

Kinship Services

KINSHIP: Family and Community Working Together to Plan for Children

Kinship is the full time care and nurturing of a child or youth by a relative, community member, or other adult with whom there is a relationship significant to the child or youth. There are two types of Kinship arrangements: Kinship Service and Kinship Care.

Kinship Service: Kinship Service applies to a child or youth who cannot safely live at home, who is placed with a member of his or her extended family or community but not admitted into the care of a child welfare agency.

Kinship Care: Kinship Care applies to a child or youth who cannot safely live at home, who is admitted to the care of a child welfare agency and placed with a member of the child or youth's extended family or community. Kinship Care families become licensed Foster Homes.

Benefits of Kinship

- Children experience less trauma and less stigma when moving to kin compared to children who are placed in regular foster care.
- Family Relations tend to have greater commitment to children and ability to stick it out if things become tough.
- Sibling groups are more likely to remain together.
- Is easier to maintain, culture, identity, sense of belonging and self-esteem.
- Child(ren) remain within their familial unit and able to continue engaging in family traditions and culture.
- There is a potential for more natural access with parents and siblings.
- It allows opportunity for families to plan together in the short term and long term.
- Family stories and histories are maintained.

All Children have the right to be cared for safely within their own families and communities.

Support for Kinship Service Families

- Financial support through Ontario Works Temporary Care Allowance and Child Tax Credit.
- Episodic Financial support from the child welfare agency.

Support for Kinship Care Families

- Financial support through a daily per diem and reimbursement of child care activities.
- PRIDE training and other training support.



How to become a Kin Caregiver

If you are interested in becoming a kinship caregiver for child/youth in care please contact Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services and ask to speak with a Child Well Being Worker. The worker may not be able to provide information over the phone for confidentiality reasons. However, the information will be forwarded to the appropriate worker. You also can contact the Band Representative in your community to assist in bringing your wishes forward to KGCFS.

Whether caring for a child through Kinship Service or Kinship Care, you will be required to participate in a home assessment. This will include: individual interviews with caregivers, interviews with any children or other adults in the family, criminal record checks (vulnerable sector screening), child welfare background checks and home safety inspection.

Some other requirements may include medicals, references, and financial reports. Kinship Care families must meet foster care licensing standards and attend PRIDE Training.

Other ways families can be involved:

Children need connections with family, culture and community. Kinship does not have to mean a full-time placement. You can stay connected in different ways such as:

- Taking the children for a weekend visit
- Sending birthday cards, phone calls, etc.
- Having typical grandparent/aunt/uncle relationships and showing children you sincerely care about them



