time in their lives.

Others may have been away from the role of parent for so long that they do not remember or simply do not know the latest "ins and outs" of parenting today. And, things change, new technologies, ideas and practices affect the ways we raise and care for our children.

Child Development

Children are unique individuals. They think, look, act and grow in different ways. This is part of what makes them so special. The *Ages and Expectations Chart* (next page) has been developed to give examples of what you might expect at certain ages.

Children may have been exposed to emotional or physical traumas, or prenatal conditions that could make their development and behavioral patterns different from other children their own age. Talk to your medical professional about your grandchild's development.

For more information about obtaining Medicaid/Health Wave coverage for your grandchildren, call HealthWave at 1-800-792-4884.



Ages & Expectations Chart

Ages	Expectations
1	Plays games like patty cake and peek-a-boo, sits up without support, pulls into a standing position, feeds self finger foods, knows own name and repeats sounds.
2	Makes 2-word sentences, walks alone, eats with a spoon, names toys and people, recognizes self in mirror, can point and name ears, eyes, and nose.
3	Toilet training, plays simple games, counts out loud on fingers, rides a tricycle.
4	Begins thinking in an organized manner, knows about 1,000 words.
5	Plays logically, able to perform activities in sequential order.
6	Able to learn and recognize differences between right and wrong.
7	Able to concentrate well on tasks at hand, often self-absorbed to the point of appearing withdrawn, shows sensitivity to others.
8	Curious about all things they are learning-including sexuality, high energy, and often act impulsive.
9	Acts with independence, likes to learn facts, rules and standards, takes on more responsibility and engages in chores around the house.

Source: Grandparents guide: Helping to raise your children's children, Phoenix, AZ Second Time Around, Kalamazoo, MI.

Special Needs and At- Risk Children



Ray's heart felt heavy as he waited for the assessment report on his grandson. Nathan was only 6 years old and he had already lived a tough life. His mother was in jail, and his father was no where to be found. Ray had hoped the boy would "settle down" by the time he started school. When this didn't happen, he knew he needed professional help with Nathan.

Children with special needs include those with physical or mental disabilities, emotional or behavioral problems, are considered at-risk for developing disabilities. Children who had prenatal exposure to drugs and alcohol are considered at-risk. Prenatal (and often environmental) exposure to harmful substances and behaviors can result in the child being deprived of certain age-appropriate development steps.

If you are concerned about your grandchild's development or are raising a child who has a disability, there are programs that can help you. Also, schools are a valuable resource for children with special needs. Children who have disabilities are mainstreamed into most classrooms. Ask about a valuable program at your grandchild's school.

Early Intervention



Early intervention is for families with infants or toddlers ages birth through 3 years old who have concerns about how their child is developing. In Kansas, the state's early intervention program is called *Tiny K*. If you are concerned about your grandchild's walking, talking, crawling, seeing, understanding, or hearing find out more about early intervention assessment and services.

After age 3, the Special Education Program through your local public schools can help with testing, classes, speech therapists, occupational therapists and physical therapists.

Cost:

There is no cost to families, regardless of their income. The program is mandated by Federal and State law.



For more information on statewide early intervention services, contact Carolyn Nelson, with the Department of Health and Environment at **785-296-6136**, or Margie Hornback with the Department of Education for Part B ages (3-5) **785-296-1944**, or **1800-203-9463**.



Helpful Resources for General Information on Raising Grandchildren:

Doctors

Contact your grandchild's pediatricians or clinic to locate other valuable resources and referrals.

Hospitals

Many hospitals sponsor programs and activities regarding child development and child rearing. Call your local hospital to find out if they offer such programs, and if so, request to be put on their mailing list.

Libraries

Libraries are a great source for parenting books and materials. There are many good books, video tapes and guides that can help answer your questions.

Immunizations



Your grandchild not only needs immunizations because they protect him from diseases. They are also required by schools and child care providers.

Department of Health and Human Services - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule

United States - 2006

Vaccine	Birth	1 mo	2 mo	4 mo	6 mo	12 mo	15 mo	18 mo	24 mo	4-6 yrs	11-12 yrs	13-18 yrs
Hepatitis B2	HepB #1	HepB #2			HepB #3				HepB Series			
Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis3			DTaP	DtaP	DtaP		DTaP			DTaP	Td	Td
Haemophilus influenzae type b4			Hib	Hib	Hib4	Hib						
Inactivated Poliovirus			IPV	IPV	IPV					IPV		
Measels mumps, rubella5						MMR #1				MMR #2	MMR #2	
Varicella6						Varicella			Varicella			
Pneumococcal7			PCV	PCV	PCV	PCV			PCV	PPV		
Influenza8					Influenza (Yearly)				Influenza (Yearly)			
Hepatitis A9									Hepatitis A Series			

Catch-up Immunization schedule for children and adolescents who start late or who are >1 month behind, by age group, vaccine, and dosage interval

United States 2006

Vaccine	Minimum age for dose 1	Dose 1 to dose 2	Dose 2 to dose 3	Dose 3 to dose 4	Dose 4 to dose 5
DTaP1	6 wks	4 wks	4 wks	6 mos	6 mos1
IPV2	6 wks	4 wks	4 wks	4 wks2	
HepB3	Birth	4 wks	8 wks (and 16 weeks after first dose)		
MMR4	12 mos	4 wks4			
Varicella	12 mos				
Hib5	6 wks	4 wks: if first dose administered at age <12 mos 8 wks (as final dose): if first dose administered at age 12-14 mos. No further doses needed if first dose administered at age ≥ 15 mos.	4 wks6: if current age < 12 mos 8 wks (as final dose)6. If current age ≤ 12 mos and second dose administered at age < 15 mos. No further dose needed if previous dose administered at age ≤ 15 mos.	8 wks (as final dose): This dose only necessary for children aged 12 mos - 5 years who received 3 doses before age 12 mos.	
PCV7	6 wks	4 wks: if first dose administered at age <12 mos and current age < 24 mos 8 wks (as final dose): if first dose administered at age ≥12 mos or current age 24-59 mos. No further doses needed for healthy children if first dose administered at age ≥ 24 mos.	4 wks6: if current age < 12 mos 8 wks (as final dose). If current age ≥ 12 mos. No further dose needed for healthy children if previous dose administered at age ≥ 24 mos.	8 wks (as final dose): This dose only necessary for children aged 12 mos - 5 years who received 3 doses before age 12 mos.	

Catch-up schedule for children aged 7-18 years

Vaccine	Dose 1 to dose 2	Dose 2 to dose 3	Dose 3 to booster dose
Td8	4 weeks	6 months	6 months if first dose given at age < 12 months and current age < 11 years; otherwise 5 years
IPV9	4 weeks	4 weeks	IPV2,9
HepB	4 weeks	8 weeks (and 16 weeks after first dose)	
MMR	4 weeks		
Varicella10	4 weeks		

For more information on immunizations and programs that offer free or low cost immunizations, call the County Health Department in your area, or go to www.kdheks.gov/immunize/schedule.htm .

> means less than

< means greater than

Healthy Eating Habits

Children learn from adults. If you practice good, healthy eating habits, chances are your grandchildren will too. The food guide pyramid can be used to ensure that your grandchildren are eating a variety of foods and getting an adequate supply of vitamins and nutrients for growth and health.

Tips for Healthy Eating:

1. Establish a consistent eating routine
2. Keep healthy snacks
3. Avoid eating too much junk food and sweets
4. Avoid foods high in fat and cholesterol
5. Read food labels carefully

Remember: Quality rather than quantity of food is the important factor for meeting your grandchildren's nutritional needs.

Healthy Tips for Exercising:

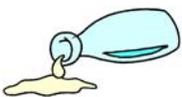
1. Set a good example, be active.
2. Establish a routine, set aside activity time.
3. Move it! Instead of sitting, get up and move.
4. Give gifts that encourage physical activity.

Your food and physical activity choices each day affect your health-how you feel today, tomorrow and in the future.

My Pyramid Plan

One size does not fit all. "My Pyramid" plan can help you choose the foods and amounts that are right for you. Make smart choices from every food group. Find your balance between food and physical activity and get the most nutrition out of your calories. www.mypyramid.gov (steps to a healthier you!)

6 food groups

Meat/ Beans		Go lean on protein! Choose low-fat or lean meats and poultry. Bake, broil, or grill it! Vary your choices - with more fish, beans, peas, nuts and seeds. Add chick peas, nuts, or seeds to a salad.
Milk		Get your calcium-rich foods! Go low-fat or fat free! If you don't or can't consume milk, choose lactose-free products or other calcium sources.
Oils		Make the most of your fat sources from fish, nuts, soybean and olive oils. Limit solid fats like butter, stick margarine, shortening and lard.
Fruits		Eat a variety of fruits! Choose fresh, frozen, canned, or dried fruit. Go easy on fruit juices. Eat fruit at meals and as a snack.
Grains		Make ½ your grains whole! Eat at least 3 ounces of whole grain bread, cereal, crackers, rice or pasta everyday. Look for "whole" before the grain name on the list of ingredients.
Vegetables		Vary your veggies! Eat more dark green and orange veggies. Eat more dry beans and peas. Eat spinach, broccoli, carrots and sweet potatoes.

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

This program provides specific supplemental food for good health and nutrition during critical times of growth and development.

WIC is available for children birth to age 5

Children in SRS custody are eligible for this service at no charge.

Grandparent caregivers can apply for this service for their grandchildren.

Program participation is based on income, child's age and medical or health risk.



For more information on **WIC**, contact the Kansas Department of Health & Environment at 1-800-332-6262 or your local Health Department office.

Other helpful resources for obtaining information regarding food, special diets and eating healthy include:

- your local county extension service office
- hospitals
- schools

Dental Needs

Your grandchildren's teeth are important. They help children stay healthy by allowing them to chew foods properly. In the past, dental extraction was a common cure for dental problems. Now there are treatments that make pulling teeth almost an obsolete practice. Talk to your dentist to establish a healthy plan for keeping your grandchild's teeth healthy and strong.



Here are some **Tips on Keeping Your Grandchildren's Teeth Healthy.** (Sources: American Association of Pediatric Dentistry, National Institute of Dental Research)

1. **Did you know even infants need dental care?** Good dental care begins before you see the first tooth in your grandchild's mouth. Infants need to have their gums wiped with a soft, damp cloth or gauze pad after each feeding.
2. **Do not put babies to bed with a bottle at night or at nap time.** Milk, formula and other sweet drinks contain sugar. Sucking on a bottle filled with liquids with sugar in them can cause tooth decay.
3. **Teething.** Children begin to "cut" their first tooth between the ages of 4-10 months. Teething may cause excess drooling, crying, fussiness and an unhappy baby. Be alert to the fact that children who are teething may be tempted to put things into their mouths to soothe themselves. By age 2 -2 ½ years, about 10 teeth in each jaw will be visible.
4. **Ask** your dentist when to bring your grandchildren in for their first visit.
5. **Make sure** you are brushing teeth with a fluoride toothpaste and soft bristle toothbrush.



If your grandchild has Medicaid or HealthWave coverage, call the Medical Assistance Customer Service Center at 1-800-766-9012 for dental coverage questions and provider information.

Insurance/Medical Coverage

Betty always worried about her own medical bills. After all, Medicare only covers so much. She knew she couldn't afford private insurance for her two grandchildren living with her. A grandparent in a similar situation told her that Medicaid/HealthWave was often available to children. Betty was embarrassed at the thought of applying for assistance, but there wasn't anything else she could do. The children needed medical care.

Private Insurance

Many grandparents have difficulty obtaining health insurance for their grandchildren.

Grandparents who are retired are often on Medicare, an insurance program that covers older persons.

Grandparents who are still working may find it difficult (if not impossible) to add grandchildren to their employer-based policy. As a result, many grandparents seek Medicaid/HealthWave coverage for their grandchildren. If you have employer-based health insurance, ask about dependent coverage for grandchildren in your custody.

Medicaid

Medicaid pays for covered hospitalization and medical services for persons who qualify financially.

In many cases, grandchildren being raised by grandparents do qualify for Medicaid/HealthWave. You do not need to be receiving public assistance for your grandchildren to receive Medicaid/HealthWave. Your grandchildren may also be eligible for Medicaid/HealthWave if they are receiving Temporary Assistance for Families (TAF) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI).



To apply for Medicaid or HealthWave for Your Grandchildren

You must be the child's primary care-giver to apply for healthcare coverage. You will need to show verification of citizenship and identification for each person requesting assistance. Proof of income is required to determine eligibility for Medicaid/HealthWave. **Your income, as a grandparent, is not considered if you are only asking for assistance for the children in your care.**

You do not need to have legal custody of your grandchildren for them to receive Medicaid/HealthWave.



Children receiving Medicaid/HealthWave may be enrolled in a managed care program.

You can access the HealthWave application form at any SRS office, SRS access point, or by calling HealthWave at 1-800-792-4884 to request an application form be sent to you. You may apply online at www.SRSKANSAS.org and click Apply for Services. Applications and additional program information can be found at www.kansashealthwave.org.



For more information about Medicaid and HealthWave for children call 1-800-792-4884 or visit www.kansashealthwave.org.

Other Health Services

Child and Adolescent Health Services

Local health departments receive grants to provide and/or facilitate access to preventative and primary care services. Local agencies use these funds to fill gaps in services.

Services include school entry physicals, immunization outreach and administration, oral health services, substance use (alcohol & tobacco) prevention, lead poisoning prevention, school health services, outreach to families to promote KAN-Be-Healthy and HealthWave services, and services to address childhood abuse and neglect.



Screening services include vision, hearing, scoliosis and community health assessment coalition efforts. For more information, call 785-296-1300.

Mental Health

The Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS) funds mental health community centers throughout Kansas.

The centers provide emergency intervention, assessment and counseling to provide therapeutic services for children who demonstrate symptoms of emotional difficulties.



You may find out about the mental health center in your area by calling 1-888-582-3759.



Children who have been approved for HealthWave may also use their Medicaid medical card for mental health services. For more information call 1-866-896-7293.



For a complete listing of community mental health centers throughout the state of Kansas, please visit the Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas at www.acmhck.org or call 785-234-4773.

Safety



The social worker told Bill and Janet that the children would be at the police station downtown. Getting ready for the trip, Janet looked around her house. It was by no means child proof. What she had considered “comfortable clutter” now just looked like safety risks.

Keeping your grandchildren safe may seem like a full-time job, and at times it will be. However, by establishing good safety practices for you and your grandchildren, you are not only setting a good example, but will also help protect your grandchildren from potential dangers and accidents.



Consider the following tips:

Car Safety

Use proper safety belt restraints at all times in a moving vehicle.

Make sure infants and young children are in “approved” child safety seats in cars.



To make sure car seats are appropriate, correctly

installed and to get free or discounted child safety seats, call the SAFE KIDS Coalition at 1-800-332-6262.

The SAFE KIDS Coalition is a national non-profit organization dedicated

solely to the prevention of unintentional childhood injury, the number one killer of children ages 14 and under. Besides helping to distribute car seats, SAFE KIDS helps families by distributing smoke alarms in local communities, life jackets, fire safety and bicycle safety.



Contact the Kansas SAFE KIDS Coalition at 785-296-1223.

Never leave young children alone in cars. Children under 12 years old should never ride in the front seat.

Home Safety

Keep small objects such as needles, pins, coins, beads, etc. away from small children. These objects can be deadly if swallowed.

Keep all cords and strings, including blinds and curtain cords away from cribs.

Never let children play with plastic bags.

Help prevent poisoning by keeping all cleaning

supplies, medicines and cosmetics out of reach or in child proof cabinets.

Install smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors and check batteries twice a year.

Hold a mock fire drill with your grandchildren.

Plan escape routes and arrange for a safe meeting place outside in case of fire.

Never allow children to fall asleep with bottles in mouths.

Never leave small children alone in or near water, including bathtubs and pools.

Avoid exposing infants to people with respiratory infections. Avoid crowds.

Carefully clean anything that comes in contact with the babies.

Have people wash their hands before holding or playing with the babies. SIDS (sudden infant death syndrome) often occurs in

association with relatively minor respiratory (mild cold and gastrointestinal infections (vomiting and diarrhea).

Make sure cribs have a snug fitting mattress and narrowly spaced slats. There should be nothing in the bed but the baby- no covering, pillows, no bumper pads and no toys. Soft mattresses and heavy covering are associated with the risk for SIDS.

Consider using a baby monitor by the child's crib if:

1. The child weighed less than 3.5 pounds at birth;
2. Had a sibling who died of SIDS;
3. Was exposed to cocaine, heroin, or methadone during mother's pregnancy;
4. Was the second or succeeding child born to a teenage mother;
5. Had an apparent life-threatening event occur.

Tell your doctor if you are concerned about SIDS with your infant. Many communities have special programs to help manage babies at high risk of SIDS.

Sleep baby on his or her back.

Personal Safety

Teach your grandchildren the following personal safety tips:

- To memorize their full name, address, and phone number, including area code, state and zip code.
 - To use the telephone and make calls to the operator and how to dial emergency numbers.
 - To understand what a "stranger" means.
 - To never enter a stranger's car or home.
 - To keep the doors locked and only admit authorized people to their homes.
 - To use a code word; a code word is a special word only you and your grandchild know.
 - Use a code word if you are having another person pick up your grandchild from school or child care so he or she can verify that the person is safe.
- To play and walk with friends.
 - To avoid alleys as well as poorly lit, lonely or deserted areas.
 - To never wander away from you or your yard unless they tell you and receive permission.
 - To tell you if something strange or uncomfortable has happened to them.
 - To never give information about themselves (including home phone) to anyone except authorized persons.



Child Care, Schools and Educational Needs

Child Care

Finding child care wasn't how Bev had planned to spend the weekend. She knew her son, Gary, was having difficulty with the children after their mother died, but she didn't think the situation was that bad. When she received the call from Child Protective Services saying the children had been abandoned, she knew she had to act fast. There was so much to do...and she couldn't take the time away from her job. Bev needed to find a place for the children to stay while she worked, and she needed that place by Monday morning.

Finding child care is a concern for grandparents and caregivers. One of the first steps to finding the child care option that is right for your family is knowing the type of child care available.



The different types of child care include:

Licensed Day Care Home

A facility in which care is provided for a maximum of ten children under 16 years of age and includes children under eleven years of age related to the provider. The total number of children in care at any one time is based on the ages of the children in care. The license is usually issued for the provider's own home, but may be used at a location other than the provider's home. The license identifies the address of the facility.

Group Day Care Home

A facility in which care is provided by two adults for a maximum of twelve children under 16 years of age and includes children under eleven years of age related to the provider. The license is usually issued for the provider's home but may be issued at a location other than the provider's home.

Registered Family Day Care Home

A providers own home where care is provided for not more than six children from birth to 16 years of age with no more than three children under 18 months of age. All children under 12 years of age related to the provider are included in the total count.

Child Care Center

A child care facility where care and educational activities are provided for 13 or more children, ages two weeks to 16 years of age for more than three hours and less than 24 hours per day including day time, evening and night time care. Before and after school care for school age children may be provided.

Preschools

A facility which provides learning experiences for children who have not attained the age of eligibility to enter kindergarten and who are 30 months of age or older.

Finding the Right Type of Child Care

There are many pros and cons to the different types of child care. You may find it helpful to make a list of your child's needs, i.e., hours open, individualized attention, trained workers, planned activities to help you decide which is best for your family.

Talking to other parents, grandparents and co-workers is an excellent way to learn about child care options. Ask if they are aware of the place you are considering. One grandparent offers the following advice to those seeking child care: ASK, ASK, ASK!



To help you in the decision making process and to receive referrals for child care providers, contact your Child Care Resource & Referral Agency (R&R) 1-877-678-2548.

Getting Financial Help with Child Care

Grandparents may be eligible to receive childcare assistance without a family share (co-pay) deduction if their grandchild receives TAF. Otherwise, grandparent's income is used to determine eligibility for childcare assistance. The grandparent must be working to receive child care assistance.

For further assistance or TAF, contact SRS at 1-888-369-4777 or your local SRS office.

Other Subsidized Child Care Alternatives

There are a variety of Head Start programs in Kansas. These programs generally provide free half-day school-year care for eligible, low-income, three to five year old children. Some programs also provide full-day, year-round care. Pre-kindergarten programs sponsored by public school districts in Kansas also offer half-day, school-year care at no cost for four year olds who meet eligibility guidelines set by each local district. Call your local school district office for information and availability.

Kansas Early Head Start, a child development program for prenatal women and infants and toddlers provides child care when a child enrolled in the program has a parent(s) or legal guardian who is working, attending

school or a job training program. Child care is offered to those parents or legal guardians who meet the income guidelines and participate in home visits. Kansas Early Head Start is offered in 32 counties. A map of the Head Start/Early Head Start Programs is provided at www.srskansas.org

Family Caregiver Support Program (FCSP)

The Family Caregiver Support Program is a multifaceted service delivery system that responds to the needs of the caregiver. Under FCSP the following services may be provided: assistance, information, individual counseling/support groups/training, respite care, supplemental services, (such as bathroom items, chores, homemaker, nutrition counseling, repair/maintenance/renovation and transportation, or relative services.) Contact the Kansas Department On Aging at 1-800-432-3535 for further information.

Additional Information About Child Care Facilities

Health certificates are required for all persons sixteen years of age and older in contact with children.

Medical records on all children and youth in care must be on file at the child care facility.

Information about licensing procedures and copies of regulations may be obtained from the county health department.

School and Educational Needs



Sylvia kept postponing the visit with her granddaughter's fifth grade teacher. How could she tell the teacher that the reason she is not involved in Marty's homework is because she doesn't understand it? Sylvia was not only intimidated by the school work, but she also feared embarrassing her granddaughter at school.

To enroll your grandchildren in school you will need:

Enrollment Procedures

Birth Certificate

- Immunization Records
- School Records (if attended another school)
- Proof of Residency

- 1) **Call the school district office** (listed in your area) to obtain the name and address of where your grandchildren will be attending school.
- 2) **When you register** your grandchildren in school, you will need the information listed above. If your grandchildren have been enrolled in another school, the previous school records will be needed. Schools have forms for requesting school records and immunizations. They can help you fill out necessary forms and obtain documents. You may be asked to prove your grandchildren live with you. Often this can be done by a letter from a landlord, clergy, or doctor. Ask the school what type of documentation is required. In most cases, guardianship is not a statutory requirement for enrolling a child in school.

Remember: It is in the best interest of your grandchildren to ask for help with

directions, homework, school fees which can be waived, anything to help your child.

Interaction with Schools, Teachers, Therapists, Counselors and Staff

Get to know your grandchildren's teachers. Inform teachers you are raising your grandchildren. Teachers may want to send things home to "grandma" instead of "mom" if that is what you prefer. Let the teacher know you want to be informed of your grandchild's progress.

Keep the line of communication open between you, your grandchildren and the school.

Attend Open Houses and meetings. Try to attend all parent-teacher conferences. Schedule personal meetings with teachers and counselors to talk about your grandchildren. If you cannot make face-to-face contact, arrange for a phone conference.

Get help with homework if needed. Teachers may be able to provide extra help with homework and tutoring. Let them know if you are having trouble finding time or simply do not understand the homework well enough to help your grandchild.

Interaction with schools (continued)

Talk with the school counselors and nurses.

Counselors often have advice and resources for grandparents on social service programs in the community. This includes programs for behavioral and learning problems and other special needs. Contact the school nurse for information and resources on health and nutrition needs. Nurses and counselors can often provide information on talking with your grandchildren about difficult topics such as sexuality, drug and alcohol abuse, gangs and peer pressure.

Sex Education and Other Sensitive Issues.

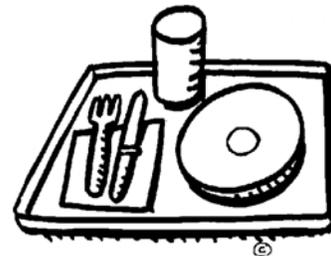
Children are growing up very fast these days. As a result, schools are attempting to keep pace. Some schools do this by talking about important and serious issues in the classroom. For example, many classes integrate human sexuality and intimate relationship information into course work. Your grandchildren may also learn about things such as: AIDS and HIV, teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, child and juvenile violence, gangs, domestic violence, substance abuse, and other social problems. Talk with your grandchildren's school about these subjects. You may want to plan special discussions with your grandchildren to see how they feel about these subjects.

Other School Programs that May be Available to You

Many schools have programs that offer before and after school child care. Most of these programs are for working parents and caregivers. Talk to the school about these programs.

School Lunch Programs.

Public schools have free and reduced lunch plans for children who qualify. When you enroll your grandchildren in school, ask about eligibility and guidelines for registration in the lunch program.



The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973: Children with special needs have specific rights in the public school system. Schools are required to assess children with learning disabilities, assist families with placement decisions, structure a large part of the student's weekly schedule, modify educational programs to the child's needs, prepare individualized educational plans (IEPs), provide a free and appropriate education and provide appropriate services by the school nurse or health service.

Challenges Facing Today's Children



Ana and her friends were good children. They did well in school, but got into trouble. Les and Cathy were proud of their granddaughter, but they didn't understand why she needed to dress the way she did—baggy pants, stomach showing and, of all things, a tattoo! This wasn't the way things were when they were younger!

As you know, things are different today. Children learn about drugs, alcohol, sex, gangs and violence at very early ages. Your grandchild's history might include some of these behaviors. As a result, he or she may not know what is right and wrong.

Many grandparents are raising children who are

developmentally deprived, but socially advanced. For example, a child may have trouble reading on a third grade level but has the survival instincts or "street smarts" of an older teenager. The events that led up to your grandchildren being placed in your home may warrant a special approach in parenting.

Talk to a counselor or family therapist, check with your grandchildren's school for additional information and referrals on getting help with parenting.



Alcohol and Drug Abuse

Young people are being exposed to alcohol, tobacco and drugs as early as elementary school. The younger someone starts to use alcohol and drugs, the more likely she or he is to develop problems. Consider the following facts and information from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services:

Young people who use alcohol and drugs also are more likely to be victims or perpetrators of violence, engage in unplanned and unprotected sex, experience school failure, or be seriously injured from driving or engaging in other risky behavior while impaired.

Easy access and availability of alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drugs make it difficult to keep young people out of harm's way.

Young people who use tobacco are more likely than others to drink heavily later or use illicit drugs.

Over the past two to three years, annual use of marijuana doubled among 8th graders, grew by two-thirds among 10th graders, and increased by two-fifths among 12th graders.

Fewer young people see the harm in using drugs.

For more information about drugs, or alcohol abuse and prevention, call Alcoholic Anonymous, or Narcotic Anonymous, or your nearest Regional Prevention Center listed in the back attachments of this book.

Five Reasons Young People Give for Using Alcohol, Tobacco and Illicit Drugs

1. To Feel Grown-up
2. To Satisfy Curiosity
3. To Fit In and Belong
4. To Relax and Feel Good
5. To Take Risks and Rebel



The 24 hour hotline number for Alcohol and Drug Abuse service is: 1(800) 586-3670.

Gangs

Criminal gang activity is a growing problem in our society. Steve Nawojczyk, a leading national expert on gangs and gang-related dynamics, offers the following information on gangs:

It is not illegal to be in a gang, and indeed many adults are currently involved in activities that meet Webster's definition for a gang. However, when gangs engage in activities that break the law, their actions are illegal.

Gangs may be part of a larger city or national gang, or they may remain local.

Joining a gang that has a reputation, good or bad, gives a youth looking for a purpose something to be involved in. Participants have said the mere interaction of members listening to one another's problems and sharing the ups and downs are often what entices them to join a gang.

Once in a gang, youth may find quitting the gang difficult and in some cases, dangerous.

Reasons for Joining a Gang

- Identity
- Love
- Discipline
- Belonging
- Recognition
- Money



Most police departments have juvenile gang specialists. For more information on gang prevention and intervention, contact your local police department.

Sexuality and Children

You may have difficulty talking to your grandchildren about sexuality. Most parents do. However, children learn about sexuality early in their lives. They may get information at school, from their friends or through television or music. It is important they get correct information from you.

For information on talking to your grandchildren about sexuality issues, contact local community centers, health and family planning clinics, the Local Parent Teacher Association, or the counselor at your grandchildren's school.



Some tips to help you talk to your grandchildren about sexuality include:

1. Find out what your grandchildren's questions are.
2. Make sure you know the facts about sexually transmitted diseases, AIDS, birth control, and pregnancy.
3. Talk about the things you see on TV or in the community that deal with sexuality. Ask your grandchildren how they feel about certain topics.

Child Abuse

Statutes define "abuse and neglect" as harm or threatened harm to a child's health or safety by a person responsible for the child's health or safety.

Harm or threatened harm can occur through non-accidental physical or mental injury, sexual abuse, neglect, or failure or omissions to provide protection from harm or threatened harm.

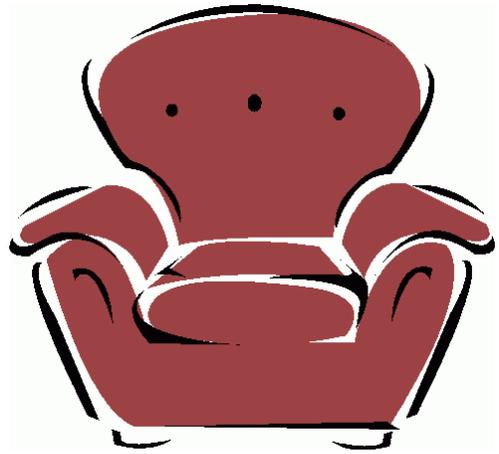


If you suspect a child is being abused or neglected, please telephone the Kansas Protection Report Center at 1-(800)-922-5330. Every call is taken seriously and every effort will be made to protect your identity. Telephone lines are staffed 24 hours a day. In the event of an emergency contact your local law enforcement or call 911.

Communication Tips for Grandparents and Grandchildren

Good communication creates a win-win situation for both grandchildren and grandparents. Learning good communication skills help children (and adults) develop confidence, feelings of self-worth and good relationships with others.

- Teach your grandchildren good listening skills.
- Practice listening and talking. Talk with your grandchildren about school, friends and their feelings.
- Respect your grandchildren. If you talk to your grandchildren as you do your peers, they will be more likely to tell you when things are right and /or wrong in their life.
- Children are never too old to be told they are loved. Saying and hearing “I love you” is important at any age.
- Give your undivided attention when your grandchildren want to talk to you. Don’t read, watch TV, fall asleep or make yourself busy with other tasks.
- Set routines for bedtime, meals and chores. Routines will help your grandchildren feel safe, and let them know your expectations.
- Remind them of your rules—just saying no is not enough. Young children often need reminders.





Tips for Setting Limits:

Start with only a few rules. The more rules you have, the harder it will be for your grandchildren to remember them.

- Be sure you know why you are saying no. Explain your reasons for saying no. Be sure your grandchildren understand your reasons.
- Give kids a voice. Kids need a voice in setting limits. They need a chance to tell you what they think and feel. Even a child of 5 or 6 can talk with you and help you make rules they are more likely to obey.
- Say what you mean. Be very clear about your limits.



Culture and Tradition

Many grandparents have strong, traditional and cultural ties to their heritage. They may find that even though their children were raised in a bi-cultural household, their grandchildren were not. Grandparents need to be aware that their grandchildren's background may be different. They may not know about long-standing family cultures and traditions. For instance, grandparents may have a bilingual household, and the grandchildren have been mainstreamed into speaking only English.

The hairstyles, dress and language of today's children and teenagers might try the patience of traditional adults. It is important for grandparents to be sensitive to their grandchildren's need to look, dress and act like others their age.

Adolescent/Youth Counseling

Youth counseling programs specialize in the treatment of adolescents, usually age twelve or thirteen through seventeen, who have adjustment problems, behavior problems, emotional disturbances, a personality disorder or incipient mental illness.

Child Guidance

Child guidance programs specialize in the treatment of children from infancy to age twelve who have adjustment problems, behavior problems, emotional disturbances, a personality disorder or some form of mental illness.

Youth Service Agencies

Local youth service agencies are dedicated to providing high-quality services to our state's greatest assets, children, youth and families. These community-based services can include individual and group counseling, mentoring, parenting classes, first offender programs, shelters, community intervention centers and services for at-risk youth.

Obtaining Documents



Tim didn't have any records for his granddaughter. The way things were going, he was surprised that Rebecca had shoes and clothes in her bag when his son so abruptly dropped her off. Tim knew his son, who had been living on the streets for the past three months, would not have the child's birth certificate.

Obtaining Needed Papers and Documents

If you are raising a child that is not your own, you will need certain papers and documents in order to apply for assistance or medical services, to complete school registration and for identification purposes.

Birth Certificate

For a copy of a birth certificate, contact the Bureau of Vital Statistics in the state and county of your grandchild's birth. In Kansas, only parents and guardians of children can obtain birth certificates. Attempt to get the birth parents to obtain the birth certificate for you. If this is not possible, you will need to get an order from a judge

giving you permission to obtain a birth certificate for your grandchild. This can be done through guardianship process in civil court. Once you have permission you will need to furnish the following information:

1. Full name at birth of the person for whom you are requesting the certificate.
2. Date of birth.

3. City or county of birth.
4. Parent's full names as they appear on the birth certificate, including mother's maiden name.

There is a fee for obtaining a birth certificate. Check with the Bureau of Vital Statistics of the birth state for all fees and forms of payment accepted.

If your grandchild was born in Kansas, contact the Kansas Department of Health & Environment, Office of Vital Statistics, Curtis State Office Building, 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 120, Topeka, KS 66612.



The phone number is (785)-296-1400.

If the child is in state custody, SRS can obtain the birth certificate for you at no charge to you.



Social Security Card

If your grandchild does not have a Social Security card, or if it is lost, you can apply for either new or replacement cards. You do not have to be the children's legal guardian to obtain Social Security cards for them. U.S. citizens need a copy of their birth certificate or baptismal record.



For information on obtaining a Social Security Card, contact Social Security Administration at: 1-(800) 722-1231, or go in person to the Social Security office located nearest to you.

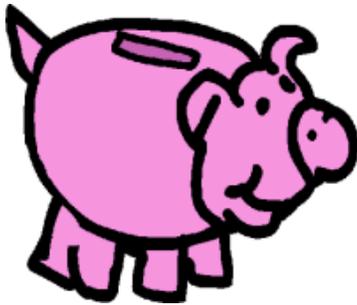


Medical Records

If you have not raised your grandchild from birth, you may not have her or his medical records. Try to obtain all medical records from your grandchild's birth parents. If they do not have the records, ask them to sign a medical consent to have the records released. Also your pediatrician's office or clinic may be able to obtain a copy of the medical records that the school has on file.

If you do not have prior medical records and your grandchild has a medical appointment, you may find it helpful to make a list of all the illnesses and conditions you can remember your grandchild having experienced, including information regarding the birth parents' medical history (if you know it), and any medical conditions or behavior during the mother's pregnancy. This can be helpful if doctors have to "reconstruct" your grandchild's medical history.

Financial Assistance



Ann Marie made a modest living, but only enough for herself. Anything left over at the end of the month was used to help cover her mother's care in the nursing home. How could she possibly care financially for the two grandchildren who were living in her home? Her savings were depleted, yet she knew others were counting on her.

There are two Financial Assistance programs that may be available to you; however you can only receive benefits from one of the programs:

Temporary Assistance for Families (TAF)

- TAF provides a monthly cash benefit available on the Vision or Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card to help families care for children. Most children being cared for by grandparents receive child-only cash benefits under the TAF program. Grandparent's income and assets are not counted in determining the child's eligibility. Cash benefit varies depending on where you live in the state.

For further information on TAF, contact the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services at 1 (888) 369-4777, or your nearest SRS office.



You should be aware that certain factors must be established for eligibility of a TAF child-only cash benefit. You must:

- Prove you are related to the child (through birth certificate and /or other legal documents);
- Prove the child is living with you;
- Provide Social Security numbers for each child applying for assistance;
- Have proof of health insurance, if you have it;
- Provide information about the birth parents. You will be required to cooperate in attempting to obtain child support from the parents, as required by law;

- Provide proof of any income and /or assets belonging to your grandchild.

Grandparent's assets or income are not considered in determining eligibility for TAF.

The second financial assistance program is the **Grandparents as Caregivers Program** discussed on the following page. (You can only receive cash benefits from one of the programs).

Grandparents as Caregivers Program (GP)

The Grandparents as Caregivers program (GP) will provide financial assistance to grandparents or other relatives raising children if certain eligibility requirements are met, including legal custody.

This program is not available until January 2007.

Eligibility Criteria	Grandparents As Caregivers Program
Child's Status	Must live with grandparents or relatives who have legal custody and documentation from court
Parent's Status	The parent must not live with the child and grandparent
Age limit for Grandparents	Must be 50 years of age or older
Income Limit	Household income must be less than 130% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL).
Monthly Cash benefit	\$200 for one child, \$400 for two children, \$600 for three or more children.

Kansas Social & Rehabilitation Services Client Rights

Applicants and recipients of benefits and services administered by SRS have the right to:

- ✓ Be treated with courtesy and dignity.
- ✓ Receive prompt service.
- ✓ Receive clear explanations of the laws and rules that determine eligibility for benefits and services.
- ✓ Have benefits and services explained in preferred language if not able to understand English.
- ✓ Have forms read and explained if unable to read forms because of limited eyesight, or other inability to read.
- ✓ Have the opportunity for an appeal and a fair hearing in case of denial or reduction of benefits or services. Discuss with a SRS supervisor any complaint regarding benefits or services or treatment by SRS staff.
- ✓ Contact the SRS Office of Customer Service at (785) 296-4687 regarding any complaint that has been discussed with, but not resolved by the local office supervisory staff.
- ✓ Receive, upon request, a further explanation of applicant or client rights.

Questions to Ask When Applying for TAF, Food Stamps, or Other Financial Assistance



- ✓ What documents will you need from me?
- ✓ What information do I have to provide?
- ✓ What forms do I need to complete?
- ✓ How will I know when we have been approved for benefits?
- ✓ When will I receive the payment/medical card, etc.?
- ✓ How often do I have to update my records and what is the process? Is it a yearly review, every three months, etc.?
- ✓ Do I have a right to appeal your decision if I am unhappy with it?
- ✓ If we move, or the child returns home, when do I need to notify you and how?
- ✓ If I have additional questions, how do I reach you?
- ✓ If you are not available, who may I call?
- ✓ May I have a copy of the policy regarding this program for my understanding and records?



Child Support Payments



Child Support regulations are based upon the concept that children are entitled to the support of both parents. This recognizes that there are costs associated with raising children. Child support is designed to partially offset these expenses and even out the burden based upon the parent's respective incomes.

Even though you may be taking care of your grandchildren in your home, the birth parents may be held financially responsible.

- Certain programs, such as TAF and Child Care Assistance, require cooperation in attempting to collect child support payments from birth parents. When a case is opened, even a child-only case, SRS Child Support Enforcement Division will automatically initiate a child support case.



To get help with collecting child support, establishing paternity or information on other Child Support Enforcement services, call 1 (888) 369-4777.

OTHER FEDERAL BENEFITS

Earned Income Credit (EIC)

(source: Internal Revenue Service)

- The EIC is a special benefit for low and moderate income working people who are raising children.
- The EIC program provides assistance to working grandparents who qualify by reducing the amount of taxes owed or by giving you money back.
- The EIC is a tax credit program administered by the IRS. You file for the EIC when you file your tax returns.
- There are also Advance Earned Income Credit payments available that allow those who qualify to get part of their EIC in advance, instead of waiting until after the end of the year. Check with the IRS.

To obtain qualifying information on EIC, contact the Internal Revenue Service at 1 (800) 829-1040. Or the AARP Grandparent Information Center at 1(888) 687-2277, to request the EIC Tax package for Grandparents raising Grandchildren.



Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

(Source: Social Security Administration)

Supplemental Security Income provides financial assistance in the form of monthly payments to low income elderly, blind or disabled individuals, including children.

- If your grandchild has a disability, he/she may qualify for assistance.
- Parents or guardians can apply for blind or disabled children under 18 years of age.

You will need to provide the following when applying:

- Grandchild's Social Security Card or records of Social Security numbers; birth certificates or other proofs of age;
- The names, addresses phone numbers of doctors, hospitals, and clinics.
- Documents verifying citizenship status.



For more information contact your local Social Security office or call: 1 (800)772-1231.



Tips on Dealing with Social Service Agencies



- Be patient and persistent. You may wait a long time on the phone or in person. Many agencies do not have the staff to take your calls immediately. You may call services that have automated answering systems or answering machines.
- Call during low volume phone times. Agencies differ by the volume and types of calls they receive. However, in doing research on programs for this Guide, we found that it was often easier to get through to agency help lines during the early morning hours on Tuesday through Thursday. The busiest phone times often are during lunch hours, 11:00-1:00, and on Mondays and Fridays.
- Keep a log. Always write down the name, title and number of the person to whom you speak. Record important details of your conversation for future reference. Write down the name of the office, telephone number, name of the person with whom you spoke and date and time of the call. Be sure to ask questions if something is not clear to you.

Housing Needs

With the addition of grandchildren, your present housing situation may not be appropriate. The residence may now be too small, may have safety hazards or housing code violations, may exclude children or children may violate private lease agreements. To assist grandparents in locating safe, adequate, and affordable housing, contact the Kansas Department on Aging or your local Area Agency on Aging.



The Kansas Department on Aging can be contacted by calling (785)296-4986 or 1-800-432-3535.

Grandparent “Rights”: A Summary of Kansas Law

By Suzanne Carey McAllister¹

For many grandparents serving as primary caregivers of grandchildren, one of the most difficult of life’s challenges may be involvement with the legal system. Legal proceedings can be financially burdensome and difficult to navigate. Moreover, such proceedings are emotionally draining on everyone involved, including the children.

The following mini-summaries provide a general description of the legal proceedings in Kansas in which a grandparent may seek “rights” with their grandchild. This information is general in nature and is not intended to serve as a substitute for legal advice. It is important to consult a family law or elder law attorney about your rights as a grandparent and about the legal options available to you in Kansas.

Informal Custody:

This is an arrangement in which the parent has agreed (either explicitly or implicitly) to allow the grandparents to serve as primary caregivers of the child without a court order. Frequently, the parent has abandoned the child altogether, leaving the child in the complete care of the grandparent. Because this arrangement is informal in nature, the grandparent has no legal rights to the child. Typically, the grandchild lives with the grandparents, who provide both the financial and emotional support of child rearing. It is usually the case that the parent is physically, emotionally, and financially absent from the child’s life. These types of arrangements are the hardest for grandparents for many reasons. For instance, because these arrangements are not formalized by the court, the grandparent is forced to bear the financial burden of child rearing, often times without the assistance of the parent. Moreover, the nonexistent parent could reappear at any time to reclaim the child, thereby upsetting the child’s stable living environment.

Power of Attorney (POA):

The power of attorney (POA) is a legal arrangement in which the parent grants authority to grandparents to serve as agents of the parent to perform certain parental tasks such as enrolling

¹ Suzanne Carey McAllister is a clinical faculty member at the University of Kansas School of Law. She has written extensively on the area of grandparent visitation rights and has made numerous presentations on the subject. These materials were extracted primarily from two sources: (1) Linda D. Elrod and James P. Buchele, *Kansas Law and Practice, Kansas Family Law Handbook* (West Group), and (2) Suzanne Valdez Carey (McAllister), “Grandparents’ Issues: Kinship Caregiving, Visitation, and Related Matters,” *Advising the Elderly Client* (Chapter 37 (West Group, 2003) (with Laurie Hanson).

the child in school or obtaining medical care for the child (e.g., wellness checkups and immunizations). The advantages of this arrangement are twofold. First, there is documentation formalizing the grandparent's authority to care for the child's basic needs. Second, court approval is unnecessary for the POA to have effect. The disadvantage of the POA is that the parent may revoke it at any time. Furthermore, while the POA gives the grandparent the right to act for the parent in certain matters concerning the grandchild, the POA may be insufficient for the grandparent to obtain state financial assistance or medical benefits for the child.

Legal Custody:

In general, in Kansas and nationally, it is difficult for grandparents to obtain legal custody of grandchildren. The parental preference doctrine recognized under the Federal Constitution guarantees that a *fit* parent has the right to rear his or her child without State interference. If the parent's fitness is questioned, however, the State and other third parties including grandparents, may be able to request court intervention to ensure that the welfare of the child is protected. In Kansas, there are different contexts in which "parental fitness" may be challenged by a grandparent, including divorce and paternity actions, and cases involving abuse or neglect of children. Proving "parental unfitness" in Kansas is difficult, and has been found to include conduct or conditions in which the parent is addicted to drugs, is incarcerated, has abused the child, or has abandoned the child for a period of time. Only if the court finds that the parent is "unfit" can it grant legal custody of a child to a third party such as a grandparent. Legal custody, if granted by the court, gives grandparents legal authority to make all decisions concerning the child. Below are general descriptions of proceedings in which grandparent custody may be considered and awarded by the court:

- (1) Non-parental (grandparent) custody in divorce proceedings or paternity actions:** In divorce proceedings or paternity actions, a court may grant custody of child to a nonparent (such as grandparents) only if: (1) the child is in need of care, or (2) if the parent is unfit. (See summary of termination of parental rights proceedings below for a definition of "parental unfitness.") Custody and residency orders in divorce and paternity proceedings are temporary in nature and require the court to refer a transcript of the proceedings to the county or district attorney for prosecution under the CINC code. (See summary of CINC proceedings below.) In rare cases, a court may grant custody and residency of child to a grandparent, if the parents who are divorcing or involved in a paternity action, agree that such an arrangement is in the best interest of the child.
- (2) Child in Need of Care (CINC) proceedings:** In Kansas, a child in need of care is one who "lacks parental care and control." A child who is "physically, mentally, sexually, or emotionally abused or has been abandoned" by the parent is also a child in need of care. The State, through SRS, may conduct an investigation into the well-being of a child if a report

is made to SRS or a law enforcement agency (such as the police department) that a child is abused or neglected. The CINC code stresses that SRS should try to resolve these sensitive familial issues without court intervention. Once an investigation is completed by SRS, the case may or may not be referred to the local district attorney's (or county attorney's) office for prosecution under the CINC code. In extreme circumstances where the child may be in danger, the child is removed from the home and placed in protective custody. Intervention of this nature is warranted only when necessary to protect the health and welfare of the child. The State or the court may call upon the grandparents to serve as the custodians of the child. Alternatively, the grandparents may intervene in the proceedings as "interested parties" to request that physical custody of the child be granted to them. While the CINC action is pending and awaiting disposition by the court, any out of home placement of the child or custody arrangement remains temporary in nature. Keep in mind that the overall goal of the CINC action is to reintegrate the child with the parent. Ultimately, if a court determines that the child is need of care, it may order continued out of home placement and/or custody with the party whom the child is living. If the court determines that the child is not in need of the care, the CINC case is usually dismissed and the child is returned to the legal custody and control of the parent.

- (3) **Termination of Parental Rights Proceedings:** In the most severe Child in Need of Care cases, the CINC action may evolve into a termination of parental rights proceeding in which the court may legally sever the parent/child relationship. Unfortunately, in these cases, efforts to reintegrate the child with the parent have failed. The process whereby parental rights are terminated requires the court to find, by clear and convincing evidence, that the parent is unfit "by reason or conduct which renders the parent unable to care properly for the child and that the conduct or condition is unlikely to change in the foreseeable future." The court may not terminate parental rights merely on the basis of the child's best interests because the child has been thriving under the primary care of a third party, such as a grandparent, without a showing of parental unfitness. In Kansas, notice of a termination of parental rights proceeding must be given to the child's grandparents even if the grandparents are not acting as the child's custodians or primary caregivers. Should the court terminate a parent's rights, the court's role is to ensure that the child is placed in a permanent family setting. Generally, the court's options for fulfilling its goal of permanence for the child include granting custody to a relative of the child (including the grandparents), adoption by family (including grandparents) or unrelated third parties, and long term foster care.

Adoption:

In an adoption proceeding, the court establishes a legal parent/child relationship between a child and a third party (who is not the biological parent of the child). The child's biological parent or parents' rights have been legally severed either by death, a voluntary act of the parent, or in a termination of parental rights proceeding.

- (1) **Grandparent rights after adoption of the grandchild by a third party:** In Kansas, if a child is adopted by unrelated third parties, the child has new parents and new grandparents by virtue of the adoption. Thus, the biological grandparent no longer has rights to the child because he or she is no longer the legal grandparent. Notice to a grandparent of a pending adoption may or may not be required by law and depends largely on the type of adoption that has been filed with the court.
- (2) **Grandparents as adoptive parents:** Grandparents may be allowed to adopt their grandchild. In Kansas, the primary consideration in determining whether to allow the grandparent or any other third party to adopt the child is the "welfare of the child." As such, the court may consider a wide range of factors including the age and financial status of the grandparent.

Guardianship:

Guardianship is a legal procedure in which the grandparent may be granted authority to act as the child's custodian in situations in which the parent is unavailable, has died, or is unfit. Unlike CINC actions or termination of parental rights cases, these proceedings can be filed by the grandparent and are probably the most common procedure by in which grandparents obtain legal custody of a grandchild. If the guardianship is granted by the court, the grandparent (the guardian) has the power to make all decisions concerning the child. Under recent revisions to the Kansas guardianship law, a child (known as the ward) over the age of 14 who is not a disabled person, may nominate a particular person to serve as his guardian and the court shall give proper consideration to his request. A guardianship can be terminated only by order of the court. In general, if the parent requests court-ordered termination of a guardianship, the parent bears the burden of proving that the guardianship is no longer warranted.

***The difference between obtaining custody of grandchild through a CINC action, a termination of parental rights proceeding, or a guardianship, may be one of degree so it is important to discuss all legal custody options with an attorney licensed to practice law in Kansas.

Visitation:

In Kansas, grandparents may request court-ordered visitation with their grandchild. It is often the case that such formal requests are made when the parent has terminated all contact between the child and grandparent or has dramatically limited the grandparent's access to the grandchild. A court may award grandparent visitation when the grandparent successfully proves that: (1) there is a substantial relationship between the grandparent and grandchild, and (2) grandparent visitation would be in the child's best interest. To prove substantial relationship, a grandparent must demonstrate more than a blood kinship or a mere tangential or sporadic relationship with the child. In cases where the parent is allowing some visitation to occur, the court should give deference to the parent's decision concerning visitation by adopting the parent's proposed visitation schedule. In situations where the parent has denied grandparent visitation altogether, the courts in Kansas have had a difficult time determining whether to grant visitation or not. Often the court focuses on the motives underlying the parent's decision to deny visitation. If the court finds the motives to be unreasonable, the court may award grandparent visitation over the parent's objection. Because these cases often pit the parent against the grandparent, leaving the child stuck in the middle, it is important to consider alternatives to litigation when seeking visitation with a grandchild. Mediation is a process that may be used to assist all parties to arrive at an agreed upon visitation schedule with the grandchild. Also, once an action for grandparent visitation has been filed, the court may order that mediation take place. Lastly, keep in mind that should a grandparent decide to file a request for court-ordered visitation, the court shall order that the grandparents pay the court costs and attorney's fees of the parent.

State Financial Support:

A newly enacted 2006 Kansas law known as the Grandparents as Caregivers Act, allows grandparents to request state financial support for rearing grandchildren if they meet certain eligibility requirements. The grandparent must be over age 50, have legal custody or guardianship of a grandchild, and have an annual household income of less than 130% of the federal poverty guidelines. The grandparent may qualify for monthly assistance in the amount of \$200 per child per month, but cannot exceed a maximum of \$600.00 per month. If the parent of the child lives with the grandparents, the grandparent will not be eligible for the financial assistance. (This program is not available until January 2007). See Page 28.

(5/06)

Kansas Legal Services

You can obtain the phone number of your nearest Kansas Legal Services Office by calling 1 (800) 723-6953. Legal Aid may be able to assist you with guardianship or adoption issues. To take advantage of low cost or no cost assistance, you will need to meet certain income or other qualifications before service can be provided.

Kinship Foster Care

When a child has been abused or neglected by their parent and has been placed in the custody of SRS by court order, SRS seeks to place the child with someone whom the child or parents know.

Kinship Foster Care is temporary or long term care that is provided by a grandparent, other relative or responsible adult with an existing bond with a child.

Legal custody of the child resides with the state agency, SRS. The kinship caregivers have only physical custody of the child. Kinship foster parents cannot make any major decisions regarding the care of the child without first obtaining consent of SRS.

Kinship foster care services include money or assistance or food, clothing, shelter, daily supervision, school supplies, personal needs of the child, medical and dental care, social services and supportive services such as counseling. Services may also include monitoring, respite, transportation and in and out of home services. Kinship foster care parents must follow the rules

and regulations outlined by SRS. Kinship caregivers who meet the relationship requirements may be eligible for TAF, prior to the payment of kinship foster care. Those kinship caregivers who do not meet the relationship requirements of TAF, may still be eligible for Food Stamps or Child Care Assistance.

For information on Kinship Foster Care, contact your nearest SRS office.

Permanent Guardianship

Permanent guardianship subsidy provides financial assistance to those who provide care for children who have been in SRS custody for whom the permanency plans of reunification and adoption have been ruled out. An eligible child is one who: is in SRS custody at the time that the permanent guardianship is established; has an order of permanent guardianship; is not receiving SSI; has a guardian who is an adult eligible to receive TAF. As a grandparent, you may become the child's legal guardian and as long as you live in Kansas and the child remains in your home, you will receive a subsidy.

Grandparent's Glossary of Legal Terms

Custody



The care, control and maintenance of a child, which may be awarded by a court to a grandparent/grandparents in a custody case.

Mediation



Private, informal dispute resolution process in which a neutral third person, the mediator, helps disputing parties reach an agreement. The mediator has no power to impose a decision on the parties. Mediation can be used for child custody and visitation rights issues.



Public mediation services are available through Kansas Legal Services. Call the toll free Central Intake Line at 1 (800) 723-6953. You should feel free to ask for information about the assigned mediator, including the mediator's experience in disputes like yours.

Parental Unfitness



Parental unfitness exists when a parent's character and habits are such that provisions for the child's welfare cannot reasonably be expected from the parent or for some other reason the parent is unable to care for the child.

The unfitness that is necessary to deprive a parent of custody must be positive and not comparative, i.e., the mere fact a child may be better cared for by a grandparent is not sufficient to justify taking a child from a parent.

Visitation



The statutory right of access to a grandchild, granted to a grandparent/grandparents in a court proceeding if it is in the best interest of a grandchild.

Coping Strategies When There are Problems with the Birth Parents

Mary didn't normally allow personal fights to occur in front of her co-workers, but one day her daughter stormed into her office demanding that the children be returned. Her daughter was a crack-cocaine addict and this was the third time she had shown up at Mary's office. Mary knew this behavior had to stop now.

Depending on the particulars of the situation for which you became a grandparent caregiver, you may at some point encounter problems with your grandchildren's birth parents. If you have legal custody of your grandchildren, you may be able to get either a protective order or arrange for supervised visitation in court.

Protective Order: This is an order issued by a judge that orders the parent to stay away from you, your grandchildren and your home. Failure to abide by a court order is cause for police arrest. You file for a protective order at the office of the district court in your county.

Supervised Visitation: If you are worried about the safety of your grandchildren during visitation with birth parents, you may ask a judge to order that all visitation by your grandchildren and the birth parents be supervised.

Note: Both protective orders and supervised visitation may be modified as situations change or as the court determines.

Negative Interactions with Birth Parents

(Source: Grandparent Caregivers: A national guide by Ginchild-Abeje and Perez-Porter)

There may be occasions where the parents are not in a stable living situation or are participating in activities that you think could have negative effects on your grandchild during visitation. If this is the case, you may want to consider the following suggestions:



- Ask the parents to schedule visits for a particular time so you have time to prepare the children.
- Ask other cooperative relatives to be present for the visit.
- Ask the court to limit the parents' contact with the children at the time the guardianship order is issued (if there are problems with visits or phone calls).
- If there is a previous order, a motion to modify the order may need to be initiated if the problems with uncooperative parents persist. However, the parent can also file a motion to change the original order.

Coping Strategies (continued)

- If there is a real risk that the parents may endanger the children, that is, if the parents have left them alone in the past or with an irresponsible person, taken them someplace dangerous or physically abused them, then visits should take place under the supervision of the guardian or a mutually agreed upon person. If the parents do not agree to this you may have to ask the court to resolve this matter.
- When you are upset or angry with the child's birth parents, do not degrade the parents in front of your grandchildren. You can let your grandchildren know that you can be angry and upset with someone's behavior and still love and care about them.

Factors to Consider in Determining What are Reasonable Expectations for Visitation



- The parent should be free from substance abuse for the visit.
- The visitation schedule should take into account the child's bedtime, regularly scheduled activities and school. It should also accommodate the parent's schedule including work, counseling, mandatory programs and available free time if in work release.

Grandparent Visitation Rights

Remember, visitation of your grandchild is not a right. The law provides that grandparents have reasonable rights of visitation only if a court deems visitation to be in the best interest of the child.



For information on legal services, call your Local Legal Aid Office or Kansas Lawyer Service. Kansas Legal Aid Services Toll Free number is 1 (800) 723-6953.

Coping



One of the best ways you can help yourself and your grandchildren through tough times is to take care of yourself, both physically and mentally:

- Eat right
- Get plenty of rest
- Exercise regularly
- See your doctor regularly
- Talk to your doctor about any physical, mental or emotional problems you are experiencing.

Grandparent Support Groups

Rosemarie was nervous about going to her grandparent support group meeting. Shy at first about speaking up in the group, she just sat and listened. Within the first five minutes she began to hear that others were in similar situations. Finally, she had found a place where people understood what she was going through.

The number of support groups for grandparents raising grandchildren is increasing in Kansas. Many of them offer child care so that both grandparents and their grandchildren have a chance to socialize. For many grandparents, support groups offer their only respite from child care duties.

To find the support group in your area, go to www.kcsl.org , check the map site, then Parents Helping Parent-Grandparents/kinship.



How Support Groups Can Help



- Offer emotional support to grandparents who feel alone.
- Create a network of grandparents who are in caregiving situations.
- Offer guidance, assistance and advice to grandparents in their efforts to care for their grandchildren
- Give grandparents ideas on formulating positive solutions to difficult problems.
- Serve as a clearinghouse for resources and information.
- Offer a safe, understanding place for grandparents to discuss (and blow off steam) the emotional ups and downs of raising their grandchildren.
- Provide tools for advocacy and awareness of the issues facing grandparents raising grandchildren.

Tips for Organizing a Grandparent Support Group

If there is not already an established support group in your area, you may want to consider organizing one. There are many different ways to go about doing this. The following tips may help you get started.

- Learn from others. Contact Kansas Children's Service League (KCSL) or an established support group in other cities and ask for advice in starting a support group. The Kansas Department on Aging, can also help you locate existing support groups in the state, ask for the Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP).
- Contact professionals in the community. Ask for help from family counselors, therapists, local health associations, hospitals, social service agencies, etc, in getting a support group started. If any of the people you contact have expertise in issues facing grandparents raising grandchildren, ask if they would be willing to facilitate group meetings or serve as special speakers once the group is formed.



Tips for Organizing a Grandparent Support group (Continued)



- Talk to school superintendents for permission to distribute support group meeting information at schools to the principals and counselors.

Facilities such as schools and libraries may have meeting rooms that the group could use at little or no charge. The facility will need to have a separate room for child care. Explain the importance of support groups. Do not be bashful about asking for free space.

- Use public service announcements to generate interest. Local newspapers, radio broadcasts, television spots and church newsletters are good places to put notices of meetings and articles about grandparents raising grandchildren.
- Be patient in your attempts to organize a support group. Planning and organizing a group takes time, effort, and lots of perseverance. Remember, the benefits of the group will make all your time and efforts worthwhile.



For more information on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren support groups call the Kansas Department on Aging at 1 (800) 432-3535, or RAPP at 785-291-3357.

For general information call AARP Grandparent Information Center at 1 (202) 434-2296.

Taking Care of Yourself

It had been months since Andrea had seen her other grandchildren. She was now spending all of her time parenting her son's children and she felt guilty because she didn't have the time or energy to visit her other grandchildren. She knew it would be a relief to be able to be just a "grandparent" for a day with the other children.

Stress Reducing Suggestions for Grandparent Caregivers

(adapted from Illinois Task Force on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Tip Sheet)

- Remind yourself that your adult child's circumstances are not your fault.
- Take care of your own health.
- Join a support group. This is an excellent place to get information, ideas and emotional support.
- Take time for yourself.
- Do something you enjoy.



Stress Reducing... (continued)



- Walk or exercise regularly.
- Consult your religious community and personal faith for strength and assistance.
- Concentrate on the task at hand. Don't dwell on the past. Looking too far ahead can also be overwhelming. If you can't take a day at a time, try to accomplish one thing at a time.
- Learn to say no.
- Practice patience. Let those you are caring for do as much for themselves as possible.
- Set limits with grandchildren and stick to them.
- Focus on the positive and keep a sense of humor.
- Insist on a quiet time for yourself.
- Accept reality. See things as they are and not how you wish them to be.
- Eliminate painful and disturbing thoughts and self-pity. Negative emotions contribute to stress.
- Reward yourself. Even small rewards will help your emotional state of being.
- Avoid isolation. Make an effort to maintain new friendships, even if by telephone.
- Look into parenting classes to learn new methods for helping children develop self-esteem, confidence and responsibility.

Resources for Grandparents

KANSAS

Kansas Department on Aging
503 South Kansas Avenue
Topeka Kansas 66603
1-800-432-3535
<http://www.agingkansas.org>

Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services
Docking State Office Building
915 SW Harrison
Kansas 66612
<http://www.srskansas.org>

Children's Mercy Hospital Family Friends Program
3101 Broadway, Suite 575
Kansas City Missouri 64111
<http://www.children's-mercy.org>
(816)234-3676

Kansas Children's Service League
1365 North Custer
Wichita Kansas 67201
<http://www.kcsl.org>

Kansas Health Policy Authority
Landon State Office Building
900 SW Jackson, Room 900-N
Topeka, KS 66612
(785) 296-3981
www.da.ks.gov/hpf

HealthWave
P.O. Box 3599
Topeka, KS 66601-9738
1-800-792-4884
1800-792-4292 (TTY)
www.kansashealthwave.org

NATIONAL

AARP Grandparent
601 E. Street N.W.
Washington , D. C 20049
(202) 434-2296

Generation United
1333 H Street, Suite 500W
Washington D. C. 20005 Topeka
(202) 289-3979
<http://www.gu.org>

The Brookdale Foundation
126 East 56th Street
New York NY 10022
(212) 308-7355
<http://www.brookdalefoundation.org>

LOCAL AREA AGENCIES ON AGING

PSA 01

Wyandotte-Leavenworth
9400 State Ave. Suite#111
Kansas City KS 66112
913-573-8532
1-888-661-1444
Fax: 913-328-4577

PSA 05

Southeast KS AAA
1 West Ash
Chanute KS 66720
620-431-2980
1-800-794-2440
Fax: 620-431-2988

PSA 09

Northeast KS AAA
526 Oregon
Hiawatha KS 66434
785-742-7152
1-800-883-2549
Fax: 785-742-7154

PSA02

Central Plains AAA
510 N Main Rm502
Wichita KS 67203
316-660-7298
Fax: 316-383-7757

PSA 06

Southwest KS AAA
240 San Jose Drive
Dodge City KS 67801
620-225-8230
1-800-742-9531
Fax: 620-225-8240PSA

PSA 10

South Central KS AAA
304 S. Summit
Arkansas City KS 67005
620-442-0268
1-800-3 62-0262
Fax: 316-442-0296

PSA 03

Northwest KS AAA
510 W 29th St. Suite B
Hays KS 67601
785-628-8204
1-800-432-7422
Fax: 785-628- 6096

PSA 07

East Central KS AAA
132 south Main
Ottawa KS 66067
785-242-7200
1-800-633-5621
Fax:785-242-7202

PSA 11

Johnson Co AAA
11811 S Sunset Drive , Ste
1300
Olathe KS 66061
913-715-8800
1-888-214-4404
Fax: 913-715-8825

PSA 04

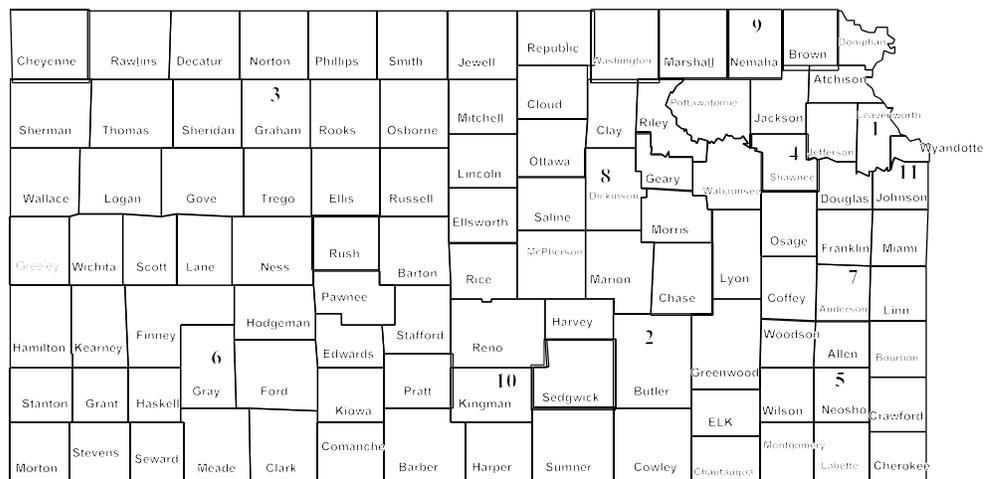
Jayhawk AAA
1720 SW Topeka Blvd
Topeka KS 66612
785-235-1367
1-800-798-1366
Fax: 785-235-2443

PSA 08

North Central Flint Hills
401 Houston
Manhattan KS 66502
785-776-9294
1-800-432-2703
Fax: 785-776-9479

PSA -

Provider Service Area



Kansas Head Start Program Directors 2006

Blue Valley Community Action Head Start
P.O. Box 273
Fairbury, NE 68532

HS Dir Kathryn Molczyk
Phone 402-729-2278
Fax 402-729-2801
E-mail kmolczyk@bvca.net

Bright Beginnings Head Start CUSD 443
200 W. Comanche, Suite A
Dodge City, KS 67801

HS Dir Rebecca Clark Hermicillo
Phone 620-227-1614
Fax 620-227-1682
E-mail clark.rebecca@usd443.org

Child Start B Head Start
1069 Parklane Office Park/S. Glendale
Wichita, KS 67218

HS Dir Daryel Rhodes
Phone 316-682-1853
Fax 316-689-8713
E-mail drhodes@ccaws.org

Child Start B Early Head Start
4600 So. Clifton, Suite B
Wichita, KS 67216

HS Dir Glenda Wilcox
Phone 316-522-8677
Fax 316-749-4985
E-mail gwilcox@ccaehs.org

Clay County Child Care Center
314 Court Street
Clay Center, KS 67432

HS Dir Marsha Habluetzel
Phone 785-632-2195
Fax 785-632-6229
E-mail mhabltzl@sbcglobal.net

Community Action, Inc.
1000 S.E. Hancock
Topeka, KS 66607

HS Dir Phyllis Marmon
Phone 785-235-9561
Fax 785-235-9564
E-mail marmon@inlandnet.net

Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska
114 E. 11th, P.O. Box 2288
Kearney, NE 68848

HS Dir Lois Butler
Phone 308-865-5694
Fax 308-865-5333
E-mail loisb@mnca.net

Community Children=s Center (delegate)
925 Vermont Street
Lawrence, KS 66044

HS Dir Carolyn Kelly
Phone 785-842-2515
Fax 785-842-2087
E-mail ckelly@sunflower.com

Cowley County Head Start
600 S-B P.O. Box 1028
Arkansas City, KS 67005

HS Dir Caroline Bruce
Phone 620-441-2075
Fax 620-441-2077
E-mail cbruce@arkcity.com

ECKAN Head Start
P. O. Box 40
Ottawa, KS 66067

HS Dir Tressa Roecker
Phone 785-242-5481, ext. 202
Fax 785-242-7958
E-mail troecker@eckan.org

EOF, Inc. Head Start
2940 N. 17th
Kansas City, KS 66102

HS Dir Dorothy Harvey
Phone 913-621-5437
Fax 913-621-0343
E-mail dharvey@kc.rr.com

Futures Unlimited
2410 North AA@
Wellington, KS 67152

HS Dir Shirley Theurer
Phone 620-326-8906
Fax 620-326-7796
E-mail Shirleyt@futures-unlimited.org

Geary County Head StartCUSD 475
1811 Elmdale Avenue
Junction City, KS 66441

HS Dir Carolyn Tate
Phone 785-238-1042
Fax 785-762-6274
E-mail carolyntate@usd475.org

Hays Head StartCUSD 489
323 West 12th Street
Hays, KS 67601

HS Dir Donna Hudson-Hamilton
Phone 785-623-2430
Fax 785-623-2432
E-mail dhudson-hamilton@hays489.k12.ks.us

Head Start of Shawnee Mission
8155 Santa Fe
Overland Park, KS 66204

HS Dir Terrie VanZandt Travis (Interim)
Phone 913-649-9714
Fax 913-649-3485
E-mail ttravis@smks-headstart.org

Heartland Programs
700 Jupiter
Salina, KS 67401

HS Dir Korey Powell-Hensley
Phone 785-309-5000
Fax 785-309-5001
E-mail korey.hensley@usd305.com

Kickapoo Tribe of Kansas Head Start
P.O. Box 271
Horton, KS 66439

HS Dir Twilla Lieb
Phone 785-486-3685
Fax 785-486-2198
E-mail ktikheadstart@yahoo.com

Kansas Children=s Service League
705 Ballinger
Garden City, KS 67846

HS Dir GeoReta Jones
Phone 620-276-3232
Fax 620-276-3250
E-mail gjones@kcsl.org

McPherson/Marion County Head Start
128 North Park Street
McPherson, KS 67460

HS Dir
Phone 620-241-9590
Fax 620-241-9565
E-mail

Mid-KS Community Action Program H.S.
730 Cliff Drive
Augusta, KS 67010

HS Dir Mary Helen Baker
Phone 316-775-3000
Fax 316-775-2611
E-mail maryb@mid-capinc.com

NEK B CAP Head Start
P.O. Box 380, Route 4
Hiawatha, KS 66434-0380

HS Dir Rose Sigmund
Phone 785-742-2222
Fax 785-742-2164
E-mail rsigmund@nekcab.org

NW Kansas Educational Service Center
703 West 2nd Avenue
Oakley, KS 67748

HS Dir Keva Scheib
Phone 785-672-3125 ext. 145
Fax 785-672-3175
E-mail kscheib@nkesc.org

Olathe Head StartCUSD 233
1700 West Sheridan
Olathe, KS 66061

HS Dir Kim Sill
Phone 913-780-7410
Fax 913-780-7419
E-mail ksillhlc@olatheschools.com

Opportunity Pre-SchoolCUSD 383
1700 Leavenworth
Manhattan, KS 66502

HS Dir Sally Frick
Phone 785-587-2045
Fax 785-587-2048
E-mail sallyf@manhattan.k12.ks.us

Prairie Band Potawatomi
15380 AK@ Road
Mayetta, KS 66509-9092

HS Dir Cecily Wabaunsee
Phone 785-966-2707 or 785-966-2527
Fax 785-966-2514
E-mail CecilyW@pbpnation.org

Project EAGLE
4th & State Avenue, Suite #900
Kansas City, KS 66101

HS Dir Martha Staker
Phone 913-281-2648
Fax 913-281-2680
E-mail mstaker@kumc.edu

Reno County Head StartCUSD 308
330 Charles Ave.
Hutchinson, KS 67501-3905

HS Dir Chris Baird
Phone 620-665-4850
Fax 620-665-4405
E-mail bairdc@usd308.com

SEK- CAP Head Start
401 Sinnet
Girard, KS 66743

HS Dir Linda Broyles
Phone 620-724-8204
Fax 620-724-4471
E-mail lindab@sek-cap.com

Sheldon Child Development Center Head Start
1155 SW Seabrook
Topeka, KS 66604

HS Dir Janice Sellers
Phone 785-273-8249
Fax 785-271-3647
E-mail jsellers@topeka.k12.ks.us



Kansas Department of Health and Environment

District Offices

District 1	Southeast Office 302 W. McArtor Dodge City, KS 67801-6089	620-225-0596 620-225-3731 (fax)
District 2	South Central Office 130 South Market, Suite 6050 Wichita, KS 67202-3802	316-337-6020 316-337-6023 (fax)
District 3	Southeast Office 1500 W. 7 th St. Chanute, KS 66720-9701 Jon Anderson, BSN, RN Public Health Nurse Specialist	620-431-2390 620-431-1211 (fax) janderson@kdhe.state.ks.us
District 4	Northeast Office Curtis State Office Building 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 340 Topeka, KS 66612-1365 Anita Hodge, MA, RN Public Health Nurse Specialist	785-368-8110 785-296-1231 (fax) ahodge@kdhe.state.ks.us
District 5	North Central Office 2501 Market Place, Suite D Salina, KS 67401 Debbie Whitmer Public Health Nurse Specialist	785-827-9639 785-827-1544 (fax) dwhitmer@kdhe.state.ks.us
District 6	Northwest Office 2301 E. 13 th Street Hays, KS 67601-2651	785-625-5663 785-625-4005 (fax)

Kansas Family Regional Prevention Centers

South Central RPC

130 E. 5th Box 711
Newton, KS 67114
Mollie Thompson
316-283-6743
FAX: 316-283-6830

Southeast Kansas RPC - Girard KS

Misty Burke
P.O. Box 189
Girard KS 66743
620-724-6281
misty.burke@greenbush.org

Shawnee RPC

Max Wilson
2209 S. W. 29th St
Topeka KS 66611
785-266-8666
Fax 785-266-3833

East Central Kansas RPC - Lawrence KS

Jen Jordan Brinkerhoff
3312 Clinton Pkwy
Lawrence, KS 66047
785-841-4138
jbrinkerhoff@dcca.org

Southwest Kansas RPC - Garden City KS

John Calbeck, M.D.
801 Campus Drive
Garden City KS 67846
316-276-9624
info@ksrpc-southwest.org

Northwest Kansas -East - Hays KS

Cindi Geist
209 E 7th Street
Hays KS 67601
785-625-5596
cgeist@media-net.net

JO/LV/MI RPC

Janine Gracey
6000 Lamar, #130
Mission KS 66202
913-362-1990

Northwest - Colby RPC

Sue Evans
990 S Range , #7
Colby KS 67701
785-462-8152
Fax: 785-462-8152

Northeast Kansas RPC- Manhattan

Starla Bocanegra
431 Houston St
Manhattan KS 66502
785-387-4372
Starla.bocanegra@paawnee.org

Wichita/Sedgwick RPC

Danny Walters
1421 E 2nd Street
Wichita KS 67214
316-262-2421
Fax:316-262-8688

Central Kansas RPC

Brenda Hassa
P.O. Box 2117
Salina KS 67402
785-825-6224
Fax: 785-825-5596

Wyandotte County RPC

Linda Stewart
7250 State Avenue
Kansas City KS 66112
913-596-9685
Fax: 913-596-0008

Flint Hills RPC

Teresa Walters
1000 Lincoln
Emporia KS 66801
316-343-2211 x 252
Twalters@mceck.org

For the location of any Kansas County RPC go to
<http://www.kansasfamily.com/ns/CoalitionResult.cfm>

Social and Rehabilitation Services Regional Offices

Kansas City Metro Region

400 State Avenue
 Kansas City, KS 66101
 913-279-7000
 913-279-7701 (fax)

Northeast Region

500 SW Van Buren
 Topeka, KS 66603
 785-296-2500
 785-296-5895 (fax)

South Central Region

1700 Wheeler
 Emporia, KS 66801
 620-342-2505
 620-342-2808 (fax)

Southeast Region

1500 West 7th
 Chanute, KS 66720
 620-431-5000
 620-431-5055 (fax)

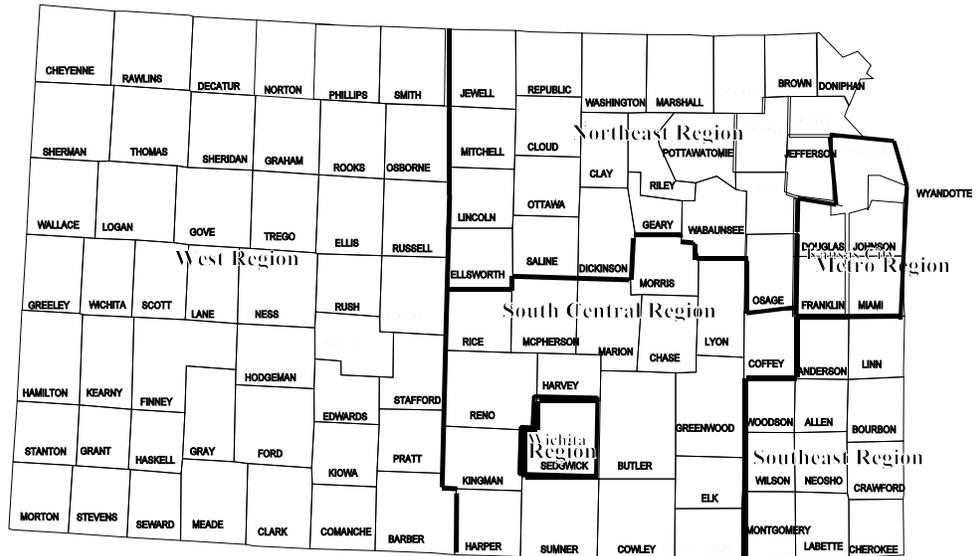
West Region

1710 Palace Drive
 Garden City, KS 67846
 620-272-5800
 620-272-5835 (fax)

Wichita Region

230 East William
 Wichita, KS 67202
 316-337-7000
 316-337-6789 (fax)

SRS REGIONS



KANSAS SUPPORT GROUPS FOR GRANDPARENTS AND OTHER RELATIVE CAREGIVERS

(Please advise Marva Williams with the Kansas Department on Aging
(786-291-3357/1-800-432-3535) of new groups, groups that were omitted or are no longer
meeting.)

TOPEKA

Contact: Sharla Pfeffer

Place: YMCA

Address: 421 S.W. Van Buren; Topeka, KS

Phone: 785-286-2329

Day: 3rd Tuesday of each month

Time: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Meets: Year Round

Email: kaye4454@yahoo.com

TOPEKA

Contact: Linda Palmer

Place: YMCA

Address: 421 S.W. Van Buren; Topeka, KS

Phone: 785-969-1906

Day: 1st Monday of each month

Time: 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Meets: Year Round

Email: palmtree514@yahoo.com

Additional Information: This is a Families of Incarcerated Persons Support Group –
Free Childcare.

TOPEKA

Contact: Maria Gomez

Place: YMCA

Address: 421 S.W. Van Buren; Topeka, KS

Phone: 785-286-2329

Day: 3rd Tuesday of each month

Time: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Meets: Year Round (Spanish-Speaking)

Email: (None)

DODGE CITY

Contact: Virginia Sumaya

Place: Area Mental Health Center

Address: 2101 Highway 50

Phone: 620-227-8566

Day: 3rd Tuesday of each month

Time: 12 noon to 1:00 p.m.

Meets: Year Round

Email: vsumaya@areamhc.org

LAWRENCE

Contact: Valerie Murphy

Place: Redeemer Lutheran

Address: 2700 Lawrence Avenue; Lawrence, KS

Phone: 785-841-2488

Day: 1st Sunday of each month

Time: 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Email: murphymfs@cs.com

WICHITA

Contact: B.J. Gore

Place: Kansas Children's Service League

Address: 1365 N. Custer; Wichita, KS

Phone: 316-942-4261

Day: 1st & 3rd Monday of the month

Time: 6:15 – 7:45 p.m.

Meets: Year Round

Email: bjgore@kcsf.org

ROELAND PARK

Contact: LeeAnn Hochstetler (Family Friends)

Place: Roeland Park Community Center

Address: 4850 Rosewood; Roeland Park, KS

Phone: (913) 362-1899

Day: 2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month

Time: 11:00-12:30 p.m.

Email: chucknleann@juno.com

OLATHE

Contact: LeeAnn Hochstetler (Family Friends)

Place: College Church of the Nazarene

Address: 2020 E. Sheridan; Olathe, KS

Phone: (913) 362-1899

Day: 1st Saturday of each month

Email: chucknleann@juno.com

KANSAS CITY

Contact: Rita Walker (Family Friends)

Place: 6813 Garfield Drive

Address: Kansas City, KS

Phone: (913) 299-4304

Day: 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month

Time: 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Email: rita6813@sbcglobal.net

KANSAS CITY

Contact: Jean Constantine

Place: KVC

Address: 4300 Brenner Drive, Kansas City, KS

Phone: 913-621-4641 Ext 294

Meets: Monthly (Open to all relatives of foster children regardless of placement or services.)

jconstantine@kvc.org

HUTCHINSON

Contact: Judy Mitchell

Place: Judy's Home

Address: 2201 S. Bonebrake, Hutchinson, KS 67501

Phone: (620) 663-4134

Day: 2nd Thursday each month

Time: 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Meets: Year Round

Email: grandmajem@cox.net

TOPEKA

Contact: Pat Loar

Place: Family Service & Guidance Center

Address: 327 SW Frazier, Topeka, KS

Phone: 785-232-5005

Day: Every other Tuesday

Time: 10:30 am to 12 noon

Meets: Does not meet during the summer. (Provides support to grandparents who are caring for children who have mental health issues.)

Email: ploar@fsgctopeka.com

Updated 8/1/2006

Parents Helping & Kinship Support Groups Listing Kinship Support Groups (Kin Raising Extended Family)

County: Douglas
Sponsor: Redeemer Lutheran Church
Place: Redeemer Lutheran Church
Phone: (785) 841-2488
Time: 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Focus: “Grandparents Raising Grandchildren”

City: Lawrence
Facilitator: Valerie Murphy
Address: 2700 N. Lawrence Avenue
Day: 1st Sunday of each month
Meets: Year Round
Email: murphymfs@cs.com

County: Butler
Sponsor: MID-CAP
Place: MID-CAP
Phone: (316) 321-4906
Time: 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Focus: “Grandparents Raising Grandchildren”

City: Augusta
Facilitator: Brenda Arrera
Address: 730 Cliff Dr.
Day: 4th Wednesday of the month
Meets: Year Round
Email: bjgore@kcsl.org

County: Ford
Sponsors: Area Mental Health Center
Place: Area Mental Health Center
Phone: (620) 227-5135
Time: 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Focus: “Grandparents Raising Grandchildren”

City: Dodge City
Facilitator: Virginia Sumaya
Address: 2101 Highway 50
Day: 3rd Tuesday of the month
Meets: Year Round
Email: marcedlinosumaya@hotmail.com

County: Sedgwick
Sponsor: Kansas Children’s Service League
Place: Kansas Children’s Service League
Phone: (316) 807-6245
Time: 6:15 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.
Focus: “Grandparents Raising Grandchildren”

City: Wichita
Facilitators: Diana Maynard
Address: 1365 N. Custer
Day: 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month
Meets: Year Round
Email: blnlady@cox.net

County: Shawnee
Sponsor: YMCA
Place: YMCA – Downtown Branch
Phone: (785) 286-2329
Time: 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Focus: “Grandparents Raising Grandchildren”

City: Topeka
Facilitators: Sharla Pfeffer
Address: 421 S.W. Van Buren
Day: 3rd Tuesday of the month
Meets: Year Round
Email: kaye4454@aol.com

County: Shawnee
Sponsor: YMCA
Place: YMCA – Downtown Branch
Phone: (785) 286-2329
Time: 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Focus: “Grandparents Raising Grandchildren”
(Spanish)

City: Topeka
Facilitators: Sharla Pfeffer
Address: 421 S.W. Van Buren
Day: 3rd Tuesday of the month
Meets: Year Round
Email: Not Available

County: Shawnee
Sponsor: YMCA
Place: YMCA – Downtown Branch
Phone: (785) 969-1906
Time: 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Focus: “Families of Incarcerated Persons”

City: Topeka
Facilitators: Linda Palmer
Address: 421 S.W. Van Buren
Day: 1st Monday of the month
Meets: Year Round
Email: palmtree514@yahoo.com

Families Together

Families Together is the Parent Training and Information Center serving Kansas families who include son/daughter with disabilities.

Parent Centers are funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs. Parent Centers -- Parent Training and Information Centers (PTIs) -- serve families (including grandparents, foster parents, adoptive parents, and kinship) of children and young adults from birth to age 22 with *all* disabilities: physical, mental, learning, emotional, and attention deficit disorders. Families Together provides a variety of services, including:

- train and inform parents and professionals
- help families obtain an appropriate education and services for their children with disabilities
- work to improve education results for all children, resolve problems between families and schools or other agencies, connect children with disabilities to community resources that address their needs.

Families Together, Inc. is dedicated to a society that includes all people. We offer families the security of belonging to a support network of other parents that face similar goals, challenges, and needs.

Office locations and contact information:

Garden City Parent Center

1518 Taylor Plaza
Garden City, KS 67846
1-888-815-6364 (KS parents)
(620)276-6364
FAX: (620)276-3488
E-mail: Gardencity@familiesaltogetherinc.org

Toll Free Spanish Line:

1-(800) 499-9443
Spanish: espanol@familiesaltogetherinc.org

Kansas City Parent Center

1333 Meadowlark Lane
Suite 103
Kansas City, Kansas
(913) 287-1970
FAX: (316) 945-7795
Fax: (913)287-1972
E-mail: kansascity@familiesaltogetherinc.org

Topeka Parent Center

501 Jackson, Suite 400
Topeka, KS 66603
1-800-264-6343 (KS parents)
(785) 233-4777
FAX: (785)233-4787
E-mail: topeka@familiesaltogetherinc.org

Wichita Parent Center

3033 W. 2nd, Suite 106
Wichita, KS 67203
1-888-815-6364 (KS parents)
(316) 945 7747 Voice /TTY
Fax:(316) 945-7795
E-mail: wichita@familiesaltogetherinc.org

Statewide Espanol - Spanish Only

1-800-499-9443 or (620) 276-2380

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