

ARE YOU RAISING A RELATIVE'S CHILD?



WHAT IS KINSHIP CARE?

A number of grandparents and other relatives (including aunts, uncles, older siblings and great-grandparents) find themselves serving as parents for children whose own parents are unable to care for them. Sometimes, the arrangement (referred to as "kinship care") is an informal, private arrangement between the parents and relative caregivers; in other situations, the Department of Human Services is involved. Kinship care can also include non-relatives such as godparents, stepparents, family-friends or any adult who has a kinship bond with a child.



FACTS ABOUT KINSHIP CARE

- 2.7 million children (4%) of all U.S. children are being raised in kinship care situations.
- Children placed with relatives make up over a quarter (26%) of all children in the foster care system.

ABOUT IFAPA

For over 40 years, the Iowa Foster and Adoptive Parents Association (IFAPA) has been a voice for Iowa's foster, adoptive and kinship children through the support it provides to the parents who care for children. IFAPA empowers, supports and advocates for foster, adoptive and kinship families across Iowa. IFAPA provides peer support, training and resources to promote safety, permanency and well-being for Iowa's children.

If you are a kinship caregiver, it may have been a while since you have parented a child or cared for a child at this age. Relative caregivers are often placed into parenting situations for which they are not completely prepared. IFAPA is a resource for families in this situation.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Kinship families can become a member of IFAPA for free! To become a member, please call IFAPA at 800-277-8145 ext. 1.

Membership Benefits Include:

- Free training opportunities for IFAPA's foster/adoptive/kinship parents
- Free publications written for Iowa's foster/adoptive/kinship parents
- Free or low-cost events
- Low-cost annual spring conference
- Free News & Views newsletter mailed/e-mailed to parents quarterly
- Free Weekly Word newsletter e-mailed to parents on a weekly basis



HAVE A QUESTION? NEED SUPPORT?

Contact IFAPA's Executive Director:

KACI O'DAY-GOLDSTEIN

800-277-8145 ext. 6 / 515-289-4567 ext. 6 / kodaygoldstein@ifapa.org

Resources for Kinship Families

IFAPA provides the following peer support, information, resources, and referrals to community services.

PEER LIAISONS

IFAPA has Peer Liaisons across Iowa. They are currently licensed foster parents and some are adoptive parents. Peer Liaisons provide peer support to foster, adoptive and kinship parents in their assigned areas. They are available by phone, email, and at IFAPA events as an on-going source of information and support. They understand the child welfare system, the needs of children who do not live at home, and have experience with the challenges and joys of parenting these children.

RESOURCE INFORMATION SPECIALIST

Our Resource Information Specialist can help families successfully meet the challenges of parenting the children placed in their home through telephone support, educational materials, knowledge of available services, and connections to other families.

TRAININGS FOR KINSHIP PARENTS

IFAPA understands the children in your care may have special emotional, cognitive, physical and behavioral needs you may have never encountered or may feel ill-equipped to handle. IFAPA offers a variety of continuing education trainings designed to help you deal with the daily needs of your child, work more effectively with the child's birth parent(s) as well as feel more connected to other parents going through a similar experience as your own. Training can be obtained through our two-hour, three-hour, and six-hour trainings plus yearly state conference. These are listed in our newsletters, training booklets and on the IFAPA website. They are free of charge except for the spring conference and CPR and First Aid trainings.

SUPPORT GROUPS

IFAPA has 50 affiliated support groups throughout the state to support foster, adoptive, and kinship families. Each group has its own leadership and is structured to best meet the needs of the families in that area. Some groups have monthly meetings with support only, some have support and training, some have training only, and some also have special outings or events for their families. You can find a map and listing of the current support groups on the IFAPA website under the "Support" tab. If there are a number of kinship families in a given area who would like to organize a group specifically for kin families, IFAPA can provide assistance in the creation of such a group.

IFAPA WEBSITE

The IFAPA website (www.ifapa.org) serves as a resource for families. Parents can access upcoming training dates, information on kinship resources, events, support groups, names of therapists, publications, links to other helpful websites and more.



IFAPA PUBLICATIONS

IFAPA publishes a variety of resource materials for foster, adoptive and kinship parents to assist them in understanding procedures of DHS and to enhance their parenting skills. All publications are free of charge and are available on our website. IFAPA will also mail you a copy of the publication if you call 800-277-8145 ext. 5.

IFAPA has a publication that is specific to kinship caregivers: ***Raising Relative's Children*** - This guidebook was created to help Iowa kinship caretakers navigate the DHS and Juvenile Court systems when they are caring for a relative's child. The booklet includes information on the different types of care a kinship caretaker can provide, financial assistance programs, community resources, and questions to ask DHS when considering a kinship placement. This booklet also includes information on children's issues, family concerns, respite, educational issues, raising children of color, talking with children about their parents and much more helpful information.

IFAPA NEWSLETTERS

IFAPA produces the News and Views newsletter on a quarterly basis. Policy updates, peer support, training opportunities and resources relating to foster, adoptive and kinship families are core subjects of this newsletter. IFAPA also produces a weekly newsletter, the Weekly Word, that is sent electronically to all IFAPA members. This newsletter contains information regarding IFAPA's programs, training and other information helpful to foster, adoptive and kinship families. The latest issues of these newsletters are available on the IFAPA website.