

## Ashtabula County Children Services

### Mission Statement

Our mission is to assure that children at risk of abuse or neglect are protected and nurtured within a family and with the support of our community.



### Services We Offer

- ◆ Case Management
- ◆ Bi-Monthly Newsletter
- ◆ Support Group
- ◆ Information & Referral
- ◆ Links to Community Resources
- ◆ Limited access to emergency assistance
- ◆ Application for Kinship Permanency Incentive Program
- ◆ Notary Service



***Are you raising the child of a family member or friend?***

If the answer is yes, you are not alone. Call Ashtabula County Children Services to talk to a Kinship case worker today. We can assist you in navigating the social services system and connect you to other helpful services.



*Thanks to Kent State University of Ashtabula and  
Professor Wheeler's Case Studies in Management  
Class-2011*

## The Kinship Family Program

# KINSHIP



## ***Families Caring For Children***

Ashtabula County Children Services Board



3914 C Court

P.O. Box 1175

Ashtabula, Ohio 44005-1175

440-988-1811 or 1-888-998-1811

[www.help-a-child.com](http://www.help-a-child.com)

## Kinship Care

Kinship Caregivers — Grandparents, Aunts/Uncles, Cousins, Adult Siblings, and Close Family Friends — are often raising children when parents are unable or unavailable to care for them.

- ◆ Kinship Care refers to the temporary or permanent arrangement in which a relative or non-relative adult, who has a relationship with a child, has taken over the full-time care of that child.
- ◆ Kinship caregivers' voluntary commitment to devote their lives to the children in their care is a courageous, life-changing decision.



## Support Group

A support group has been established for kinship caregivers along with a kids group to share hopes, victories, challenges, and information. The groups meet the first Monday of each month. Please contact us for more information at (440) 998-1811

## Issues you may face

- ◆ **Increased household expenses.** Your budget may not stretch to include the increased cost of feeding, clothing and caring for the children. You can apply for public assistance through the county's Department of Job and Family Services.
- ◆ **Providing medical care for the children.** An application for medical coverage can be made through the county's Department of Job and Family Services but there are certain requirements that must be followed.
- ◆ **School enrollment.** Public school districts require legal paperwork to allow enrollment. They also have the right to limit enrollment to residents in their districts. If the children's status in your home is unclear, they may be denied school entry.
- ◆ **Behavioral issues.** The children may act out feelings of anger, fear and sadness due to issues that occurred in their parent's home. You may need to find counseling and professional guidance for them.

**No matter which issues you are facing, Ashtabula County Children Services Kinship Caseworkers can assist you by making referrals and pointing you in the right direction.**



## Kinship Permanency Incentive

The Kinship Permanency Incentive (KPI) Program provides financial support for minor children in the legal and physical custody of "kinship caregivers." KPI is temporary and time-limited. It is meant to promote a permanent commitment by kinship caregivers. It can help defray some initial costs of caring for children.



## To Qualify for KPI

- ◆ A court must have awarded the kinship caregiver legal custody or guardianship of the child on or after July 1, 2005.
- ◆ A public children service agency must have approved the placement and conducted a home assessment.
- ◆ The gross income of the caregiver's family, including the child, may not exceed 300 percent of the federal poverty guidelines.