



**SELF HELP CENTER  
PRESENTATION  
FEBRUARY 26, 2021  
[www.dckincare.org](http://www.dckincare.org)**

**WHO WE HELP:**



**RELATIVES WHO CARE  
FOR DC CHILDREN**

**WHEN THE  
CHILDREN'S  
PARENTS CANNOT**



# WHO ARE RELATIVE CAREGIVERS?



- Blood relatives
  - Ex: Grandparents, Aunts/Uncles, or Adult Siblings
- Fictive Kin
  - Ex: Godparents or Family Friends
- Our Clients → 65% Grandparents; 35% Other relatives or fictive Kin
  - **We do not represent parents**



# HOW WE HELP CAREGIVERS:



- LEGAL REPRESENTATION
- BRIEF LEGAL ADVICE
- ASSISTANCE WITH BENEFITS
- RESOURCES AND EDUCATION
- ADVOCACY

# LEGAL REPRESENTATION



## We Represent:

- Relative caregivers in custody and other related court cases (e.g., domestic violence)
- Relative caregivers seeking benefits for themselves and the children they raise, such as TANF, SNAP, Medicaid, & SSI
- Relative caregivers who need help with other assistance programs (e.g., rent or utility assistance)

# BRIEF LEGAL ADVICE

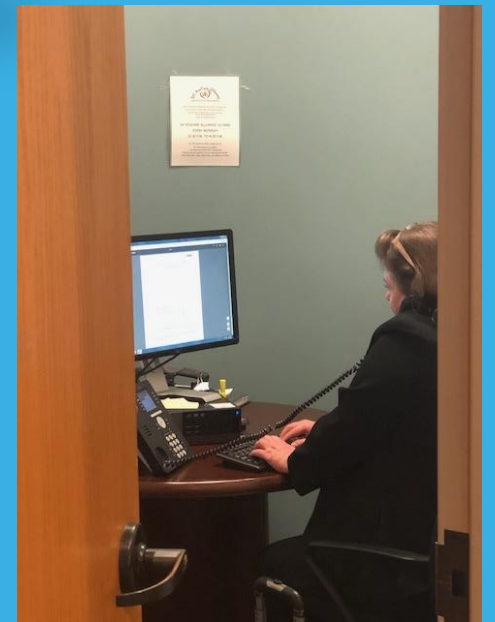
Call 202-505-5803

Legal Helpline



- Attorney-client relationship during phone call
- Relationship ends when call is over

(our weekly walk-in clinic at DC Superior Court will resume when safe to do so)



# ASSISTANCE WITH BENEFITS FOR RELATIVE CAREGIVERS



- TANF, SNAP, WIC
- Medicaid
- SSI for Children
- Grandparent Caregiver Program Subsidy
- Close Relative Caregiver Program Subsidy
- Child Support
- Child Care Subsidy
- Foster Care Subsidy



# CAREGIVER RAISE ME UP GROUPS



- Conducted at our community partner sites (or virtually during the public health emergency)
- Provide education and information to relative caregivers raising DC children
  - ❖ Legal Rights
  - ❖ Financial Benefits
  - ❖ Other Resources
- Provide copies of our Relative Caregiver Resource Guide
- Provide Brief Legal Advice (after each group)





# OUR RELATIVE CAREGIVER RESOURCE GUIDE



## A RESOURCE GUIDE FOR RELATIVES RAISING D.C. CHILDREN:

Helping You Find the Best Path Forward



This Guide provides information about the legal options and financial resources to consider when it becomes necessary for a relative caregiver to care for a DC child



# CASES FOR REFERRAL TO DC KINCARE ALLIANCE



- Third party custody cases, especially those that involve:
  - Questions on jurisdiction
  - Questions on standing
  - Complex legal issues
  - Custody is contested
  - CFSA involvement
  - Complex benefits issues



*\*Remember: we only represent the third party; not the parent(s)*

# SAMPLE CASE



- **CHILD** → A 5-year-old girl left alone w/o supervision
  - **MOTHER** → Serious mental health and substance use issues
  - **FATHER** → Incarcerated and never involved
  - **CHILD'S MATERNAL GRANDMOTHER** → CFSA is involved and asks the grandmother to take custody of the child. Grandmother wants to file for custody of the child in DC court so she can get the child medical care and enroll her in school
- Relevant Questions:
- Does DC court have jurisdiction?
  - Does the grandmother have standing to file for custody?
  - Does the grandmother need a custody order or can she get the father to sign a custodial power of attorney?



# QUESTIONS?

