



**National Resource Center for  
Permanency and Family Connections**  
*Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College*



*A Service of the Children's Bureau  
& A Member of the T/TA Network*

## Guardianship Resources

*This resource list was compiled by the National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections (NRCPFC) for the webinar, "Re-Visiting the Adoption – Guardianship Discussion: Helping Caseworkers Better Understand and Communicate the Permanency Implications of Adoption and Guardianship." This event is co-sponsored by NRCPFC and the National Resource Center for Adoption (NRCA).*

### **Guardianship: A Web-based Primer**

Guardianship is an extremely important area of child welfare policy and practice, and is huge in scope. Rather than attempting to address all guardianship issues in this document, in this online resource, NRCPFC strategically presents an overview of the salient issues. It is intended as an online tool for programs, states and tribes where promising practices, programs and resources are made available. For this primer, NRCPFC thoroughly reviewed provisions in the legislation that address guardianship. Our goal is to provide the field with information on the components that support guardianship. This primer provides a broad array of resources from research, state policies, procedures and practice and includes an organizational self-study guide. (Last Updated: February 2014)

<http://www.nrcpfc.org/toolkit/guardianship/>

### **Federal Title IV-E Guardianship Assistance Program State Policies and Laws**

The Children's Bureau and NRCPFC have compiled information from States that have been approved to operate the Title IV-E GAP program. Based on the information provided in States' IV-E plans, this list provides links to States' Guardianship laws, policies, and other additional forms, such as the Guardianship Agreement. State contact information is also provided here when available. (Last Updated: October 2012)

[http://www.nrcpfc.org/fostering\\_connections/state\\_gap.html](http://www.nrcpfc.org/fostering_connections/state_gap.html)

### **Making It Work: Using the Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP) to Close the Permanency Gap for Children in Foster Care**

This report focuses specifically on states' implementation of the Title IV-E Guardianship Assistance Program, which was established in the Fostering Connections Act of 2008. At the time of publication, 29 states, the District of Columbia and one Indian tribe, had received approval to operate GAP from the Children's Bureau, ACYF, DHHS; officials in each were interviewed for the report. The goal of this report is to highlight the leadership and good work being done by those state child welfare agencies and the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, sometimes in partnership with relative caregivers and other stakeholders, to ensure more children in foster care have access to permanent families and relative guardians when appropriate. The report describes key elements and challenges of GAP implementation and lessons learned to date. It offers suggestions to states that have not yet applied for GAP funds or are in the early stages of GAP implementation. It also includes for each of the jurisdictions interviewed a narrative summary and fact sheet describing GAP implementation activities. This report was a collaborative project of the Children's Defense Fund, Child Trends, American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law, Casey Family Programs, Child Focus, and Generations United. (October 2012)

<http://www.childrensdefense.org/child-research-data-publications/data/making-it-work-using-the.pdf>

### **Synthesis of Findings: Subsidized Guardianship Child Welfare Waiver Demonstrations**

This report is based on findings from evaluation reports submitted by several States that received title IV-E waivers to implement subsidized guardianship demonstrations, including Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Oregon, Tennessee, and Wisconsin. It includes the following sections: Executive Summary; History and Legislative Context of Title IV-E Waivers; Subsidized Guardianship Waiver Demonstrations; Eligibility Criteria for Subsidized Guardianship Demonstrations; Programmatic Features of Subsidized Guardianship Demonstrations; Guardianship Planning and Casework Process; Evaluation Methodologies; State Outcome Evaluations – Summary of Key Findings; Factors Affecting the Offer, Acceptance, and Exits to Guardianship; Cost Analysis; and, Lessons Learned from the Subsidized Guardianship Demonstrations. This report was published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. (2011)

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/subsidized.pdf>

### **NRCPCF Fostering Connections – Kinship/Guardianship Webpage**

This webpage of the NRCPCF Fostering Connections micro-website provides resources on kinship and guardianship that relate to the Fostering Connections Act of 2008. This webpage highlights a variety of web-based resources from National Resource Centers, the Children's Bureau, and the T/TA Network, as well as materials from collaborating organizations. This webpage also offers state examples and resources that address: relative search, notice of placement to relatives, and relative engagement; foster care licensing standards; and, Kinship Guardianship Assistance.

[http://www.nrcpfc.org/fostering\\_connections/kinship\\_guardianship.html](http://www.nrcpfc.org/fostering_connections/kinship_guardianship.html)

### **Subsidized Guardianship: Testing the Effectiveness of an Idea Whose Time Has Finally Come**

This report discusses findings from demonstration projects in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Tennessee that tested the efficacy of encouraging related and non-related foster parents to assume permanent legal guardianship of foster children by offering them financial subsidies in amounts similar to the subsidies they could otherwise receive as licensed foster or adoptive parents. Interim findings from these two subsidized guardianship waiver demonstrations replicate the key results from the original Illinois waiver demonstration: federally subsidized guardianship is a permanent and cost effective alternative to retaining children in long-term foster care. This report was authored by Mark F. Testa and published by the Children and Family Research Center at The University of Illinois at Urbana-Campaign School of Social Work. (May 2008)

[http://www.nrcpfc.org/is/downloads/SG\\_Testing%20Effectiveness%20\(Testa%202008\).pdf](http://www.nrcpfc.org/is/downloads/SG_Testing%20Effectiveness%20(Testa%202008).pdf)

### **The Fostering Connections Kinship Toolkit**

The Fostering Connections Kinship Toolkit from the Children's Defense Fund includes resources designed to assist states that are considering whether to apply for the Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP) funding and how to make the case for the investment. The toolkit also includes resources to help states implement the GAP option and identification and notice requirements and answer questions regarding all of the provisions that will affect children being raised by grandparents and other relatives.

<http://www.childrensdefense.org/policy-priorities/child-welfare/fostering-connections/toolkit.html>

*For additional guardianship resources, visit the NRCPCF Guardianship Hot Topic webpage at:*

<http://www.nrcpfc.org/is/guardianship.html>