



pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Office of Children, Youth and Families

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Continuum of Kinship-First Services

OCYF promotes a kinship-first culture in all areas of service offered:

- Licensing
- Incentivized funding through annual budget process
- Technical assistance
- CQI
- Collaboration – statewide meetings
- Laws, policies and regulations

Continuum of Kinship-First Services

Collaboration with key Technical Assistance partners enhances the promotion of a kinship-first culture:

- Administrative Offices of PA Courts, Children and Families in the Court
- University of Pittsburgh, Child Welfare Resource Center
- KinConnector, www.kinconnector.org
- Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network

Continuum of Kinship-First Services

Act 55 of 2013 – PA Family Finding law

- Requires family finding efforts to occur on an ongoing basis for all children entering the child welfare system.
- Conducted initially when a child is accepted for services and at least annually

Continuum of Kinship-First Services

Rule 1149 Family Finding requires PA Courts, at each stage of a case, to:

- Inquire about the efforts made by the county children and youth agency to comply with the family finding requirements pursuant to PA law.
- Place a determination on the record as to whether the agency has reasonably engaged in family finding efforts.

Pennsylvania Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network

- SWAN began in 1992
- Public/private partnership devoted to achieving permanency for children in foster care.
- Overseen by the Department of Human Services and is managed by a prime contractor,
- Prime contractor maintains subcontracts with approximately 75 private agencies, referred to as SWAN Affiliate Agencies
 - Affiliates provide direct services to children in care and the families who serve them.

SWAN Direct Services

- Family Profile
- Child Profile
- Child Specific Recruitment
- Child Preparation
- Child Placement
- Adoption Finalization

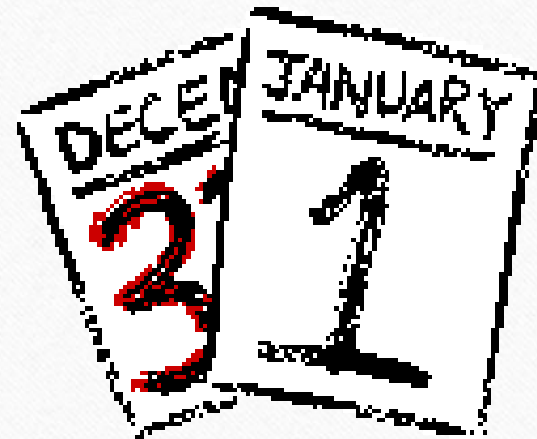


Post Permanency Services in Pennsylvania

Background

Statewide Adoption and
Permanency (SWAN) Bulletin
– January 2003

New Unit of Service
Post Permanency



Post Permanency Services

Who qualifies:

Any family who has adopted, whether or not they adopted a child from the child welfare system

Post Permanency Services

Who qualifies:

Families who provide permanency to children from the child welfare system through Permanent Legal Custodianship or Kinship Care (fit and willing relatives)

The Services (Family Driven)

Case Advocacy

Respite

Support Group

Accessing Services

- SWAN Helpline
- 1-800-585-SWAN
- Adoption Information
- Five Specialists

Families Served

- Budget \$5 million dollars
- Fiscal Year 19/20 – More than 900 families served

Contact

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**Office of Children
and Family Services**

Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program (KinGAP)

June 17, 2021

New York State Child Welfare

**State Supervised
County Administered**



KinGAP Policies

11-OCFS-ADM-03 Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program

12-OCFS-LCM-03 KinGAP Payments-Excludable Income for Child Care Subsidy Program Eligibility

16-OCFS-ADM-10 Continuation of KinGAP to a Successor Guardian

18-OCFS-ADM-03 Expansion of KinGAP

18-OCFS-ADM-06 Eligibility Forms for KinGAP



Supporting Policies

20-OCFS-ADM-08 Approval of Emergency Foster Boarding Homes and Expanded Waiver Authority

20-OCFS-ADM-18 Kin-First Firewall Practice

20-OCFS-ADM-19 Blind Removal Process

20-OCFS-ADM-05 Requirement to Make Information Available to Nonparent Caregivers



Annual KinGAP Report

Data Tables Include:

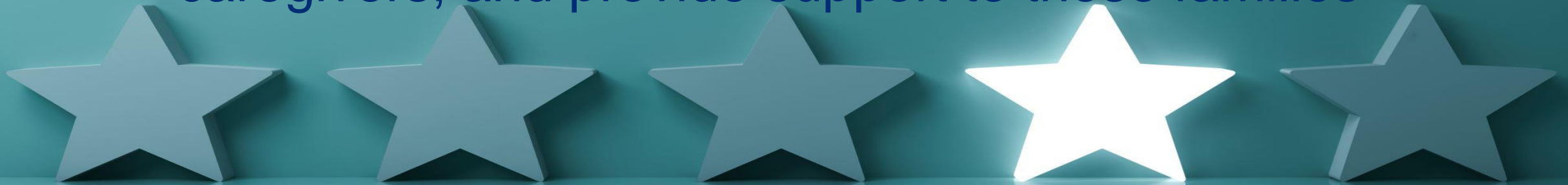
- Number of children entering KinGAP
- Applications for KinGAP assistance
- Ages of children at KinGAP entry
- Year-end KinGAP report OCFS special hearing information system
- Changes in permanent exits from all foster care settings since KinGAP implementation
- Changes in permanent exits from approved relative foster care settings since KinGAP implementation



Kinship Champion Curriculum

2020 Pilot

Training to support OCFS efforts in developing dedicated “Kinship Champions” within LDSSs and voluntary agencies who will search for, engage, notify, and assess potential kin caregivers, and provide support to those families



KinGAP Targets

Child in foster care with
kin 6 months + per LDSS

Goal is not return to parent
or adoption

Follow up by OCFS
permanency specialists



Post-Guardianship Support



16 Regional Permanency Centers

- post-adoption + post-guardianship funded with delinking savings

NYS Kinship Navigator

- info/referral statewide



Development of a KinGAP Database

For LDSSs/VAs to expedite the process for completion, review and final determination of KinGAP applications and agreements



Resources

KinGAP Reports

<http://ocfs.ny.gov/kinship/reports.asp>

KinGAP Background and Process

<https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/kinship/background-and-process.php>

Permanency Resource Centers

<https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/adoption/post-adoption/>



CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
KINSHIP TO GUARDIANSHIP

Guardianship Assistance Program

June 9, 2021

**ABA Center on Children and the Law, Children's Defense Fund, and
Generations United, and Casey Family Programs**

KINSHIP

CGS SEC 17A-114

Kinship Defined

- **Relative (Kinship) Caregiver**- Related by birth, adoption or marriage
- **Fictive Kin Caregiver** - Unrelated to a child but has an emotionally significant relationship with child or child's family amounting to a familial relationship

Mandate

- No child in custody of the Commissioner shall be placed in foster care with any person unless such person is licensed
- A child in the custody of the Commissioner may be placed with a relative or kin who has not been issued a license or approval...provided a satisfactory home visit is conducted; a basic assessment of the family is completed.

KINSHIP ASSESSMENT

- Family Search and Engagement

- Background Check Completed

Waiver Process
Substantiation Review

- Preliminary Assessment of Candidate, Household Members & Home

Preliminary
Approval to Place

- Fingerprinting

- Documentation & References

- Home Visit

- Training

- Licensed

150 days

WAIVERS- COMMISSIONER LEVEL

Sec. 17a-145-152a

Individual has been CONVICTED

- **Injury or risk of injury to minor** or other similar offenses against a minor
- **Impairing the morals of a minor** or other similar offenses against a minor;
- **Violent crime against a person** or other similar offenses;
- **Possession, use, or sale** of controlled substances within the past five (5) years;
- **Illegal use of a firearm** or other similar offenses;
- Child **abuse or neglect substantiated**; or
- has had a **minor removed from their care** because of child abuse or neglect

WAIVER INFORMATION

The History and Explanation

- Criminal History & CPS History
- Details of the explanation

The Child

- Child
- Brief reason for involvement
- State the needs and services involved or needed.
- Speak to the relationship dynamic of the child's and waiver candidate

Assessment:

- Shared Assessment and Support from the Foster Care and CPS Division

SUBSIDY PROCESS- REGIONAL

Approved Permanency Plan of Transfer of Guardianship by Court

Prepare Subsidy Documents aka “The Subsidy Packet”

- Conversation with caregiver utilizing Comparison Chart

Review and Approval Of Packet PRIOR to STOG finalization by Central Office Subsidy Unit

- Review Team Includes
 - Fiscal
 - Legal
 - Health Advocate
 - Revenue Enhancement

SUBSIDY PROCESS- CENTRAL OFFICE

Elements of Review

- Eligibility
- Rate
- Medical coverage

Post Transfer of Guardianship

- Annual Eligibility Review
- Support is available until Child's 18th Birthday through
 - Adoption Assistance Program
 - Beacon Voluntary Care Management
 - Connecticut Alliance of Foster and Adoptive Families
 - DCF Central Office Subsidy Unit