

A Resource Guide For Relatives Raising D.C. Children:

Helping You Find The Best Path Forward



DC KinCare Alliance
Supporting Kin And The Children They Raise

Table of Contents

Part I: About This Guide	2
A. Is This Guide For Me?.....	2
B. Why Do I Need This Guide?.....	4
Part II: What Are My Options When Caring For A Child?	5
A. Sole Custody Ordered By A Court	5
B. Foster Care	8
C. Custodial Power Of Attorney.....	12
D. Standby Guardianship	14
E. Informal Custody	16
Part III: Help With Basic Needs	18
A. Temporary Cash Assistance For Needy Families (TANF)	18
B. Food Stamps (SNAP)	20
C. Medical Assistance In D.C.....	21
D. WIC	23
E. SSI For Children.....	25
F. Child Care Subsidy Program	26
G. D.C. Public School Free or Reduced-Price Meal Program	27
H. Grandparent Caregiver Program	29
I. Foster Care Subsidy	32
J. Child Support	33
APPENDIX A-1 TANF/SNAP Service Center Locations	35
APPENDIX A-2 Health Link Enrollment Center Locations	36
APPENDIX A-3 WIC Clinic Locations	37
APPENDIX A-4 Social Security Office Locations	39
APPENDIX B Community Social Services.....	40
APPENDIX C Legal Services	41

Part I: About This Guide

A. Is This Guide For Me?

This Guide is for you if you live in D.C. and are or will soon become a **relative caregiver** for a D.C. child. If you are caring for a child from D.C. but you live outside of D.C., this Guide may still be helpful to you regarding your legal options, but you will need to get specific information regarding financial resources from the state where you reside.

A **relative caregiver** is someone related to a child (by blood, marriage, or adoption) or a close family friend who is taking care of a child when the child's parents cannot care for him or her. Examples of relative caregivers are grandparents, great-grandparents, aunts, uncles, great-aunts, great-uncles, and godparents.

Below are some situations when someone might become a relative caregiver:

- ▶ Dana gave birth to Carla while she was still in high school. Dana and her mother, Deborah, agree that it would be better if they share responsibility for taking care of Carla until Dana graduates from high school and can find a job. Deborah is a relative caregiver to Carla.
- ▶ Jerome has been the primary caretaker for his two-year-old son Andrew. Andrew's mom comes by to see him when she can, but she is homeless and cannot care for Andrew. Jerome was recently arrested and is now in the D.C. Jail. Jerome asks his mom, Ruth, to take care of Andrew while Jerome is in jail. Ruth is a relative caregiver to Andrew.
- ▶ Sue has been the primary caretaker for her six-year old son Raymond. The D.C. Child and Family Services Agency ("CFSA") has become involved because Sue has a substance use problem that resulted in her not being

able to properly care for Raymond. Sue has reached an agreement with CFSA that Sue's mother, Linda, will care for Raymond while Sue goes to rehab. Linda is a relative caregiver to Raymond.

- ▶ Annette has kidney disease and is on the waiting list for a kidney transplant. If she does not get the transplant, her doctors say she may only have a few months to live. Annette asks her sister, Mary, to care for her four-year-old daughter, Rochelle, if she does not get the transplant. In that case, Mary would become a relative caregiver to Rochelle.

B. Why Do I Need This Guide?

This Guide provides you with information about the legal options you have if you are a relative caregiver or you become a relative caregiver. It also gives you information on financial resources that may be available to you so you can make the best choice for you and the child who needs your care.

As a relative caregiver, you are trying to provide the best care that you possibly can, but may find yourself in a difficult situation. You might need formal legal rights in order to get the child medical care or obtain certain benefits and services to help care for the child. Also, you may be worried that a parent will come and get the child even if you think he or she would not be safe to go home.

This Guide explains five different ways you can have custody of a child and what financial resources you may be able to get with each type of custody. Some options require you to take legal action, while others are less formal. The pros and cons of each option are discussed to help you figure out the best choice for your situation. It might be hard to decide which option is best for you. This Guide provides you with information

about where to get help with this decision. You are not alone—many organizations are available to help.

This Guide focuses on options to consider for more immediate or shorter-term care of a child. It does not address more permanent options, such as guardianship or adoption. You can find out more about these options from CFSA, a local legal services organization, or a family lawyer (see **Appendices B and C** for contact information).

Part II: What Are My Options When Caring For A Child?

A. Sole Custody Ordered By A Court

1. What Is Sole Custody?

Sole physical and legal custody ordered by a court provides you with important rights with respect to caring for a child. Sole physical custody of a child means that the child lives only with you. Sole legal custody means only you have the right to get school and medical records, talk to doctors and teachers, and make decisions about the child. Sole custody generally grants a relative caregiver the same rights as a parent. The court can grant a relative caregiver both sole physical and sole legal custody, either sole physical or sole legal custody, or a combination of these.

2. Can I Request Sole Custody?

You have the right to file in D.C. court for sole custody if the child has lived in D.C. for at least six months and one of the following three things is true:

- ▶ You have the agreement of the parent who was caring for the child the most during the past three years;
- ▶ You have been living with and caring for the child for four of the most recent six months; or
- ▶ The child is currently living with you, and custody with you will prevent harm to the child.

The court will start with the idea that it is always best for a child to live with his or her parent(s). This means that the court will require the child to live with his or her parent(s), UNLESS you can show that:

- ▶ The parent(s) agree to you having custody;

- ▶ The parent(s) have abandoned the child or can't or won't take care of the child; or
- ▶ Staying with the parent(s) will hurt the child physically or emotionally.

Even if you can show one of these things, the judge will only grant you custody if he or she determines it would be best for the child. The judge will consider the following:

- ▶ How the child gets along with you, his or her parents, and siblings;
- ▶ Who has been caring for the child;
- ▶ What custody decision will be best for the child's physical and emotional needs; and
- ▶ The wishes of the child.

You can also ask the court to order shared custody with the parent(s) or primary custody of the child to you with visits granted to the parent(s). You can ask to share legal custody, physical custody, or both.

3. How Do I Request Sole Custody?

You can file a complaint or motion at the Family Court Central Intake Center located on the JM level of the D.C. Superior Court, 500 Indiana Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20001. If you decide to file the complaint or motion yourself without the help of a lawyer, you can get form complaints and motions and help with filling them out at the Family Court Self-Help Center, located in Room JM-570 of the D.C. Superior Court, or online at <https://www.dccourts.gov/services/forms>. The Center is open every weekday from 8:00 am until 5:30 pm, with no new intakes accepted after 5:00 pm.

4. What Are The Pros And Cons Of Sole Custody?

Sole physical and legal custody ordered by a court provides you with the most rights of all of the options discussed in this Guide because you are granted the right to care for the child in your home and make all decisions about the child. The order also spells out exactly what your rights are, so you can show the order to anyone questioning your right to care for the child in the future. You must have legal custody of the child in order to get the child medical care, obtain the child's medical records, and talk with medical professionals about the child's care. There are also certain public benefits you can only get with legal custody (see Part III below). Also, unless the parent gets the court to change the order, he or she cannot simply come pick up the child, so this provides safety and stability for the child.

The possible downsides of sole custody are that you have to go to court to get an order, and there may be a number of hearings or a trial before you are granted custody. If the parent(s) do not agree to you having custody, a court proceeding may result in bad feelings between you and the child's parent(s) or between you and the child. In addition, until the child turns 18, a parent can ask the court to change the order if there has been a significant change since the original order was entered. Finally, even if you and the parent(s) agree together to change the court-ordered custody arrangement, the change would not be legal unless you go back to court to do so.

5. Who Should I Contact For More Information?

The Family Court Self-Help Center discussed above is a helpful resource or go online to get forms for filing for custody at <https://www.dccourts.gov/services/forms>. You can also visit www.lawhelp.org/dc for more information, call the D.C. Bar Legal Information Helpline at (202) 626-3499 to listen to

prerecorded messages about custody issues, or contact a local legal services organization or family law attorney for help (see **Appendix C**).

B. Foster Care

1. What Is Foster Care?

If the D.C. Child and Family Services Agency (“CFSA”) finds that a child is in immediate danger of abuse or neglect, CFSA may take the child out of his or her home and place the child in a safe setting, which is called foster care. Children in foster care may be placed with foster parents, in group homes, or in other safe places identified by CFSA. CFSA is responsible for the child when he or she is in foster care.

Abuse includes the following four categories:

- ▶ Putting a child in a dangerous situation;
- ▶ Hurting a child on purpose;
- ▶ Sexual exploitation or contact with a child; or
- ▶ Mental or emotional harm to a child.

Neglect means not giving a child enough food, shelter, supervision, education, or medical care. By itself, lack of money is not child neglect.

If you think that a child has been abused or neglected, you can call CFSA’s 24-hour hotline at (202) 671-SAFE and your identity will be kept confidential. If CFSA decides to remove a child from a home due to abuse or neglect, the agency will file an action in the D.C. Family Court within 72 hours to get approval of the decision. If approved, the child will be placed in a foster home, which may be the home of a relative caregiver

if the relative caregiver has or receives a foster parent license, as discussed below.

Most foster care arrangements are temporary, as the child is normally reunified with his or her parent(s). If the court determines after a set period of time that it is not safe for the child to go back home to live with his or her parents, then the court would consider adoption or guardianship of the foster child.

2. Can I Become A Foster Parent?

To become a foster parent for a child from D.C., you must generally meet the licensing requirements set forth below; ***but as a relative caregiver, you may ask CFSA to waive any of these requirements that do not affect the child's safety:***

- ▶ Be at least 21 years old;
- ▶ Live in D.C. or Maryland;
- ▶ Provide character references;
- ▶ Be able to support your household financially;
- ▶ Have enough space in your house or apartment for the child to sleep separately from adults and from opposite-sex children over the age of five;
- ▶ Have the time and ability to provide good care, guidance, and support to the child in your care;
- ▶ Be in good physical and mental health and free of contagious diseases (this applies to all people living in the home); and
- ▶ Ensure your home meets certain other health, safety, and sanitary requirements.

In addition, neither you nor anyone 18 or older living in your home can:

- ▶ Be identified as a child abuser/neglecter in a neglect case; or
- ▶ Have a felony conviction for certain offenses, including domestic violence and child abuse and neglect.

3. How Do I Become A Foster Parent?

If CFSA has contacted you about possibly taking the child from his or her home, or you have heard that CFSA has or may take the child from his or her home, you can ask CFSA to give you a temporary foster parent license. This allows you to take custody of the child right away. The temporary license lasts for 150 days, with the possibility of one renewal for an additional 90 days, while you are waiting for approval of your full annual license. CFSA may ask you to take care of the child informally rather than become a foster parent, or tell you to file for custody in court instead. You should understand all your options and consider the pros and cons of each before you make any decisions.

4. What Are The Pros And Cons Of Becoming A Foster Parent?

Becoming a foster parent can have many advantages. First, similar to sole custody, you have a legal order from a court that grants you the right to care for the child. The child's parent(s) cannot come get the child at any time, and they must meet certain requirements before they can be reunified with the child. This allows you to give the child a safe and stable home while the child's parent(s) try to fix the issues in their home so the child can be safely returned. CFSA has ultimate responsibility for all the children in foster care, but you have certain rights for the child you are fostering, like the right to receive medical information and to talk with the child's therapists, physicians, and teachers. Another advantage of

becoming a foster parent is that you can get money to help care for the child (called a foster care subsidy), which helps pay for the child's food, home, clothing, and other needs. (See Part III. I. of this guide for information on the foster care subsidy.) Foster parents also have priority consideration if a foster child becomes available for adoption or guardianship.

There are also possible downsides to being a foster parent. First, it takes a lot of time and energy. You have to go to court every few months, and a social worker from CFSA will stay involved with the child and make regular visits to your home. You will need to keep your foster parent license up to date and make sure your home continues to meet all of the applicable licensing requirements. Second, CFSA and the court may require you or the child to do things that you may not agree with, like allowing the child visitation with the parent(s) or returning the child to live with the parent(s). In addition, even if you and the parent(s) believe the child is safe to return home, you cannot do so unless the court agrees.

5. Who Should I Contact For More Information?

CFSA can provide information about the foster care process and answer questions you might have about becoming a foster parent, or you can go online at www.fosterdckids.org to get answers to your questions. The D.C. Foster and Adoptive Family Advocacy Center is also a good resource for foster parents (see **Appendix B** for contact information).

C. Custodial Power Of Attorney

1. What Is A Custodial Power Of Attorney?

A Custodial Power of Attorney is a written agreement between the parent and a relative caregiver that generally grants temporary and limited custody of a child, which can include the following rights and responsibilities:

- ▶ Physical custody;
- ▶ Control of the child;
- ▶ Responsibility for the child's care;
- ▶ The right to enroll the child in school;
- ▶ The right to get information about the child from the school;
- ▶ The right to make decisions about school-related matters; and
- ▶ The right to make decisions about the child's medical, psychological, or dental treatment.

2. Can I Get A Custodial Power Of Attorney?

You can get a Custodial Power of Attorney if the child's parent(s) agree to sign one. The parent(s) get to decide what rights they want to give you and for how long. The parent(s) may want to do this if they need you to care for the child temporarily, but don't want to have to go to court to make the arrangement legally valid. The parent(s) can revoke the Custodial Power of Attorney at any time.

3. How Do I Get A Custodial Power Of Attorney?

We recommend using the sample Custodial Power of Attorney available at the Family Court Self-Help Center or online at:

<http://www.childrenslawcenter.org/resource/custodial-power-attorney-and-revocation>. You can also write and sign your own agreement, but you will want to include the following information:

- ▶ Your rights and responsibilities with respect to the child;
- ▶ The length of time you will have the Custodial Power of Attorney (this can be for any length of time);
- ▶ How the parent can revoke the Custodial Power of Attorney;
- ▶ Any other important information about the care of the child; and
- ▶ The parent(s) signature showing their agreement.

The Custodial Power of Attorney does not need to be notarized, although it is recommended. You also do **not** have to file the Custodial Power of Attorney with any court for it to be legally enforceable.

4. What Are The Pros And Cons Of A Custodial Power Of Attorney?

One advantage of a Custodial Power of Attorney is that it is a legally valid document that gives you the authority to care for the child, which can include getting important services for the child like medical care. Having a legally valid, written document can be helpful if there is ever any question about whether you should be caring for the child. Another advantage of a Custodial Power of Attorney is that it can be simple to create, and you don't have to go to court.

A possible downside of a Custodial Power of Attorney is that the parent can revoke it at any time, even if you think the child cannot safely return home.

5. Who Should I Contact For More Information?

You can go to the Family Court Self-Help Center located at the JM level of the D.C. Superior Court or contact a local legal services organization or family law attorney for more information (see **Appendix C**).

D. Standby Guardianship

1. What Is Standby Guardianship?

Standby guardianship allows a parent who has been diagnosed with a chronic condition caused by injury, disease, or illness from which he or she may not recover to make long-term plans for the future of the child. Specifically, the parent can name a standby guardian to care for the child in case he or she is unable to do so in the future. Until that time comes, the parent will continue to care for the child and keep all of his or her rights to raise the child and make decisions for the child's care.

2. Can I Become A Standby Guardian?

Yes, if a custodial parent who has been diagnosed with a chronic condition caused by injury, disease, or illness from which he or she may not recover has named you in writing as the standby guardian, and you are deemed acceptable by the court.

3. How Do I Become A Standby Guardian?

A custodial parent can name you as the standby guardian in a written document called a "designation." The designation does not have to be filed in the court initially, but it must be signed by the custodial parent, you, and two witnesses. The standby guardian's responsibility to care for the child starts

when there is a “triggering event,” which means: (i) the parent states in writing that he or she cannot currently care for the child and agrees for the standby guardian to do so; (ii) the parent is determined incapable to care for the child by a health care provider; or (iii) the parent dies. The parent or standby guardian must file a petition for the court to approve the standby guardian. The court will approve the standby guardian if it is in the best interests of the child.

4. What Are The Pros And Cons Of Becoming A Standby Guardian?

The main advantage of becoming a standby guardian is that it gives a custodial parent the power to control what happens to a child after his or her death or incapacitation. This can be beneficial because it states the wishes of the custodial parent about who should take care of the child. It also will allow for an easier transition of custody and reduce confusion if multiple caregivers step forward to care for the child.

A possible downside of standby guardianship is that you have to go to court to make it legally valid, and if there is a surviving non-custodial parent whose rights have not been legally terminated or given up, there may be a contested custody hearing.

5. Who Should I Contact For More Information?

You can go to the Family Court Self-Help Center located at the JM level of the D.C. Superior Court for sample forms and help completing them, or you can contact a local legal services organization or family law attorney for more information (see **Appendix C**). A sample standby guardian designation and sample petitions are available online at **<https://www.lawhelp.org/dc/resource/pro-se-family-law-pleadings-for-individuals-w>**.

E. Informal Custody

1. What Is Informal Custody?

Informal custody happens when a relative caregiver cares for a child with no court order or formal legal agreement between the relative caregiver and the parent(s).

2. Can I Get Informal Custody?

Anyone can get informal custody—you must simply be willing to care for a child when his or her parent(s) cannot.

3. How Do I Get Informal Custody?

There is no specific process for getting informal custody, and you can get informal custody in a number of ways. Some examples include a parent asking you to take the child for a period of time while he or she is unable to provide care, or a parent dropping the child off with you and not returning. CFSA also may ask you to take the child informally because they have decided it is not safe for the child to remain with the parent(s).

If you need to take informal custody of a child, it is very important that the parent has agreed that the child can stay with you. If possible, you should get that agreement in writing so it is clear you have permission to care for the child.

4. What Are The Pros And Cons Of Informal Custody?

You should look at all options before taking informal custody of a child. If a child is in immediate danger or has nowhere else to go, taking informal custody may be a way to protect the child until you can find help for the child or try to get another form of custody. Informal custody also does not require you to go to

court or have other people involved in your or the child's life.

However, informal custody is risky because you have no legal right to take care of the child or keep the child away from an unsafe parent. The parent(s) can take the child back at any time, even if they agreed that the child should stay with you. In extreme situations, the parent(s) could even claim you took the child without their permission. In addition, informal custody does not give you the right to get medical care for the child, except in an emergency. You also may have trouble registering the child for school or getting certain governmental benefits. And, if the parent has not given you the child's birth certificate or Medicaid card, you may need a court order to obtain those. For all these reasons, informal custody is not usually a good custody solution.

5. Who Should I Contact For More Information?

For more information about informal custody, contact a local legal services provider or family law attorney (see **Appendix C**).

Part III: Help with Basic Needs

As a relative caregiver, you may be eligible for help from the D.C. government, even if you weren't eligible before becoming a relative caregiver. Some of these programs are described below. If you think that you may be eligible, you should consider applying. A local legal services organization, family law attorney, CFSA, or the agency that is in charge of the program can provide you with more information about these services (see **Appendices** for contact information).

A. Temporary Cash Assistance For Needy Families (TANF)

1. What Is TANF?

The TANF program provides financial assistance to needy families with dependent children. For example, a qualifying family of three in 2018 would receive \$576 per month from the TANF program, as well as bonuses for reaching educational and work goals. The program also helps to prepare caregivers to find employment through job training, job readiness, child care, tuition assistance, case management, and other supportive services. You will be required to participate in work, education, or training services unless you get an exemption.

2. Who Can Get TANF?

To be eligible for the D.C. TANF program, you must be a D.C. resident **and**:

- ▶ Be responsible for a child under 19 years of age;
- ▶ Be a U.S. national, citizen, legal alien, or permanent resident;

- ▶ Have low-income (well below the Federal Poverty Level <https://dhcf.dc.gov/service/dc-healthy-families>);
- ▶ Meet asset limits of \$2,000/\$3,000 if individual 60 or older or disabled lives in household; and
- ▶ Be under-employed, unemployed, or about to become unemployed.

You can only apply for TANF if you are a relative of the child. If you are an unrelated caregiver, you can apply for the General Assistance Program for Children on the same application. A court order is **not** required to receive TANF assistance, but you must prove the child lives with you.

3. How Do I Apply For TANF?

You can apply for both yourself and the child, or just for the child. If you apply only for the child, the amount you receive will be less, but your income and assets will not be counted in determining eligibility and you will not be required to participate in the TANF work requirements. To apply for TANF, fill out an application and submit it by mail or in person to a D.C. Economic Security Administration Service Center. A list of Centers is available in **Appendix A-1** to this Guide, or you can find a Center near you at <https://dhs.dc.gov/node/117522>. You can get a combined application for TANF, food stamps, and Medicaid/D.C. Healthy Families (if you are disabled or 65 or older) at a Center, or online at <https://dhs.dc.gov/node/117542>. After you apply, you will be required to come in for an interview. The chart at **Appendix A-1** lists the documents that you should try to bring with you to your interview. When you apply for TANF, you must sign over your rights to get child support from the parent(s) to the government.

B. Food Stamps (SNAP)

1. What Are Food Stamps?

D.C. offers food stamps through its Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (“SNAP”) that helps low-income families buy food for their household, including any children in their care.

2. Who Can Get Food Stamps?

SNAP has specific requirements and limits for receiving food stamps. Whether you can receive food stamps and the amount you can receive depends on a number of factors. These include your income, the amount of your assets, the number of people in your household, whether any of those people are elderly or disabled, whether all members of the household are receiving TANF, SSI, or in some instances General Assistance, and whether any deductions apply. An explanation of the SNAP requirements and limits can be found on the D.C. Department of Human Services website at <https://dhs.dc.gov/service/snap-eligibility>. A court order or other form of legal custody is **not** required to obtain SNAP assistance, but you will need to prove the child lives with you.

3. How Do I Apply For Food Stamps?

To apply for SNAP, fill out an application (<https://dhs.dc.gov/node/117542>) and submit it by mail or in person to a D.C. Economic Security Administration Service Center. A list of Centers is available at **Appendix A-1**, or you can find a Center near you at <https://dhs.dc.gov/node/117522>. You can get a combined application for TANF, SNAP, and Medicaid (if you are disabled or 65 or older) at a Center or online at <https://dhs.dc.gov/node/117542>. Once you have

applied, you will be required to come in for an interview. See the chart at **Appendix A-1** for the types of documents that you should try to collect and bring with you to your interview. SNAP applications must be processed within 30 days of your application. To qualify for expedited SNAP within 7 days, your household must have less than \$100 in assets and make less than \$150 a month in income (as of 2018). Your household may also qualify if rent and utilities are more than your household income.

C. Medical Assistance In D.C.

1. What Types Of Medical Assistance Does D.C. Provide?

D.C. Healthy Families is a health insurance program for D.C. residents who are U.S. citizens or eligible immigrants, and meet income and/or asset requirements. D.C. also operates the D.C. Health Care Alliance, which does not have citizenship requirements and provides medical assistance to D.C. residents with low-income and limited assets who are not eligible for Medicare, Medicaid, or other health insurance. These programs generally cover doctor visits, hospital care, prescription drugs, child early intervention services, and many other services at little or no cost to you.

2. Who Can Get D.C. Medical Assistance?

To be eligible for D.C. Healthy Families, you must be a resident of D.C, a U.S. citizen or an eligible immigrant, **and** meet one of the following income requirements based on the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) (see <https://dhcf.dc.gov/service/dc-healthy-families>) and asset requirements (if applicable):

Children (age 0-18) – income 319% FPL

Youth (age 19-20) – income 216% FPL

Pregnant Women – income 319% FPL

Elderly (65 or over), Blind, or Disabled – income 100% FPL and assets less than \$4,000

Adults (age 21-64) – income 210% FPL

There are no income or asset requirements for certain other identified individuals, such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients, foster care or former foster care subsidy recipients, and Medicare savings program recipients.

To be eligible for D.C. Health Care Alliance, you must be a D.C. resident **and** be an individual who meets the following requirements:

- ▶ age 21 or older;
- ▶ have a household income at or below 200% of the FPL;
- ▶ have assets below \$4,000 for one person and \$6,000 for couples or families; and
- ▶ not have other health insurance and not be eligible for Medicare or Medicaid.

You do **not** need a custody order or other legally enforceable document granting you custody of the child to receive Medical Assistance, but you must show that the child lives with you for purposes of determining the number of people living in your household.

3. How Do I apply For D.C. Medical Assistance?

If you are applying for D.C. Healthy Families and you are 65 or older, blind or disabled, **or** you are applying for D.C. Health Care Alliance, you must complete a combined application for TANF, SNAP, and Medicaid/D.C. Healthy Families (<https://dhs.dc.gov/node/117542>). You must complete the application in person if you are applying for D.C. Health Care Alliance at a D.C. Economic Security Administration Service Center (see **Appendix A-1** or online at <https://dhs.dc.gov/node/117542>); otherwise, you can submit your application in person or by mail.

If you are applying for D.C. Healthy Families and you are not 65 or older, blind, or disabled, you must complete the DC Health Link Application for Health Coverage. You can get an application at any D.C. Health Link Enrollment Center (see <https://dchealthlink.com/enrollmentcenters> or **Appendix A-2**), D.C. Economic Security Administration Service Center (see **Appendix A-1**), or online at <https://dchealthlink.com/individuals/medicaid>. You can submit your application by mail or in person to a D.C. Health Link Enrollment Center. Call the D.C. Health Link Customer Service Center toll-free at (855) 532-5465 for help with the application.

D. WIC

1. What Is WIC?

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) provides nutrient-rich foods, nutrition counseling and education, immunization assessment and screening, and referrals to health and social service providers.

2. Who Can Get D.C. WIC benefits?

D.C. WIC benefits are available for pregnant or breast-feeding women, new mothers, infants, and children up to the age of five. You must live in D.C., have a nutritional or medical risk as determined by a nutritionist or other health professional, **and** either meet the income guidelines (your income cannot be more than 185% of the Federal Poverty Level <https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>) **or** be a participant in Medicaid, D.C. Healthy Families, School Lunch Program, TANF, or SNAP.

3. How Do I Apply for D.C. WIC?

To apply for D.C. WIC, call (800) 345-1942. You will be asked a few eligibility questions. If you are determined to be eligible, you can schedule an appointment at the WIC clinic of your choice (see **Appendix A-3** for clinic locations or online at <https://doh.dc.gov/service/wic-sites-dc>). On the day of the appointment, you should plan to spend about an hour at the clinic and you should bring the following information with you:

- ▶ Proof of D.C. residence (a bill or letter addressed to you in the past 30 days);
- ▶ Proof of total family income (last two check stubs or Medicaid, D.C. Healthy Families, School Lunch Program, TANF, or SNAP notice);
- ▶ Proof of pregnancy or proof of birth (birth certificate or discharge papers);
- ▶ Child's shot record; and
- ▶ Child (all children who are eligible, ages 1 - 5).

E. SSI For Children

1. What Is SSI For Children?

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for Children is a federal program that provides cash assistance to children who are disabled or blind.

2. Who Can Get SSI For Children Benefits?

To qualify as a child for purposes of SSI, he or she must be **either**: (a) under age 18 and neither married nor the head of the household; **or** (b) under age 22 and regularly attending school. A child must be blind or disabled to be eligible. Your household also must meet income eligibility requirements or be receiving TANF. You can determine a child's eligibility for SSI by filling out a short questionnaire online at <https://ssabest.benefits.gov>.

3. How Do I Apply For SSI For Children Benefits?

To apply for SSI for Children benefits, you must complete an Application for Supplemental Security Income and a Child Disability Report. A Child Disability Starter Kit is available online at https://www.ssa.gov/disability/disability_starter_kits_child_eng.htm, and the Child Disability Report is also available online at <https://www.ssa.gov/childdisabilityreport/>. However, to complete the application, you must call (800) 772-1213 or visit your local Social Security Office to set up an interview (see **Appendix A-4** for a list of local offices or find the list online at <https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp>). At the interview, you should be prepared to provide names and contact information for the child's doctor(s), names of any medications being taken, and the child's medical assistance number, if any. You will also have

to sign a form that gives the child's doctor permission to provide medical information about the child's disability. You will need a court order or some other form of legal custody of the child to apply for SSI since you must provide permission for the Social Security Administration to access the child's medical records.

F. Child Care Subsidy Program

1. What Is The Child Care Subsidy Program?

The Child Care Subsidy Program helps low-income families pay for child care for children 6 months to 12 years old. If the child you are caring for has disabilities, the subsidy may cover child care costs until he or she is 19 years old. The subsidy may cover all or part of your child care costs, and is paid directly to your child care provider. The amount of the subsidy each family may receive will depend upon the family's need, financial resources, and size.

2. Who Can Get A Child Care Subsidy?

Families that make below a certain income level, families receiving TANF, and families pursuing additional education to improve employment opportunities may be eligible for a child care subsidy. The child care must be provided by a Licensed Child Care Provider or a Licensed Child Development Home. A Licensed Child Care Provider can be found by contacting D.C. Child Care Connections at (202) 829-2500 or by going online to www.learnDC.org/childcarefinder. If a child care provider cannot be found, you can use someone else as long as the provider enters into an agreement with the Office of the State Superintendent of Education to maintain certain health, safety, and education requirements.

3. How Do I Apply For A Child Care Subsidy?

To apply for a child care subsidy, you must visit the Child Care Services Division in person. Applicants can come without an appointment on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday from 8:15 am to 3:30 pm, or call (202) 727-0284 to schedule an appointment Monday through Friday from 8:15 am to 3:30 pm. The Child Care Service Division is located at 4001 South Capitol Street SW, Washington, D.C. 20032. You will need to provide documents verifying:

- ▶ your identity;
- ▶ your citizenship or legal status;
- ▶ your income;
- ▶ your need for child care (work or school schedule, for instance, and proof the child lives in your home);
- ▶ your residency, and
- ▶ your relationship to the child (court order, another form of legal custody, referral from a D.C. government agency, or documentation of payment from TANF).

G. D.C. Public School Free or Reduced-Price Meal Program

1. What Is The D.C. Public School Free or Reduced-Price Meal Program?

DC Public Schools (DCPS) provides free breakfast to all students, as well as free snacks and a light dinner for students attending after-school programs. DCPS students can also buy school lunch or receive free or reduced cost lunch if certain financial eligibility requirements are met. D.C. also has a Free

Summer Meals Program, which provides free nutritious meals and snacks to children 18 years old and younger in low-income areas during the summer months when they are out of school.

2. Who Can Get the D.C. Public School Free or Reduced Price Meal Program?

All DCPS students can get free breakfast and, if they participate in an after-school program, they can get free snacks and a light dinner. All students can also pay for lunch. A student can get a free or reduced-price lunch if he or she is a D.C. resident, the student's household receives TANF or SNAP, or the household income meets the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines (see <https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/income-eligibility-guidelines>). For the D.C. Free Summer Meals Program, you can pick up free meals for your children at participating locations if you meet household income requirements (see <https://www.benefits.gov/benefits/benefit-details/1709>).

3. How Do I Apply For The D.C. Public School Free or Reduced-Price Meal Program?

You do not need to apply for free breakfast or after-school snacks or dinner. To apply for a free or reduced-price lunch for your student, you need to fill out the Free and Reduced-Price Meal (FARM) Application, which is sent home at the beginning of each school year. Otherwise, you can pick up an application at your school, complete the application online at <https://www.heartlandapps.com/Terms.aspx?host=dcps.heartlandapps.com&apply=1>, or print and mail or fax it to: The Office of Food & Nutrition Services, Attn: Nadine James, 1200 First Street, NE, 9th Floor, Washington, DC 20002; Fax: (202) 727-2512.

For questions about FARM, call (202) 299-2159 or email **farm.dcps@dc.gov**.

To find a D.C. Free Summer Meals Location, text “FOOD” to 877-877, call 1-866-3-HUNGRY, or visit **<http://www.fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks>**.

H. Grandparent Caregiver Program

1. What Is The Grandparent Caregiver Program And Subsidy?

The Grandparent Caregiver Program is a program run by CFSA that provides monthly payments to low-income D.C. residents who live with and are raising a grandchild, great-grandchild, great-niece, or great-nephew.

The average amount of the Grandparent Caregiver Program Subsidy received by caregivers for FY 2017 (with offsets for TANF and SSI) was \$594.90 per child per month, only about half the regular foster care monthly subsidy. More information about the program can be found on the Program website at **<https://cfsa.dc.gov/service/grandparent-program>**, in the Program Guide at **<https://cfsa.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/cfsa/publication/attachments/GCP%20Factsheet%202015.pdf>**, or by calling CFSA at (202) 442-6009. The Grandparents Caregiver Program has annual budget limits. If the annual budget has been reached, and you qualify for the program, you will be placed on a waiting list.

2. Who Can Get The Grandparent Caregiver Program Subsidy?

You must meet the following requirements to receive the Grandparent Caregiver Program Subsidy:

- ▶ Your grandchild, great grandchild, great niece, and/or great nephew under 18 years old lives with you;
- ▶ The child has lived with you for the past six months;
- ▶ You have been the child's primary caretaker for the past six months;
- ▶ The child's parent(s) have not lived with you in the past six months. (This doesn't apply if the parent gave you standby guardianship, is a minor enrolled in school, or is a minor with a medically verifiable disability that prevents him or her from caring for the child);
- ▶ You live in D.C.;
- ▶ The total of all money coming into your household is below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (see <https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>);
- ▶ You have applied for TANF for the child; and
- ▶ All adults living in your home have submitted the results of national and local criminal background checks and Child Protection Registry checks.

3. How Do I Apply For The Grandparent Caregiver Program Subsidy?

Before you apply for a Grandparent Caregiver Program Subsidy, you should first apply for TANF for the child, as that is a requirement to receive the Grandparent Caregiver Program Subsidy. To be considered for the Grandparent Caregiver

Program Subsidy, you must submit an application to CFSA. You can get an application by:

- ▶ calling CFSA at (202) 442-6609 and asking them to mail an application to you;
- ▶ visiting CFSA at 200 I Street, SE, Washington, D.C., 20003 (CFSA strongly recommends that you call and set up an appointment before coming into the office); or
- ▶ online: <https://cfsa.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/cfsa/publication/attachments/GCP%20Application%202015.pdf>.

With your application, you will need to provide proof that you are the child's grandparent, great-grandparent, great-aunt, or great-uncle and that the total amount of money coming into your household is less than 200% of FPL. You also will need to prove you are the child's primary caregiver in one of these two ways:

- (a) Providing a court order granting you custody or standby guardianship or stating you adopted the child; **or**
- (b) Providing any of the following: (i) school records showing that you enrolled the child in school the most recent school year or that you are the primary educational contact for the child; (ii) immunization or medical records, no more than two years old, showing you are tending to the child's medical needs; (iii) records showing you received either SSI or TANF for the child for at least the last six months; or (iv) a letter from any legal, medical, military, law enforcement, social service or similar professional, or your landlord describing your status in caring for the child; **and** completing the checklist on page two of the application, stating why the parents are unable to care for the child(ren).

All adults (18 years old and over) living in your household will be required to come to CFSA for fingerprinting for an FBI check, a local police clearance, and a Child Protection Registry Check. Each adult must fill out the “Child Protection Registry” form, which must be witnessed by a member of CFSA’s staff or notarized.

When you have completed your application packet, the next step is to call CFSA at (202) 442-6009 to make an appointment to turn in your application and documents. In most cases, this appointment will be the same day as your fingerprinting appointment.

I. Foster Care Subsidy

1. What Is A Foster Care Subsidy?

A foster care subsidy is a set amount of money paid on a monthly basis to a licensed foster parent who cares for a foster child, including a relative caregiver licensed as a foster parent. The amount of the subsidy varies based on the number of foster children in your care, whether they have a disability, and the extent of their needs. Foster care rates in D.C. for 2018 range from approximately \$1,140.00 to \$2,061.50 per child per month. Foster care rates are calculated and adjusted each year to account for cost of living increases.

2. Who Can Get a Foster Care Subsidy?

Only licensed foster parents can receive a foster care subsidy. The requirements for a relative caregiver to become a licensed foster parent in D.C. are described in Part II.B. of this Guide, in the section labeled “Foster Care.” If you become a licensed foster parent, and have a foster child in your home, you will

receive the foster care subsidy on a monthly basis.

3. How Do I Apply for a Foster Care Subsidy?

You do not need to apply for a foster care subsidy. You will receive a subsidy if you are a licensed foster parent caring for a child in foster care. You can get more information about the foster care subsidy and rates from CFSA (see **Appendix B** for contact information).

J. Child Support

1. What Is Child Support?

When a child is in the physical custody of a relative caregiver, both a child's mother and a child's father generally remain responsible for paying for the child's basic needs under the law. Whether the parent(s) must pay child support and the amount will be determined by the court.

2. Who Can Get Child Support?

If you are a relative caregiver with physical custody of a child, you may be eligible to receive child support. Your income will not be considered in determining how much child support the child's parent(s) must pay, and the child's parent(s) may be required to pay you child support even if you have enough money to care for the child on your own. The Child Support Guideline Calculator (<http://csgc.oag.dc.gov/application/main/intro.aspx>) can be used to determine the amount of child support. You must have a court order showing that you have physical custody of the child to be eligible for child support. Child support is generally not available to foster parents.

3. How Do I Apply For Child Support?

If a court has ordered that you have physical custody of the child, you can request that the court order the parent(s) to pay you child support. You must file a child support case at the Family Court Central Intake Center. However, the best option may be to ask the D.C. Attorney General's office to do it for you. Information is available at <https://cssd.dc.gov/page/receiving-support>, or you can go to the Child Support Services Division of the Attorney General's Office located at 441 4th Street, NW, Room N550, Washington, DC 20001, between the hours of 8:15 am and 4:45 pm Monday through Friday. In order to apply, you will need the following:

- ▶ Three certified copies of the Custody Order;
- ▶ Proof of income like pay stubs, W-2s, or tax returns;
- ▶ Proof of D.C. residency, such as a telephone or utility bill;
- ▶ Proof of identification like a driver's license or passport; and
- ▶ A one-time \$5.00 non-refundable application fee by money order or check made out to the D.C. Treasurer.

For more information, call the Child Support Services Division at (202) 442-9900.

APPENDIX A-1

D.C. Economic Security Administration Service Center (TANF/SNAP/Medicaid/SSI) Locations as of March 2018

Service Center	Address	Phone	Fax
Anacostia	2100 Martin Luther King Avenue, SE	(202) 645-4614	(202) 727-3527
Congress Heights	4049 South Capitol Street, SW	(202) 645-4525	(202) 645-4524
Fort Davis	3851 Alabama Avenue, SE	(202) 645-4500	(202) 645-6205
H Street	645 H Street, NE	(202) 698-4350	(202) 724-8964
Taylor Street	1207 Taylor Street, NW	(202) 576-8000	(202) 576-8740

Hours of Operation

8:15 am - 4:45 pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

8:15 am - 8 pm on Wednesday

ESA's Customer Service

(202) 727-5355

Documents Needed for Benefits Interviews

Proof of:	Examples
Income	Recent paystubs; statement showing retirement income, disability income, or Workers Compensation; pension statement; etc.
Assets	Recent bank and checking account statements, etc.
DC Residency	DC driver's license, lease, rent receipt, written statement from your landlord, utility or telephone bill, etc.
Social Security Number	Social Security card; tax or payroll documents with your SSN on it; DC driver's license with your SSN on it; etc. (Not required for Food Stamp-only applicants.)
Medical Exam Report / Disability	Recent medical report (or Form 856) and any supporting materials from your doctor.
Immigration Information	Employment Authorization card, I-94, visa, passport, or other documents from the INS.
Rent / Mortgage (SNAP Only)	Lease, rent receipt, cancelled check, mortgage statement, etc.
Utility Bills (SNAP Only)	Recent bills for electric, gas, fuel, phone, water, telephone, etc. (if you pay these separately from your rent).
Relationship (TANF Only)	Birth certificate (full copy) for your child(ren) or official records from a school, court, hospital, etc.
"Living With" (TANF Only)	Statements from two non-relatives or school records.

APPENDIX A-2

D.C. Health Link Enrollment Centers (as of March 2018)

La Clinica Del Pueblo

2831 15th Street, NW
(202) 462-4788
Language(s): English, Spanish
Mon - Fri 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Mary's Center

3912 Georgia Ave, NW
(202) 420-7091
Language(s): English, Spanish, Amharic
Mon - Fri 8:00 am - 5:30 pm

Whitman-Walker Health

WeWork Manhattan Laundry Building
1342 Florida Ave NW
(202) 745-6151
Language(s): English, Spanish, Amharic
Mon - Thu 8:00 am - 7:00 pm,
Fri 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Leadership Council for Healthy Communities

702 15th Street NE
(202) 388-8500
Language(s): English, Igbo
Mon, Wed and Thu 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Unity Health Care

Anacostia Health Center
1500 Galen Street, SE
(202) 610-7160 ext. 7175
Language(s): English
Mon - Fri 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Unity Health Care

Brentwood
1251-B Saratoga Ave, NE
(202) 832-8818
Language(s): English
Fri 8:15 am - 4:45 pm

Unity Health Care

Minnesota Ave Health Center
3924 Minnesota Ave, NE
(202) 832-8818 ext. 4151
Language(s): English
Mon - Thu 8:15 am - 4:45 pm

Unity Health Care

Upper Cardozo Health Center
3020 14th Street, NW
(202) 299-1582
Language(s): English, Spanish
Mon - Fri 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

Community of Hope

Conway Health Resource Center
4 Atlantic Street, SW
(202) 540-9857 ext. 188
Language(s): English, Amharic
Mon, Wed and Fri 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Community of Hope

Family Health Birth Center
801 17th Street, NE
(202) 398-5520
Language(s): English, Spanish
Mon, Wed and Fri 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

DC Health Link One Touch Enrollment Center

Carlos Rosario
Carlos Rosario International
Public Charter School
1100 Harvard St, NW
(202) 797-4700
Language(s): English, Spanish,
Amharic, French
Hours Vary

APPENDIX A-3

D.C. WIC Clinic Locations (as of March 2018)

Ward-1

Children's Hospital - GPAC

111 Michigan Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20010
Phone (202) 476-5594
Fax: (202) 476-5524
Monday - Friday
8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Children's Health Center Shaw - Comp

2220 11th St., NW
Washington, DC 20010
Phone: (202) 476-6298
Fax: (202) 476-6299
Monday - Friday
8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Children's Hospital - Marie Reed Clinic

2250 Champlaine St., NW
Washington, DC 20009
Phone: (202) 476-6986 or
(202) 476-6987
Fax: (202) 745-5589
Wed. & Thurs.
8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Lunch 12 pm - 1 pm

Upper Cardozo Clinic

3020 14th St., NW
Washington, DC 20009
Phone: (202) 299-1554
Fax: (202) 299-1763
Monday - Friday
8:30 am - 5:00 pm
Lunch: 12 pm - 1 pm

Mary's Center for Maternal & Child Care

2333 Ontario Road, NW
Washington, DC 20009
Phone: (202) 232-6679 or
(202) 232-6721
Fax: (202) 232-3429
Mon. - Fri. 8:30 am - 5 pm
Lunch: 1 pm - 1:45 pm
1st & 3rd Saturday
9 am - 3 pm

Children's Hospital - Adams Morgan

Dorchester Clinic
1630 Euclid St., NW
Washington, DC 20009
Phone: (202) 476-5479
Fax: (202) 476-5554
Monday - Friday
8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Lunch: 12 pm - 1 pm

Ward-4

Mary's Center - Georgia Ave

3912 Georgia Ave., NW,
3rd Fl Washington, DC
20011
Phone: (202) 545-8042 or
(202) 232-6721
Fax: (202) 829-1412
Monday - Friday
8:30 am - 5 pm

Ward-5

Howard University Hospital (HUH)

2041 Georgia Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20060
Rm. #1-K03
Phone: (202) 865-4942
Fax: (202) 865-7517
Mon. - Fri. 9 am - 4 pm
2nd & 4th Sat. 9 am - 12 pm

Walker Jones Health Clinic

40 Patterson Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002
Phone: (202) 478-4717 or
(202) 478-4716
Fax: (202) 478-0608
Monday & Thurs.
8:15 am - 4:15 pm

Mary's Center- Brookland

Brentwood Village
Shopping Ctr
Inside Adventure Dentist
1305 Rhode Island Ave.,
NE
Washington, DC 20018
Phone: (202) 269-0487
Fax: (202) 232-6721
Tuesday & Thursday
8:30 am - 5 pm

Ward-6

Southwest Clinic

850 Delaware Ave., SW,
3rd Fl

Washington, DC 20024
Phone: (202) 548 - 4549
Tuesday 8:30 am - 5 pm
Lunch: 12 pm - 1 pm

DC General Hospital

1900 Massachusetts Ave.,
SE

Washington, DC 20003
Phone: (202) 548-6541
Fax: (202) 548-6554
Monday - Wednesday
8 am - 4:30 pm
Lunch: 12 pm - 1 pm

Ward-7

Unity's Parkside Health Clinic

765 Kenilworth Terrace, NE
Washington, DC 20019
Phone: (202) 388-8177 or
(202) 388-8175
Fax: (202) 388-8164
Monday - Friday
8:15 am - 4:45 pm

East of the River Health

123 45th Street NE
Washington, DC 20019
Phone: (202) 388-7752
Fax: (202) 388-5205
Monday, Tuesday &
Thursday - Friday
8:30 am - 4:45 pm
Wednesday 11 am - 7:30 pm
Lunch: 3 pm - 4 pm

HUH @ Minnesota Ave. Clinic

3924 Minnesota Avenue,
NE
Washington, DC 20019
Phone: (202) 627-7851 or
(202) 627-7852
Monday - Friday 9 am - 4 pm
Lunch: 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm

Ward-8

Children's Health Center

2501 Good Hope Road, SE
Washington, DC 20020
Phone: (202) 476-6994
Fax: (202) 476-6991
Monday - Friday
8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Lunch: 12 pm - 1 pm

Anacostia Health Center

1500 Galen Street, SE
Washington, DC 20020
Phone: (202) 610-5491
or 5492
Fax: (202) 610-5087
Monday - Friday
8:30 am - 5 pm
Lunch: 12 pm - 1 pm

Children's Health Center @ MLK

3720 Martin Luther King Jr.
Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20020
Phone: (202) 476-6585
Tuesday - Thursday
8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Lunch: 12 pm - 1 pm

WIC Mobile Unit Sites Ward-5

DC Birthing Center
17th & Benning Road, NE
Washington, DC
Phone: (202) 380-6936
Wednesday Only: 9 am -
3 pm

Ward-8

United Medical Center
1310 Southern Avenue, SE
Washington, DC
Phone: (202) 380-6936
Monday Only: 9 am - 3 pm

Hadley Memorial Hospital Parking Lot

4605 Martin Luther King Jr.
Ave., SW
Washington, DC
Phone: (202) 380-6936
Friday Only: 9 am - 3:30 pm

Joint Base Anacostia – BAFB

(Military Families ONLY)
Bolling Air Force Base
Phone: (202) 380-6936
Tuesdays & Thursdays:
9 am - 3 pm

APPENDIX A-4

D.C. Social Security Office Locations (as of March 2018)

Office Hours:

Monday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Tuesday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Wednesday 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Thursday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Friday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

1-800-772-1213

<http://socialsecurityretire.org/ssa-gov-website-overview>

1905-b 9th Street NE
Washington, DC 20018

2100 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037
1-800-772-1213

7820 Eastern Ave NW
Washington, DC 20011

2041 Martin Luther King Jr Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20020

APPENDIX B

D.C. Community Social Services Information and Referral Centers (as of March 2018)

Collaborative Support for Communities

formerly known as Columbia Heights/Shaw
Family Support Collaborative
3333 14th St., NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20010
(202) 518-6737
www.wearecsc.org
8:30 am to 5:00 pm, Monday to Friday

East River Family Strengthening Collaborative

3917 Minnesota Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20019
(202) 397-7300
(202) 329-1664 after-hours emergency
phone number
www.erfsc.org
8:30 am to 8:00 pm, Monday to Thursday
8:30 am to 5:00 pm, Friday

Edgewood/Brookland Family Support Collaborative

611 Edgewood St., NE, Suite 106,
Washington, DC 20017
601 Edgewood St., NE, Suite 25,
Washington, DC 20017
801 7th St., SW
Washington, DC 20024
(202) 832-9400 (for all three locations)
www.ebfsc.org
8:30 am to 5:00 pm, Monday to Friday

Far Southeast Family Strengthening Collaborative

2041 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue SE,
Suite 304
Washington, DC 20020
(202) 889-1425
www.fsfsc.org
9:00 am to 8:00 pm, Monday to Thursday
9:00 am to 5:30 pm, Friday

Georgia Avenue Family Support Collaborative

508 Kennedy Street NW,
4420 Georgia Avenue NW,
Washington, DC 20011
(202) 722-1815 (for both locations)
www.gafsc-dc.org
9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday to Friday

Mayor's Services Liaison Office

H. Carl Moultrie Courthouse
500 Indiana Ave., NW, Room JM-185
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 879-1904
www.dccourts.gov/sites/default/files/matters-docs/MSLO-Description-for-Internet.pdf
8:30 am to 5:00 pm, Monday to Friday

Foster and Adoptive Parent Advocacy Center (FAPAC)

508 Kennedy St., NW, Room 303
Washington, DC 20011
(202) 269-9441
www.dcfapac.org

THEARC

1901 Mississippi Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20020
(202) 889-5901
www.thearcdc.org
11:00 am to 7:00 pm, Monday to Friday
10:00 am to 2:00 pm, Saturday
Hours vary Sunday; call ahead.

Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA)

200 I Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003
(202) 442-6100
www.cfsa.dc.gov

APPENDIX C

Legal Services Organizations for Relative Caregivers (as of March 2018)

Bread for the City (Custody, Housing, Public Benefits)
<https://breadforthecity.org/>

Southeast Center
1640 Good Hope Road, SE
Washington, DC 20020
(202) 561-8587

Northwest Center
1525 7th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 265-2400

Children's Law Center (Custody, Health Care, Special Education)
501 3rd Street NW, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 467-4900
<http://www.childrenslawcenter.org/>

D.C. Bar Pro Bono Program (Housing, Custody, Child Support Clinics; Advice and Referral)
1250 H St, NW, 6th Floor
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 626-3499
<https://www.dcbbar.org/pro-bono/>

DC KinCare Alliance (Advice, Advocacy, and Representation of Relative Caregivers)
1101 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 450
Washington DC 20036
info@dckincare.org
www.dckincare.org

Legal Aid Society of D.C. (Housing, Custody, Child Support, Domestic Violence, Public Benefits)
(202) 628-1161
<https://www.legalaiddc.org/>

Our Main Office – NW
1331 H Street, NW, Suite 350
Washington, D.C. 20005
Suite 201 Initial Interview Hours:
Mondays 12:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Thursdays 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The "Big Chair" – SE
The Anacostia Professional Building
2041 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., SE,
Washington, D.C. 20020
Initial Interview Hours:
Mondays 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Thursdays 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Legal Counsel For The Elderly (Housing, Public Benefits)

601 E St, NW

Washington, DC 20049

(202) 434-2120

<https://www.aarp.org/states/dc/LCE.html%e2%80%8e/>

Neighborhood Legal Services Program (Family Law, Housing, Public Benefits, Domestic Violence, Wills)

<http://www.nlsp.org/>

Headquarters

64 New York Ave, NE

Washington, DC 20002

(202) 832-6577

Far Northeast Office

4609 Polk Street, NE

Washington, DC 20019

(202) 832-6577

Southeast Office

2811 Pennsylvania Ave, SE

Washington, DC 20020

(202) 832-6577

Superior Court of the District of Columbia Family Court Self-Help Center (Legal Help)

500 Indiana Ave., NW, Rm JM-570

Washington, DC 20001

(202) 879-1212

<https://www.dccourts.gov/services/family-matters/self-help-center>

Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless (Housing, Public Benefits)

1200 U St, NW

Washington, DC 20009

(202) 328-5500

<http://www.legalclinic.org/>

Whitman Walker Health (Public Benefits, Wills, Powers of Attorney, Health Care Directives)

<https://www.whitman-walker.org/>

Phone: 202-745-7000

Whitman-Walker At 1525

1525 14th St., NW

Washington, DC 20005

Monday—Thursday 8 am - 8 pm

Friday 8 am - 6 pm

Max Robinson Center

2301 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., SE

Washington, DC 20020

Monday—Friday 8 am - 6 pm

Whitman-Walker WeWork Manhattan Laundry

1342 Florida Ave, NW

Washington, DC 20009

Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 5:30 pm

Thank you for stepping up
to raise a D.C. child in need.

We hope this Guide has been helpful to you
in finding the best options and supports
for your family.

The material contained in this Guide is for informational purposes only. It does not provide legal advice nor create an attorney-client relationship. You should contact an attorney to obtain legal advice with respect to any particular issue or problem. The information provided in this Guide is current only as the date of publication. While we make every effort to provide complete and accurate information, we make no representation about the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the information contained in or linked to this Guide. This Guide is published by the DC KinCare Alliance, and any non-public information contained herein can only be reproduced with permission.

