



## NORTHERNRIVERS KINSHIP CARE Services

- Is your grandchild, niece, or nephew in your care full time?
- Are you a neighbor, teacher, coach, or friend who wants to help a child who cannot live safely at home and is involved with your local Department of Social Services.

### Northern Rivers Kinship Care *services are here for you.*

*“Kinship care” is what New York state calls the full-time care, nurture, and protection of children by relatives or significant adults when children cannot safely stay in their own home with their birth parents. Children come into kinship care for reasons including parental incarceration, death, mental or physical illness, substance abuse, and neglect and abuse of children by parents.*

Northern Rivers Family of Services certifies kinship foster parents and works to support the kinship parents and child(ren) they are caring for. Through Northern Rivers’ Foster Care program, kinship foster parents are assigned a permanency care manager who is assigned to the youth’s case to provide ongoing support. The kinship foster parent also receives a stipend designated for the child’s needs; the costs for a child’s medical, dental, and mental health needs are covered as well.

**In order for Northern Rivers to certify the kinship foster parent(s) and for the kinship foster parent to receive the aforementioned services, certain requirements must be met:**

1. The child needs to be in the custody of the Department of Social Services
2. The identified kinship parent(s) needs to be referred to Northern Rivers by the appropriate Department of Social Services
3. The identified kinship parent(s) need to agree to follow the steps to become an Approved Relative Home, which includes the successful completion of:
  - background checks
  - Northern Rivers’ kinship care training and certification
  - medical exam
  - home study
  - home safety review

**For questions regarding kinship care and becoming a kinship foster parent, please email [KinshipCare@northernrivers.org](mailto:KinshipCare@northernrivers.org) or call 844.855.CARE (2273).**



## KINSHIP CARE Services

### **What are some other names for kinship care?**

Families and individuals who are raising their relative’s children are sometimes referred to as “grandfamilies,” “second-time parents,” and “relatives as parents.” “Kin care,” “kinship foster care,” and “kinship care” are some terms for the arrangement.

### **What does the term “fictive kin” refer to?**

“Fictive kin” refers to an individual who is not related by birth, adoption, or marriage to a child, but who has an emotionally significant relationship with the child.

### **Why is kinship care important?**

By maintaining family, cultural, or community ties, kinship care helps the child through the experience of being out of the parental home. It is the oldest form of family preservation and an important safety net for children whose parents are either unable or unwilling to care for them.

### **What are the benefits of children living in kinship foster care compared to those living with non-kinship families?**

There is a greater likelihood that kids achieve permanency. In a recent study, 78% of teens living in a relative foster home achieved permanency.

- Children experience fewer school changes.
- Children in kinship care typically has better behavioral and mental health outcomes.
- Children are more likely to keep connections to sibling groups, extended family, and other loved ones.
- Children in kinship care are less likely to re-enter foster care after returning to the birth parent(s).

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[northernrivers.org/foster-care](http://northernrivers.org/foster-care)