



ANNE ARUNDEL KINSHIP FACT SHEET

Anne Arundel County values the commitment and sacrifice that relatives make to care for children in their home.

Did you know that 1 in 10 children in the U.S. now lives with a grandparent? That means more than 6million children!

You are not alone, resources are available, and Anne Arundel County is here to help support you and guide you in the right direction!

What is Kinship Care?

Kinship Care is the full time care, nurturing, and protection of children by relatives, godparents, stepparents, or any adult who has a kinship bond with a child.

Are there different types of Kinship Care?

Kinship Care can be an informal private arrangement between the parents and relative caregivers. Formal Kinship Care takes place when the child welfare system and court system are involved.

Why are there so many relatives raising children?

Relatives have taken over the care of children whose parents are unable to do so due to substance abuse, incarceration, domestic violence, unemployment, divorce, mental illness, medical conditions, and other crisis affecting families and communities.

What are frequent challenges that Kinship Care families face?

- ◆ Physical problems
- ◆ Emotional Issues: Depression, stress, anger
- ◆ Difficulties obtaining benefits and services
- ◆ Financial strain
- ◆ Low support system, Limited resources
- ◆ Generational differences
- ◆ Unknown and often unexpected time commitment
- ◆ Confusion with role of biological parents

What types of support services are available?

- ◆ Emergency food, clothing, and furnishings
- ◆ Financial Assistance
- ◆ Medical Assistance
- ◆ Child Care
- ◆ Legal Services
- ◆ Low to no cost Medical & Prescription Services
- ◆ Counseling and Mental health guidance
- ◆ Support groups catered to the unique needs of Kinship caregivers
- ◆ Information & referral to services and resources in your local area

If you provide care for a relative child - for 24 hours a day, seven days a week – let Anne Arundel County help support your Kinship experience.

For Kinship information, resources, and community supports contact Chere Torsiello, Kinship Navigator at 410-897-3933 or email at Ctorsiel@dh.state.md.us to aide your Kinship experience. Request a free Kinship Resource Manual and learn of monthly confidential support groups tailored towards the unique needs of Kinship caregivers.

As a Kinship Caregiver are you aware of your potential financial benefits?

Stop by 1 of our 2 Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services Financial Investment Administration offices and find out.

What financial benefits can I apply for?

1) "Child only" Temporary Cash Assistance 2) Medical Assistance 3) Food Stamps

Where do I apply?

Annapolis Location: 80 West Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

Contact: 410-269-4500

Glen Burnie Location: George M. Taylor District Court/Multi-Service Center

7500 Ritchie Highway, Glen Burnie, MD 21061

Contact: 301-261-1756

When Can I apply?

Stop by the Annapolis office for a group interview Mon-Thurs 9, 11, 1:30 & 3:00

Stop by the Glen Burnie office Mon-Thurs 9, 11 & 2:00

Can't stop by in person?

Please visit the website: www.marylandsail.org to submit an application

Please note: it is highly recommended that the customer arrives 30 minutes before the session starts to complete paperwork and get registered for the group interview.

As a Kinship Caregiver you may have questions on school enrollment, school transfers, school counseling services, free and reduced meals, and special education.

Where do you turn for help?

General Information; Contact: 410-222-5000, M-F from 8:00am-4:30pm

Pupil personnel services will guide your through academic enrollment and transfers.

Contact: 410-222-5284

Free and reduced meals; Contact: 410-222-5900

Student Services Center can assist you with Counseling Services; Contact: 410-222-5320

Special Education information; Contact: 410-222-5410

Additional information can be found on the Anne Arundel County Public School website: aacps.org

Check out the Relative Caregiver section and learn about the Kinship Care Affidavit to assist you in becoming a stronger advocate for you Kinship child.

Are you a Kinship Caregiver and a Senior Citizen or a Kinship Caregiver and caring for an elderly loved one or a Kinship Caregiver taking care of an adult with disabilities?

Anne Arundel County Department of Aging & Disabilities has numerous services and programs to assist you.

Contact: 410-222-4464 or 1-800-243-3425, M-F from 8:00am-5:00pm

Website: www.aacounty.org/Aging

Are you looking for fun-filled activities such as parks, recreational programs, sport leagues, camps, and school-aged childcare?

Where do you turn for help?

Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation & Parks can assist.

General Information; Contact: 410-222-7300, M-F from 8:00am-4:30pm

Website: www.aacounty.org/recparks

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