



## What is Kinship Care?

When parents are unable to care for their children, relatives or close family friends often step in as full-time caregivers. This arrangement, known as kinship care, can happen because of parental absence, including:

- Incarceration;
- Mental illness;
- Substance Use;
- Death or abandonment; or
- Temporary needs such as military deployment, job-related duties, or personal challenges.

Kinship care provides children with a stable, familiar environment and helps maintain family and cultural connections during difficult times.

## The Navigator provides:

- Information
- Education
- Referrals
- Assistance



**We are here to help!**  
**877-454-6463**

[navigator@nysnavigator.org](mailto:navigator@nysnavigator.org)  
[nysnavigator.org](http://nysnavigator.org)



Office of Children  
and Family Services



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### A Program of Catholic Charities Family and Community Services

The New York State Kinship Navigator is funded through the New York State Office of Children and Family Services to provide a statewide information and referral service for kinship caregivers. This information is in the public domain. Readers are encouraged to copy and share it, but please credit NYS Kinship Navigator.

# Help for Kinship Caregivers



## Grandparents, relatives and family friends who are full-time caregivers of children

Serving all of New York State



NEW YORK STATE  
**Kinship Navigator**

877-454-6463 [nysnavigator.org](http://nysnavigator.org)



## Grandparents, Relatives and Family Friends Caring for Children

- Do you need financial assistance?
- Do you know your legal rights?
- Are you worried about how to care for a child?
- Are you looking for service?

### Find Out About

- Kinship Laws
- Special Benefits for Non-Parents Caring for Children
- School Enrollment, Birth Certificates, Tax Credits and More
- Kinship Services



## Kinship Navigator is available 10am-4pm Monday-Friday to assist with

- Local resources and connections to kinship supports in your area
- State and federal laws
- Information about public benefits
- Kinship professionals
- Family court lawyers
- Public assistance, social security and education law experts

### Visit [nysnavigator.org](https://nysnavigator.org)

- Interactive New York State map of resources by county
- Online chat from 10am - 4pm
- Helpful videos on our Youtube channel - [youtube.com/@nyskinshipnavigator](https://youtube.com/@nyskinshipnavigator)
- Calendar of Kinship events across the state
- Links to state and national resources
- Legal fact sheets and guides
- Information and resources for allied professionals

Want to keep your family healthy and safe?  
**New York State Kinship Navigator can help!**

We can point you to answers to your questions about financial needs, school enrollment, kinship law and other resources.



**Help is just  
a phone call away at  
877-454-6463**  
(Monday-Friday, 10am - 4pm)