



DC KinCare Alliance
1101 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Suite 450
Washington, DC 20036
www.dckincare.org

**DC KinCare Alliance Attorneys Step Up To Assist
Relative Caregivers During COVID-19 Pandemic
April 8, 2020**

Executive Director Marla Spindel and Deputy Director Stephanie McClellan have been hard at work assisting relative caregiver clients provide safe and stable homes to at-risk DC children during this public health emergency. In addition to their regular duties of answering legal helpline calls, filing lawsuits to rectify discriminatory practices, and advocating for enhanced access to supports and services for relative caregivers, they have provided specialized help as a direct response to the public health emergency.

Some examples of this specialized assistance are:

- E-Filing for Emergency Custody in DC Family Court and representing a godmother at the emergency hearing conducted remotely via Webex.
- Assisting a relative caregiver aunt apply for the DC Microgrant Program because of loss of contractor income resulting from to the public health emergency.
- Assisting a grandmother to apply online for her grandchild's birth certificate.
- Advocating with DC government officials to permit applications for Grandparent and Close Relative Caregiver Programs to be submitted online.
- Advocating with DC government officials to provide emergency funding for the Grandparent Caregiver Program to eliminate any waiting list, and to remove the 6-month eligibility period for both caregiver programs to ensure funding is provided as soon as possible to kinship families during this public health emergency.
- Providing information and assistance to relative caregivers about their rights to housing and utilities during this public health emergency.