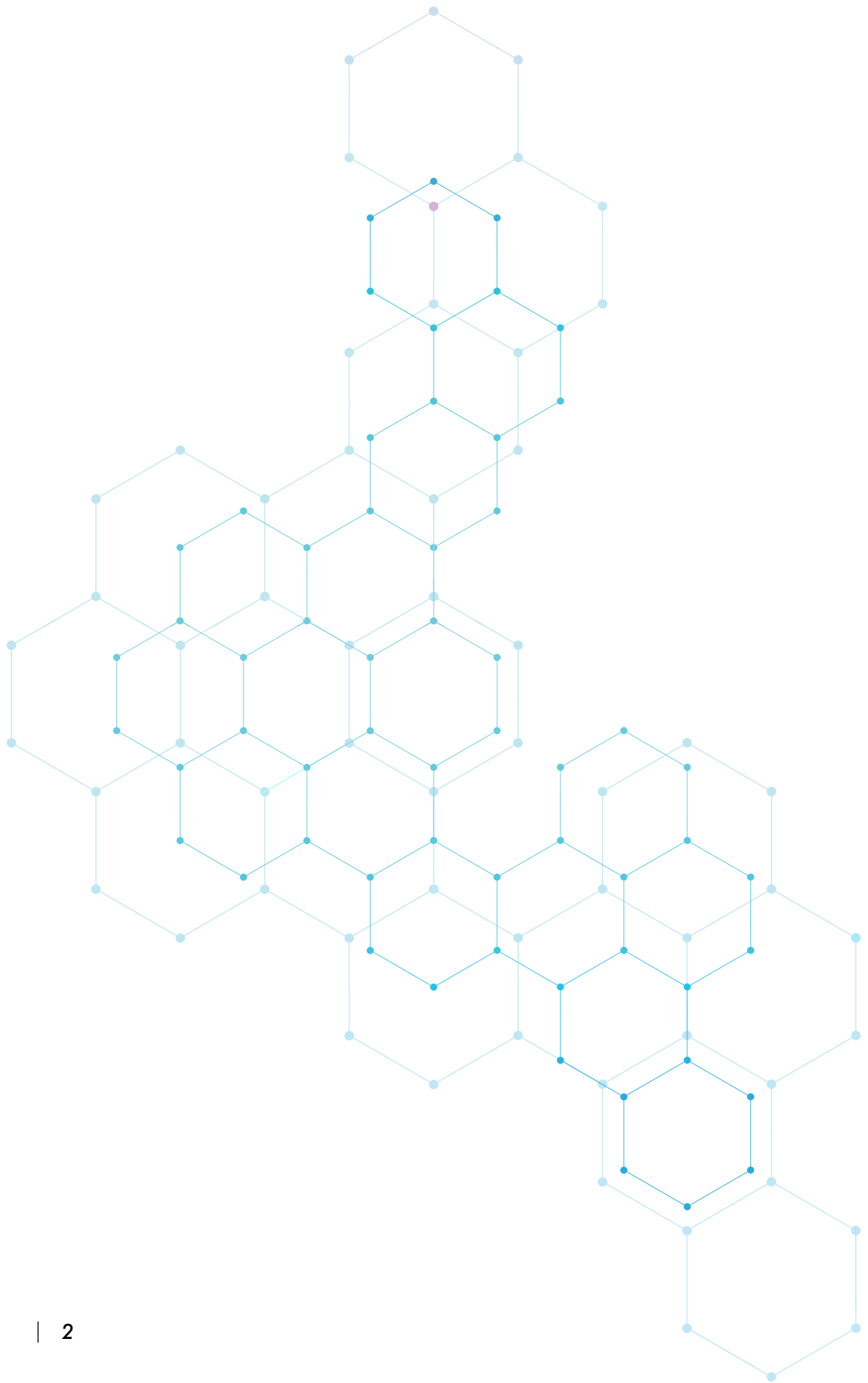




OKLAHOMA
Human Services

Starting Points *for* Grandparents *and* *other* Relatives Raising Children

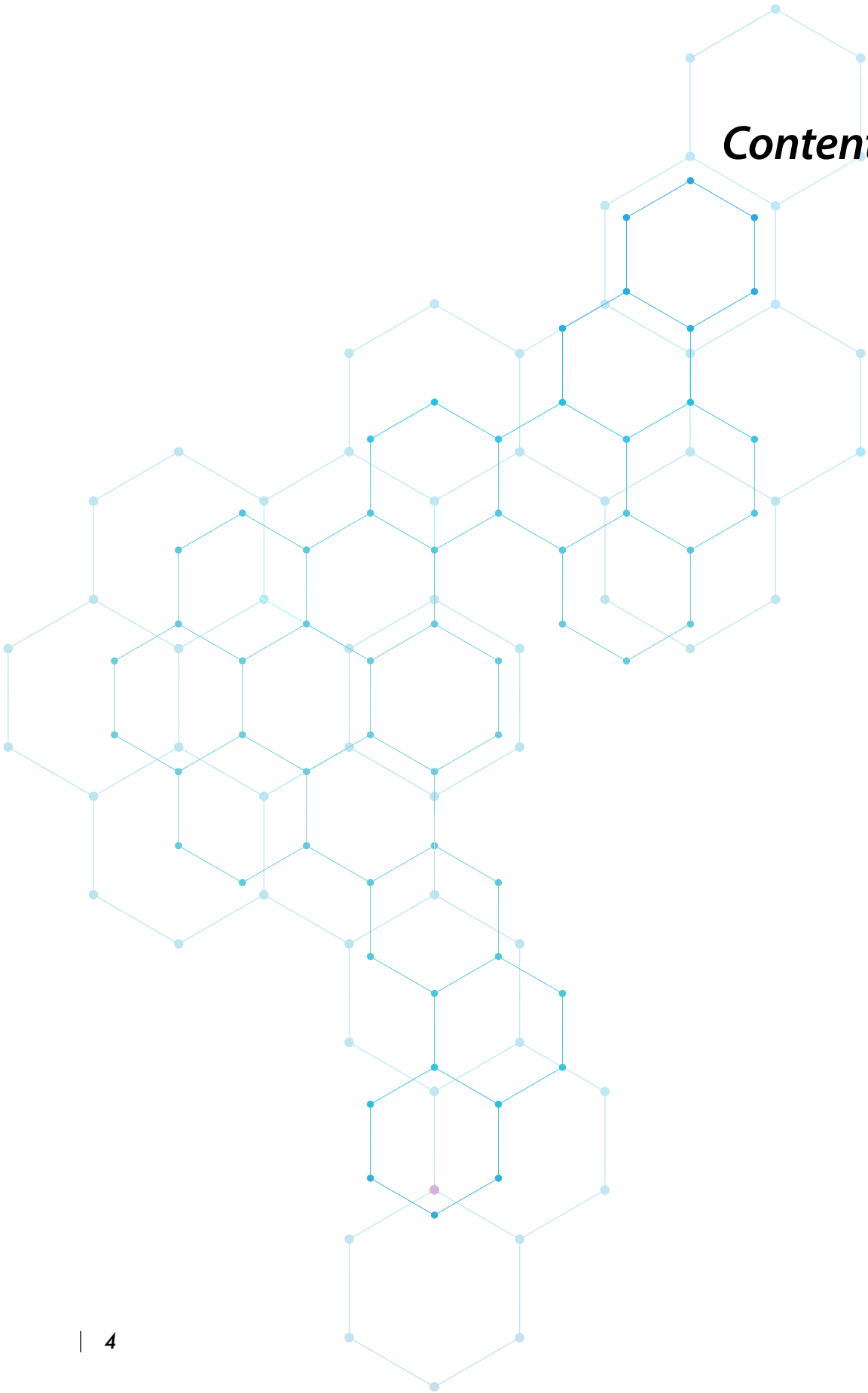
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Contents



Purpose of this Guide

Finding services and resources can be a long, frustrating process that can sometimes seem overwhelming. Determining where to begin can be the most difficult and time-consuming task of all.

This guide has been developed to give grandparents and other relatives raising children (GRRC) a quick overview of services, programs and general information to access assistance. It also provides tips that grandparents or other relatives providing kinship care may want to consider when taking on the responsibility of raising children.

This guide is by no means an exhaustive listing of all agencies and services available to GRRC. We have attempted to list resources and services that are statewide and that serve as clearinghouses for further referrals. If you know of valuable services that are statewide and benefit GRRC, please contact OKCares at 405-271-2710 or info@okcares.org. If GRRC are 55 years old or over, they may call the Senior Info-Line, 1-800-211-2116, a statewide number linking older Oklahomans to information and assistance.

How to use this Guide

The guide is divided into the following sections:

- Section 1: Child Development: Health and Safety Needs
- Section 2: Child Care, School and Educational Needs
- Section 3: Child Abuse
- Section 4: Obtaining Documents and General Assistance
- Section 5: Custody and Legal Issues
- Section 6: Coping Strategies When There are Problems with the Birth Parents
- Section 7: Resources for Grandparents and other Relatives Raising Children

For ease and readability, we have used the following symbols throughout the guide:

* A telephone graphic for phone numbers to call for help.



* A light bulb graphic for ideas, tips and information.





Child
Development:
Health and
Safety Needs

Child Development: Health and Safety Needs

Child Development

Children are unique individuals. They think, look, act and grow in different ways. This is part of what makes them so special. The Ages and Expectations chart may help you know what to expect at certain ages. Talk to your medical professional about a child's development if you have concerns. Children may have been exposed to emotional or physical traumas, or prenatal conditions that may make their development and behavioral patterns different from other children their own age.

Ages	Expectations
1	Plays games like patty cake and peek-a-boo, sits up without support, pulls into a standing position, feeds self finger foods, knows own name and repeats sounds
2	Makes two-word sentences, walks alone, eats with a spoon, names toys and people, recognized self in mirror, can point and name ears, eyes, nose
3	Toilet training, plays simple games, counts out loud on fingers, rides a tricycle
4	Begins thinking in an organized manner, knows about 1,000 words
5	Plays logically, able to perform activities in sequential order
6	Able to learn and recognize differences between right and wrong
7	Able to concentrate well on tasks at hand, often self-absorbed to the point of appearing withdrawn, shows sensitivity to others
8	Curious about all things they are learning – including sexuality, have high energy and often act impulsively
9	Acts with independence, likes to learn facts, rules and standards, takes on more responsibility and engages in chores around the house.

Sources: *Grandparents Guide: Helping to raise your children's children, Phoenix, AZ Second Time Around. Kalamazoo, MI.*



For more information on child development or health and medical needs for children, call the Oklahoma State Department of Health at 1-800-522-0203. Family Health Services and Child Guidance Services in the Oklahoma City area may be reached at 405-271-4477.

Special Needs and At-Risk Children

Children with special needs include those with physical or mental disabilities, emotional or other behavioral problems, or are considered at-risk for developing disabilities. Children who had prenatal exposure to drugs and alcohol are considered at risk. Prenatal, and often environmental, exposure to harmful substances and behavior can result in the child being deprived of certain age-appropriate development steps.

If you are concerned about raising a child who has special needs or a disability, there are programs that can help you. Also, schools are a valuable resource for children with special needs. Children who have disabilities are mainstreamed into most classrooms. Ask about available programs at the child's school.

Early Intervention - SoonerStart

If you are concerned about a child's walking, talking, crawling, understanding, seeing, or hearing, you will want to find out more about early intervention assessment and services. In Oklahoma, the state's early intervention program is called SoonerStart. SoonerStart services are for families with infants or toddlers ages birth through 36 months who are displaying developmental delays. If eligible, SoonerStart staff will partner with you to support a child's development. SoonerStart services are typically provided in your home, but may also include child care or other appropriate settings.

SoonerStart

Who is Eligible?	Cost?	Natural Environment
<p>Infants and toddlers through 36 month of age who have developmental delays or physical /mental condition (like cerebral palsy.)</p>	<p>There is no direct cost to families, regardless of their income.</p> <p>The program is mandated by federal and state law and is funded through various state and federal sources.</p>	<p>The services may be provided in the child’s home or daycare.</p> <p>Services may include occupational, physical and speech-language therapy, counseling, nursing services, etc.</p>



For more information about the SoonerStart program please contact the Department of Education at 405-521-3575 or toll free at the Oklahoma Parents Center at 1-877-553-4332.

After age 3, the Special Education Program through your local public schools can help with testing and, if eligible, provide supports to partner a child for academic success. Contact your local public school and ask to speak with special education services.

Another source for developmental testing, which includes tests for speech and language, physical and developmental screening and ADD/ADHD testing is the Child Study Center in Oklahoma City. To use the center, you must have a referral from a physician, social worker, SoonerStart or other health professional.



The Child Study Center is at 1100 NE 13th St., Oklahoma City, OK 73117. The phone number is 405-271-5700.

Helpful Resources for General Information on Raising Children Include:

- *Doctors. Contact the child’s pediatrician or medical clinic to locate other valuable resources and referrals.
- *Hospitals. Many hospitals sponsor programs and activities regarding child development and child rearing. Call your local hospitals to find out if they offer such programs.
- *Libraries. Libraries are a great source for parenting books and materials.



For general parenting tips, support and referrals, call Sooner SUCCESS at 405-271-2710 or 1-877-441-0434, visit sooner-success@ouhsc.edu.

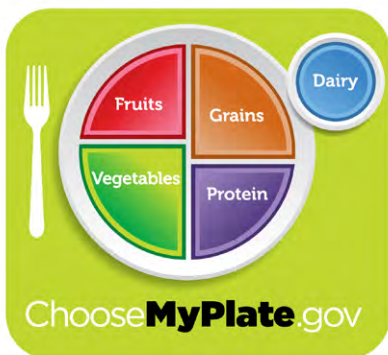
Immunizations



A child not only needs immunizations so that she or he is protected from disease, but also because it is required by schools and child care centers for enrollment. For the latest guide to Oklahoma immunization requirements, visit the Oklahoma State Department of Health at www.ok.gov.health or call 1-800-234-6196. Your local Health Department at www.ok.gov/health/ will help even if you cannot locate the child's shot records, birth certificates, or legal papers.

Healthy Eating Habits

Children learn from adults. If you practice good, healthy eating habits, chances are children will too. The food guide pyramid can be used to ensure that your children are eating a variety of foods and getting an adequate supply of vitamins and nutrients for growth and health. Quality rather than quantity of food is the important factor for meeting a child's nutritional needs.



Tips for Healthy Eating:

- Establish a consistent eating routine.
 - Keep healthy snacks handy for your child.
 - Avoid eating too much junk food and sweets.
 - Avoid foods high in fat and cholesterol.
 - Read food labels carefully.
- Visit www.choosemyplate.gov for tips and information.

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children – WIC with the Oklahoma State Department of Health

This program provides specific supplemental foods for good health and nutrition during critical times of growth and development. Services are available for children birth to 5. Children in DHS custody are eligible for this service at no charge. GRRC can apply for this service for their children. Program participation is based on income, child's age and medical or health risk.



For information on WIC and the nearest agency, contact the Oklahoma State Department of Health WIC Hotline at 1-888-655-2942 or your local Health Department office.

Insurance and Medical Coverage

Many GRRC have difficulty obtaining health insurance for children. GRRC who are retired are often on Medicare, an insurance program that covers older people. GRRC who are still working may find it difficult, if not impossible, to add children to their employer-based policy. As a result, many GRRC seek Medicaid coverage for the children. If you have employer-based health insurance, ask about dependent coverage for children in your custody.

For people who qualify financially, Medicaid pays for hospital, medical care and prescriptions. In many cases, children being raised by GRRC qualify for Medicaid. You do not need to be receiving assistance for your grandchildren to receive Medicaid. Your children are automatically eligible for Medicaid if they are receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families or Supplemental Security Income.



Eligibility for state-purchased health care (Medicaid, called SoonerCare in Oklahoma) is determined through the Oklahoma Health Care Authority (OHCA). Visit www.okhca.org or call the SoonerCare Helpline at 1-800-987-7767. You will need to prove that you are the primary caregiver for the children. You will also need to show that the children are deprived of parental care, proof of the children's ages, relationship to you, and current living arrangement. You do not need to have legal custody of the children for them to receive Medicaid.

Children receiving Medicaid will be enrolled in a managed health care program called SoonerCare. Oklahoma Health Care Authority can help you complete a SoonerCare application and answer questions about available services.

**Remember, your income should not be considered when OHCA is determining benefits for the children only.*

Community health centers provide income-based, sliding fee scale access to primary, preventive and behavioral health services. For the community health center nearest you, visit www.okpca.org.

Dental Needs

Children's teeth are important. They help children stay healthy by allowing them to chew foods properly. In the past, dental extraction was a common cure for dental problems. Now there are treatments that make pulling teeth almost an obsolete practice. Talk to your dentist to establish a healthy plan for keeping the child's teeth healthy and strong.



Here Are Some Tips on Keeping Children's Teeth Healthy:

(Sources: American Association of Pediatric Dentistry, National Institute of Dental Research)

www.aapd.org/ and www.nidcr.nih.gov.

1. Good dental health begins before you see the first tooth in the child's mouth. Infants need to have their gums wiped with a soft, damp cloth or gauze pad after each feeding. Do not put babies to bed with a bottle at night or at nap time. Milk, formula and other sweet drinks contain sugar, which can cause tooth decay.
2. Children begin to cut their first tooth between the ages of 4-10 months. Teething may cause excess drooling, crying, and fussiness. Be alert to the fact that children who are teething may be tempted to put things in their mouth to soothe themselves. Always pay close attention to what the child puts in her or his mouth. By age 2 to 2-1/2 years, about ten teeth in each jaw will be visible.
3. Ask your dentist when to bring the child in for their first visit.
4. Make sure you are brushing teeth with a fluoride toothpaste and soft bristle toothbrush.



For information on dental services for children, call the Oklahoma Health Care Authority's SoonerCare Helpline at 1-800-987-7767. They may be able to direct you to dental services in your area, whether you are using Medicaid or just seeking low-cost dental care.

Health

Adolescent Health Program

The mission of the Oklahoma State Department of Health's adolescent health program is to address the most important health challenges among young people, which include too-early parenthood, intentional and unintentional injury, violence, substance abuse and access to primary health care. The program targets adolescents aged 10 to 21.



Phone 405-271-4471

Women, Infant and Children Nutrition Program – WIC

Women, Infant, and Children Nutritional Program improves the health of low-income pregnant and breastfeeding women, as well as infants and children up to 5 years old who are at nutritional risk. WIC helps prevent malnutrition by providing food vouchers for a special package of nutritious food, supplemented with nutrition education and referrals for additional health care. Contact your local county health department for more information or to make application.



The WIC telephone number should be listed in your local telephone directory or call 1-888-655-2942.

Mental Health

The Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services has mental health community centers throughout Oklahoma. The centers provide emergency intervention, assessment and counseling to provide therapeutic services for children who are demonstrating symptoms of emotional difficulties.



You may find out about the mental health center in your area by calling the Reach-Out hotline at 1-800-522-9054. Reach-Out hotline workers are available to answer questions about hours of operation and specific services offered at the various community centers.



Children who have been approved for SoonerCare may also use the medical card for mental health services. Call the SoonerCare Helpline to find out about services available, 1-800-987-7767.

Safety

Keeping children safe may seem like a full-time job, and at times it will be. However, by establishing good safety practices for you and the children, you are not only setting a good example, but you are protecting the children from potential dangers and accidents. For the latest information about keeping children safe, visit www.safekids.org.



Consider the following safety tips:

Car Safety

- * Use proper safety belt restraints at all times in a moving vehicle.
- * Make sure infants and young children are in approved child safety seats in cars. To make sure car seats are appropriate, correctly installed and to get free or discounted child safety seats, call the SAFE KIDS Coalition at 405-271-3557. You may also get a free car seat through the WIC program at your local county health department.
- * Never leave your children alone in cars.
- * Children under 12 years old should never ride in the front seat.



Home Safety

- * Keep small objects away from small children. Needles, pins, coins and beads can be deadly if swallowed.
- * Never let children play with plastic bags.
- * Help prevent poisoning by keeping all cleaning supplies, chemicals, medicines, and cosmetics out of reach or in child-proof cabinets.
- * Install smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors and check batteries twice a year.
- * Hold a mock fire drill with your grandchildren. Plan escape routes and arrange for a safe meeting place outside in case of fire.

Infant Safety

To reduce the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS):

Place infants to sleep on their backs, even though they may sleep more soundly on their stomachs. Infants who sleep on the stomachs and sides have a higher rate of SIDS than infants who sleep on their backs.

Make sure that cribs have a snug fitting mattress and narrowly spaced slats. There should be nothing in the bed but the baby – no covering, no pillows, no bumper pads and no toys. Soft mattresses and heavy covering are associated with the risk for SIDS.

Never allow babies to fall asleep with bottles in their mouths.

Keep all cords and strings, including blinds and curtain cords, away from the crib.

Avoid exposing the infant to people with respiratory infections. Avoid crowds. Carefully clean anything that comes in contact with the baby. Have people wash their hands before holding or playing with the baby. SIDS often occurs in association with relatively minor respiratory infections, such as a mild cold, and gastrointestinal infections, such as vomiting and diarrhea.

Consider using a baby monitor by the child's crib if:

1. the child weighed less than 3.5 pounds at birth.
2. had a sibling who died of SIDS.
3. was exposed to cocaine, heroin, or methadone during mother's pregnancy.
4. was the second or succeeding child born to a teenage mother.
5. an apparent life-threatening event happened to the child.

Tell your doctor if you are concerned about SIDS with your infant. Many communities have special programs to help manage babies at high risk for SIDS.

Personal Safety

Teach children the following personal safety tips:

1. To memorize their full name, address and phone number, including the area code and zip code.
2. To use the telephone and how to make calls to the operator and to dial emergency numbers.
3. To understand what stranger means.
4. To never enter a stranger's car or home.
5. To keep the doors locked and only admit authorized people into the home.
6. To use a code word; a code word is a special word that only you and the child know.
7. Use the code word if you are having another person pick up the child from school or day care so that he or she can verify that the person is safe.
8. To play and walk with friends.
9. To avoid alleys as well as poorly lighted or deserted areas.
10. To not wander away from you or your yard without permission.
11. To tell you if something strange or uncomfortable has happened to them.
12. To not give information about themselves to anyone except authorized people.

Computer Safety

Today's youth are spending more time than ever using digital media for education, research, socializing, and fun. Unfortunately, that can also make them targets for cyberbullying, identity theft, and exploitation. For tips on keeping children safe online, visit the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children at www.missingkids.com.



For more information on child safety issues, call your local Fire and Police Departments. Other places to obtain information on child safety issues include: schools, hospitals, and American Red Cross offices.

The Oklahoma SAFE KIDS Coalition (OSKC) is a national non-profit organization dedicated solely to the prevention of unintentional childhood injury – the number one killer of children ages 14 and under. Besides helping to distribute car seats, The Oklahoma SAFE KIDS Coalition helps families by distributing smoke alarms in local communities, life jackets, fire safety and bicycle safety, providing a resource library of more than 100 videos available for free loan for the cost of return postage.



The Oklahoma SAFE KIDS Coalition can be reached at 405-271-3557.

Child Care, Schools *and* Educational Needs



Child Care, Schools and Educational Needs

Finding Child Care

Finding child care that suits your family's needs is a concern for all parents and guardians. You may find it helpful to access the DHS Child Care Locator at <http://childcarefind.okdhs.org/childcarefind/>. This online resource allows you to search for child care options using criteria such as facility name, facility location, facility type (center or home), ages accepted, and whether or not the facility provides transportation. The Child Care Locator also contains invaluable information about each child care program's quality rating and licensing record. You can also receive help with finding child care by contacting the Oklahoma Child Care Resource and Referral Association at 1-888-962-2772.



Subsidized Child Care

DHS subsidized child care is available to help GRRC maintain employment or complete an education/training program. Subsidized child care may also be approved to prevent neglect, abuse, or exploitation of a child. GRRC who meet eligibility requirements may be eligible for free child care. If you would like more information, please visit www.okdhs.org or contact the DHS office nearest you. If you are a foster parent, please contact your foster care worker.

Other Child Care Alternatives

Early Head Start and Head Start are federally funded community-based programs that provide full-day, year-round comprehensive child development and family support services to the families of Oklahoma. Early Head Start serves infants and toddlers under the age of three and Head Start serves children ages 3 to 5 years. Contact your local Community Action Agency for information and availability.

Pre-kindergarten programs, sponsored by many public school districts in Oklahoma, offer free half or full-day care during the school year to 3- to 5-year-olds who meet eligibility guidelines set by each local district. Contact your local school district for information and availability.

You may also want to consider contacting places such as the ones listed below in your area. While not all the places you contact can assist, they may be able to refer you to places that can. Some places include Schools, Civic Clubs, Social Organizations, Churches, Health Clinics, Parent Training Centers, Hospitals, YMCA and YWCA, and Parks and Recreation Departments.

GRRC are eligible to receive free child care through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program. DHS custody children can only be placed in DHS approved homes or child care centers. The GRRC must be working at least 20 hours per week to receive child care benefits.



If you think you may qualify for subsidized child care or for current eligibility guidelines, contact the DHS by visiting www.okdhs.org/services/tanf/Pages/TANFHome.aspx or call 1-866-411-1877.

Other Subsidized Child Care Alternatives

There are a variety of Head Start programs in Oklahoma. These programs generally provide free half-day school-year care for eligible, low-income, 3- to 5-year-old children. Some programs also provide full-day, year-round care. Pre-kindergarten programs sponsored by many public school districts in Oklahoma also offer half-day, school-year care at no cost to 3- to 5-year-olds who meet eligibility guidelines set by each local district. This is an income-based program. Call your local school district office for information and availability, or your local Community Action Agency.

Respite Care



Grandparents raising a grandchild who is 18 years old or younger may qualify for the respite care program. An application can be obtained by calling Sooner SUCCESS at 405-271-2710 or 1-877-441-0434. When approved for respite services, you will receive vouchers to hire someone of your choice to sit with your child while you do necessary shopping, go to doctor's appointments, or just get a much needed break. The person you hire to watch the child cannot live in your house. Note: Respite programs can also be accessed if you are caring for family members age 60 or older. Contact your local area agency on aging or call 1-800-211-2116.



Employer Supports

If you are working, your employer may have a program to help you with your child care needs. Contact your employer's human resources department about participation in child care programs. Remember to ask about insurance coverage for your grandchildren under your insurance plan.

School and Educational Needs



To enroll children in school at a minimum you will need:

- Birth Certificate
- Proof of Immunizations
- School Records (if attended another school)
- Proof of residency

Enrollment Procedures

1. Call the school district office in your area to obtain the name and address of where the children will be attending school.
2. When you go to register the children in school, you will need all the information listed above. If the children have attended another school, the previous school records, including immunization records, will be needed. Schools have forms for requesting past school records. They can help you fill out the necessary forms and get documents. You may be asked to prove that the children live with you. Often this can be done by a letter from the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, landlord or community leader. Ask the school what type of documentation is required.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 provides that children with special needs have specific rights in the public school system. Schools are required to assess children with learning disabilities, assist families with placement decisions, structure a large part of the student's weekly schedule, modify educational programs to the child's needs, prepare individualized education plans, provide a free and appropriate education, and provide appropriate services by the school nurse or health service.

Interactions with Schools, Teachers, Therapists, Counselors and Staff

Get to know the children's teachers. Inform teachers that you are raising the children. Teachers will want to send things home to grandma instead of mom or dad. Let the teacher know you want to be informed of the child's progress.

Keep the lines of communication open between you, the children and the school.

Attend open houses and meetings. Try to attend all parent-teacher conferences. Schedule personal meetings with teachers and counselors to talk about the children. If you cannot make face-to-face contact, arrange for a telephone conference.

Get help with homework if needed. Teachers may be able to get the children extra help with homework and tutoring. This may take place at the school or in the community. Let them know if you are having trouble finding time or simply do not understand the homework well enough to help the children.

Do not be embarrassed if you do not understand the children's homework. Many adults have trouble with reading, writing, math, computer work and other subjects. Remember: It is in the best interest of the children to ask for help.

Talk with the school counselors and nurses. Counselors often have advice and resources for GRRC about social service programs in the community. This includes programs for behavioral and learning problems and other special needs. Contact the school nurse for information and resources on health and nutrition needs. Nurses and counselors can often provide information on talking with the children about difficult topics such as sexuality, drug and alcohol abuse, gangs and peer pressure.

Sex education and other sensitive issues. Children are growing up very fast these days. As a result, schools are attempting to keep pace. Some schools do this by talking about important and serious issues in the classroom. For example, many classes integrate human sexuality and intimate relationship information into coursework. Children may also learn about things such as AIDS and HIV, teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, child and juvenile violence, gangs, domestic violence, substance abuse and other social problems. Talk with the children's school about these subjects. You may want to plan special discussions with the children to see how they feel and react to these subjects.

Other School Programs that May Be Available to You:

Before and after school care. Many schools have programs that offer before and after school child care. Most of these programs are for working parents and caregivers. Talk to the school about these programs. The program hours tend to change frequently at some schools, so be sure you know the current hours of the program.

School lunch programs. Public schools have free and reduced lunch plans for children who qualify. When you enroll the children in school, ask about eligibility and guidelines for registration in the lunch program.

Child Abuse



Child Abuse

Oklahoma statutes define abuse as harm or threatened harm to the health, safety, or welfare of a child by a person responsible for the child, including but not limited to non-accidental physical or mental injury, sexual abuse, or sexual exploitation [10A O.S. § 1-1-105] Neglect means the failure or omission to provide, among other things, adequate nurturance and affection, food, clothing, shelter, sanitation, hygiene, appropriate education, medical, dental, behavioral health care, supervision or appropriate caretakers, or necessary special care. Neglect also includes failure or omission to protect a child from exposure to illegal drugs, illegal activities, sexual acts or materials that are not age- appropriate, or abandonment.



To report suspected child abuse or neglect, call the statewide Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline at any time at 1-800-522-3511. You will be asked to give any information you know including the names of the adults, children, and others who know the family, address or information where the children are located, and specifics about what happened – how they were harmed or neglected. You do not need proof of abuse or neglect, only the suspicion that it has occurred. If children are in immediate danger, call 911.



Communication Tips for GRRC and children:

Good communication creates a win-win situation for both children and GRRC Learning good communication skills helps children and adults develop confidence, feelings of self-worth, and healthy relationships with others.

- * Teach children good listening skills.
- * Practice listening and talking; talk with children about school, friends, and their feelings.
- * Respect children. If you talk to children as you do your peers, they will be more likely to tell you when things are right and wrong in their life.
- * Praise children for doing things right. Praise builds a child's confidence and reinforces communication. Unkind words tear children down and teach them that they just aren't good enough.
- * Children are never too old to be told they are loved. Saying and hearing I love you is important at any age.
- * Give your undivided attention when children want to talk to you. Don't read, watch TV, fall asleep or make yourself busy with other tasks.
- * Set routines for bedtime, meals and chores. Routines will help children feel safe, and let them know your expectations.
- * Remind them of your rules; just saying no is not enough.



Tips for Setting Limits:

Start with only a few rules. The more rules you have, the harder it will be for children to remember them.

Be sure you know why you are saying no. Explain your reasons for saying no. Be sure children understand your reasons.

Give kids a voice. Kids need a voice in setting limits. They need a chance to tell you what they think and feel. Even a child of 5 or 6 can talk with you and help you set fair limits. When kids help you make rules, they are more likely to obey them.

Say what you mean. Be very clear about your limits.

Domestic Violence

Battering is a pattern of behavior used to establish power and control over another person through fear and intimidation, often including the threat or use of violence. Battering happens when one person believes they are entitled to control another. Battery is against the law.



If you know an adult who is the victim of physical battery, sexual abuse battery, or psychological battery, refer the person to the Oklahoma Safeline (1-800-522-SAFE or 1-800-522-7233).

The following factors can help minimize trauma and speed healing for children exposed to domestic violence (DHS Pub. No.12-36):

- A close, nurturing, safe relationship with the adult victim (non-abusing parent).
- Connection to extended family (if physically and emotionally safe), teachers, older siblings, members of church, social or sports activities.
- Strong and healthy peer relationships in multiple settings.
- Access to health care, social services, recreational activities, and other activities the child(ren) is interested in.
- Cultural connection.

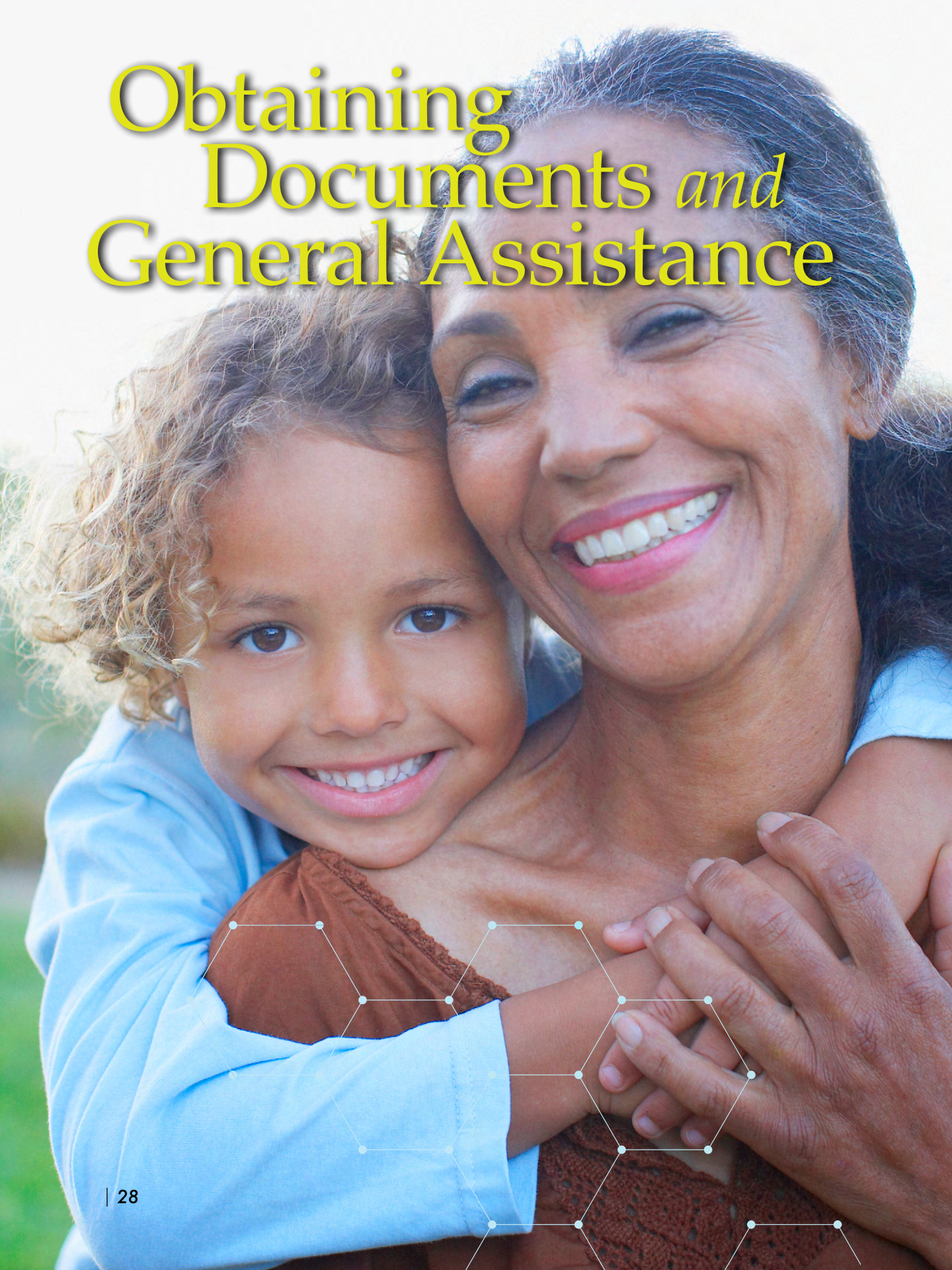
Child Guidance

Child guidance programs specialize in the treatment of children from infancy to age 12 who have adjustment problems, behavior problems, emotional disturbances, personality disorder or incipient mental illness.



Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
Publicly supported Community Mental Health Centers provide therapeutic services for children who are demonstrating symptoms of emotional disturbance. To find one, call the Reach-Out hotline, 1-800-522-9054.

Obtaining Documents *and* General Assistance



Obtaining Documents and General Assistance

If you are raising a child that is not your own, you are going to need to have certain papers and documents in order to apply for public assistance or medical services, school registration and identification purposes.

Birth Certificate

For a copy of a birth certificate, contact the Bureau of Vital Statistics in the state and county of the child's birth. In Oklahoma, only parents and guardians of children can obtain birth certificates. Attempt to get the birth parents to obtain the birth certificate for you. If this is not possible, you will need to get an order from a judge giving you permission to obtain a birth certificate for the child. This can be done through the guardianship process in Civil Court. Once you have permission, you will need to furnish the following information:

- Full name at birth of person for whom you are requesting the certificate
- Date of birth
- City or county of birth
- Parents' full names as they appear on the birth certificate, including mother's maiden name

There is a fee for obtaining a birth certificate. Check with the Bureau of Vital Statistics or the birth state for all fees and forms of payment accepted.

If the child was born in Oklahoma, contact the Oklahoma Department of Health, Vital Records, P. O. Box 53551, Oklahoma City, OK 73152. The phone number is 405-271-4040.

If the child is in DHS custody, DHS can get the birth certificate for you, at no charge to you.



Social Security Card

If the children do not have Social Security cards, or if they are lost, you can apply for either new or replacement cards. You do not have to be the children's legal guardian to obtain Social Security cards for them. U. S. citizens need a copy of their birth certificate or baptismal record.



For information on obtaining a Social Security Card, phone the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213, or go in person to the Social Security office located nearest to you.

Medical Records

If you have not raised the child from birth, you may not have the child's medical records. Try to obtain all his medical records. Try to obtain all medical records from the child's birth parents. If they do not have the records, ask them to sign a medical consent to have the records released. Also your pediatrician's office or clinic may be able to help you in obtaining the records. If the child has been enrolled in school, you may be able to obtain a copy of the medical records that the school has on file.

If you do not have prior medical records and the child has a medical appointment, you may find it helpful to make a list of all illnesses and conditions you can remember the child experienced, including information regarding the birth parents' medical history, if you know it, and any medical conditions or behavior during the mother's pregnancy. This can be helpful if doctors have to attempt to reconstruct the child's medical history.

TANF provides financial assistance in the form of a monthly benefit to help families care for related children who have been deprived of parental support or care and meet the specific degree of relationship to their caregiver.

Children who are eligible for TANF are also eligible for Medicaid health care assistance. Most children under their related caregiver's care are eligible to receive child-only cash benefit under the TANF program. This means that the caregiver's income and resources are not counted in the child's eligibility. The only income or resources considered are for those received for the child, such as child support, Survivor's benefits, etc., regardless of payee.



For further information on TANF, visit www.okdhs.org/services/tanf/Pages/TANFHome.aspx or call 1-866-411-1877.

TANF children may also be eligible for support service vouchers for school, sports or other specific reasons. The caseworker will be able to inform you about qualifications.

You should be aware that certain factors must be established for eligibility of a TANF child-only cash benefit. For instance, you must:

- prove you are related to the child through birth certificate or other legal documents.
- prove that the child is living with you.
- have proof of child's citizenship.
- provide Social Security numbers for each child applying for assistance.
- have proof of health insurance, if you have it.
- provide information about the birth parents – the law requires you to cooperate in attempting to obtain child support from the parents.
- provide proof of any income or assets belonging to the child.

Questions to Ask When Applying for TANF, Food Benefits or Other Financial Assistance

- What documents will you need from me?
- What information do I have to provide to you?
- What forms do I need to complete?
- How will I know when we have been approved for services?
- When will I receive the payment card or medical card?
- How often do I have to update my records, and what is the process? Is it a yearly review or every three months?
- Do I have a right to appeal your decision, if I am unhappy with it?
- If we move, or the child returns home, when do I need to notify you and how?

General Assistance

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families – TANF

TANF provides financial assistance in the form of a monthly benefit to help families care for related children who have been deprived of parental support or care and meet the specific degree of relationship to their caregiver.

Children who are eligible for TANF are also eligible for Medicaid health care assistance. Most children under their related caregiver's care are eligible to receive child-only cash benefit under the TANF program. This means that the caregiver's income and resources are not counted in the child's eligibility. The only income or resources considered are for those received for the child, such as child support, Survivor's benefits, etc., regardless of payee.



For further information on TANF, visit www.okdhs.org/services/tanf/Pages/TANFHome.aspx or call 1-866-411-1877.

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DHS Client Bill of Rights

Applicants and recipients of benefits and services administered by DHS have the right to:

- Be treated with courtesy and dignity.
- Receive prompt service.
- Receive clear explanations of the laws and rules that determine eligibility for benefits and services.
- Have benefits and services explained in native language, if not able to understand English.
- Have forms read and explained, if unable to read forms because of limited eyesight, or other inability to read.
- Have the opportunity for an appeal and a fair hearing in case of denial or reduction of benefits or services.
- Discuss with a local DHS supervisor any complaint regarding DHS benefits or services or treatment by DHS staff.
- Contact the DHS Office of Client Advocacy (OCA) at 1-800-522-8014, regarding any complaint that has been discussed with, but not resolved by, the local office supervisory staff.
- Receive, upon request, a further explanation of applicant or client rights.



Filing a Grievance

Recipients of benefits and services administered by DHS, and people acting on behalf of recipients, have the right to talk with a local DHS supervisor if they have a complaint about the way they were treated by DHS staff. Supervisory staff promptly need to resolve the matter with the client. Clients have the right to contact Office of Client Advocacy, Attention Grievance Coordinator, P.O. Box 25352, Oklahoma City, OK 73125, 405-522-2720 or 1-800-522-8014, regarding any complaint which has been discussed with, but not resolved by, the local office supervisory staff.



Child Support

If you are a GRRC, you may be able to receive child support. Child support is based upon the concept that children are entitled to the support of both parents. The courts will order one or both parents to pay support.

Certain programs, such as TANF, require cooperation in attempting to collect child support payments from birth parents. When a TANF case is opened, Child Support Services (CSS) will automatically initiate a child support case.

For an application:

- Visit www.okdhs.org
- Call 1-800-522-2922, or
- Visit your local child support office



Child Support Services can:

- Locate parents
- Establish parentage
- Set, review, modify and enforce court orders for child support, medical support and child care
- Work with other states when one or both parents do not live in Oklahoma
- Collect and process payments

Establishing Parentage

Children with legal fathers are entitled to benefits through their fathers, including:

- Social Security benefits
- Veteran's benefits
- Inheritance rights
- Knowing their cultural and medical histories

Paternity must be established before the court can order child support. Child Support Services help with genetic testing and establishing parentage.

Setting Child Support

Child support is set by the court using a formula that considers the income of both parents. The order can include additional amounts for medical needs and child care.

Modifying a Child Support Order

Child Support Services (CSS) is committed to the right of all parties to have access to the court system. Most child support orders are fair and reasonable when they are entered but they do not always keep pace with changes in people's lives. One way to ask for a modification to your child support order is to send a written request to CSS, or you can do it yourself.

You can file a Motion to Modify in district or administrative court to ask the judge to modify the amount of child support. The forms are available online at www.okdhs.org/services/ocss/pages/pginfo.aspx, or you may call CSS at 1-800-522-2922. Before using these forms, you may want to see if CSS is able to handle the issue for you. You may call CSS to ask about our services and timelines. We can answer questions for you about the forms but we cannot represent you or give you advice on how to proceed. You will present your own child support issues to the court at the hearing, even if CSS also has a representative at the hearing.



Earned Income Credit

(Source: Internal Revenue Service)

The Earned Income Credit (EIC) is a special benefit for low and moderate income working people who are raising children.

The EIC program provides working GRRC who qualify with assistance by reducing the amount of taxes owed or by giving you money back.

The EIC is a tax credit program administered by the Internal Revenue Service. You file for the EIC when you file your tax return.

There are also Advance Earned Income Credit payments available that allow those who qualify to get part of their EIC in advance instead of waiting until after the end of the year. Check with the IRS at www.irs.gov for rules and regulations on the EIC program.



To obtain qualifying information on Earned Income Credit, contact the Internal Revenue Service at 1-800-829-1040.

Supplemental Security Income – SSI

(Source: Social Security Administration)

Supplemental Security Income provides financial assistance in the form of monthly payments to low-income elderly, blind or disabled individuals, including children.

If the child has a disability, they may qualify for assistance. Disabled means one has a physical or mental problem that keeps him or her from working and is expected to last at least a year or to result in death. When deciding if a child is disabled, Social Security looks at how his or her disability affects everyday life.

Parents or guardians can apply for blind or disabled children under 18 years of age;

You will need to provide the following information when applying:

the children's Social Security cards or records of their Social Security numbers; the children's birth certificates or other proofs of age;

the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of doctors, hospitals, and clinics that have seen the children; and,

the children's documents of citizenship or eligible non-citizen status.



For more information or to apply for Supplemental Security Income, contact your DHS County office. To find your County phone number go to www.okdhs.org and select County.



Tips on Dealing with Social Service Agencies:

Be patient and persistent. You may encounter long waits on the phone or in person. Many agencies do not have the staff to take your calls immediately. You may call services that have automated answering systems or answering machines.

Call during low-volume phone times. Agencies differ by the volume and types of calls they receive. However, in doing research on programs for this Guide, we found that it was often easier to get through to agency helplines during the early morning hours on Tuesday through Thursday. The busiest phone times often are during lunch hours, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., and on Mondays and Fridays.

Keep a log. Always write down the name, title and number of the person to whom you speak. Record important details of your conversation for future reference. Write down the name of the office, telephone number, name of the person with whom you spoke, and date and time of the call. Be sure to ask questions if something is not clear to you.

Custody and Legal Issues



Custody and Legal Issues

Physical Custody

Physical custody is an informal agreement in which GRRC are caring for children in their home without official or legal authority by a court. In these situations, GRRC have no formal rights or authority to make decisions regarding the child. The birth parents retain all the rights and responsibilities for the children.

Power of Attorney

A Power of Attorney is a legal arrangement in which birth parents grant authority to GRRC, called agents, to perform certain custodial tasks such as enrolling the child in school and providing medical needs such as shots. The advantage of this arrangement is that a court is not involved, but the disadvantage is that Power of Attorney may be revoked by the birth parent at any time.

Legal Custody

A formal agreement in which custody of grandchildren is granted to a GRRC by the court is called legal custody. GRRC have legal authority to make all decisions regarding the children. Birth parents remain financially responsible for the children, even though their rights are temporarily suspended by the court. The birth parents continue to have the right to visit with the children. Custody is granted in Oklahoma only when "parental unfitness" is established in court.

Guardianship

Guardianship is a legal arrangement in which an adult has the court-ordered authority and responsibility to care for a child. In most counties, GRRC file for guardianship of a child in district court. In certain circumstances, the guardianship may be granted in juvenile court if there has been a deprived action filed regarding the child.

Guardianship may be necessary if a child's parents die or if the child has been abandoned, is not receiving adequate care or is being abused in some way. Guardianship is a more permanent relationship than Power of Attorney and should be considered as a means of avoiding the uprooting of a grandchild described above. Guardians of related children have authority to:

- consent to medical treatment;
- enroll grandchildren in school;
- obtain documents, such as birth certificates; and
- stop birth parents from taking the child out of their home without consent from the court.

Under guardianship, the rights of the birth parents are not severed. Birth parents retain residual parental rights. These are, for example, the right of visitation, to determine the religious faith of the child, to consent to adoption and the duty to support the child and pay for the child's medical care, and similar expenses. Birth parents, if able, must contribute money to support the child.

Once guardianship is ordered by the court, the child must live with the guardian. Guardianship can only be transferred back to the birth parents by the court.

Legal Aid may be able to assist you with guardianship or adoption issues. To take advantage of low-cost or no-cost assistance, you will need to meet certain income or other qualifications before service can be provided. You can obtain the phone number of your nearest Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma office by calling 1-888-534-5243 or Oklahoma Indian Legal Services, Inc. at 1-800-658-1497. Alternatively, to find your local office on the Internet, go to www.legalaidok.org.



Kinship Foster Care

When a child has been abused or neglected by their parent and has been placed in the custody of DHS by court order, DHS seeks to place the child with someone the child or parents know.

Kinship foster care is temporary or long term care that is provided by a grandparent, other relative or responsible adult with an existing bond with the child.

Legal custody of the child resides with the state agency, DHS. The kinship caregivers have only physical custody of the child. Kinship foster parents cannot make any major decisions regarding the care of the child without first obtaining consent of DHS.

Kinship foster care services include money or assistance for food, clothing, shelter, daily supervision, school supplies, personal needs of the child, medical and dental care, social services, and supportive services such as counseling. Kinship foster care parents must follow the rules and regulations set out in DHS' policies.

Kinship caregivers who meet the relationship requirement may be eligible for TANF prior to the payment of kinship foster care. Those kinship caregivers who do not meet the relationship requirement of TANF may still be eligible for food benefits or child care services.



For information on Kinship Foster Care, contact your DHS County office. To find your County phone number go to www.okdhs.org and select County.

Glossary of Legal Terms

Adoption – process in which a natural parent’s legal rights and duties toward the child are terminated and similar rights and duties toward the adoptive parents are substituted. Adoption creates the legal relationship of parent and child between people who were not so related by nature.

Custody – the care, control and maintenance of a child, which may be awarded by a court to grandparents or other relatives in a custody case. Custody will be awarded to grandparents or other relatives only if parental unfitness (see below) is established.

Guardianship – a legal arrangement under which one person – a guardian or a relative – has the legal right and duty to care for another – a ward or child and the ward’s property. Guardianship is not a proceeding for termination of parental rights; it is a temporary relationship supervised by a court.

Mediation – a private, informal dispute resolution process in which a neutral third person, the mediator, helps disputing parties reach an agreement. The mediator has no power to impose a decision on the parties. Mediation can be used for child custody and visitation rights issues, for example.

Public mediation services are available through the 12 Early Settlement Centers across the state. This program utilizes volunteer mediators who are trained and certified to mediate in the Administrative Office of the Oklahoma Supreme Court. Mediators are available at minimal or no charge to help you resolve conflicts, often without the assistance of an attorney or the need to go to court. Call 405-366-0640 for the phone number and location of the center nearest you. You should feel free to ask for information about the assigned mediator, including the mediator’s experience in disputes like yours.

Parental Unfitness – exists when a parent’s character and habits are such that provision for the child’s welfare cannot reasonably be expected from the parent or that for some other reason the parent is unable to care for the child. The unfitness that is necessary to deprive a parent of custody must be positive and not comparative; for example, the mere fact that a child may be cared better for by a grandparent is not sufficient to justify taking a child from the parent.

Power of Attorney – a written agreement whereby one person – an adult child, as principal, appoints another – a relative, as agent, and confers authority to perform certain specified acts, such as care of a child.

Relative Guardianship – this is a low-cost way to obtain guardianship. You may fill out the Relative Caregiver Authorization Affidavit with your county court clerk.

Visitation – the statutory right of access to a grandchild, granted to grandparents in a court proceeding, if it is in the best interest of a grandchild.

Adoption

Adoption is a formal legal agreement granted by the court that ends the legal relationship between a child and her or his birth parents. With adoption, the court terminates the legal rights of the birth parents.

Adoption legally transfers the ongoing parental responsibilities for a child from the parents or legal guardian to the adoptive parents. Adoption can occur with people related to the child, have a kinship bond with the child or have no relationship with the child by nature.

Adoption permanently transfers all parental rights from the birth parents to the adoptive parents.

Unlike legal custody, adoption is permanent and cannot be modified if the birth parent becomes able to care for the child.

Adoption may be necessary for grandparents or other relatives to obtain some benefits available for the children, such as Social Security in the event of the relatives' death. Be aware that adoptive relatives will no longer be eligible for TANF for the child.

Adoption Assistance for Special Needs Children

Children with special needs, as defined by Oklahoma statutes and federal law, are eligible for adoption subsidy. A child with special needs is defined by the Social Security Act as meeting the following conditions:

- 1) The child cannot or should not be returned to the home of his or her parents;
- 2) The state has determined that there exists a specific factor or condition with the child, such as ethnic background, age, or membership in a minority or sibling group, or the presence of factors such as medical conditions or physical, mental or emotional handicaps, and because of which the child cannot be placed with adoptive parents without providing adoption assistance; efforts have been made to place the child with appropriate adoptive parents without providing adoption assistance.

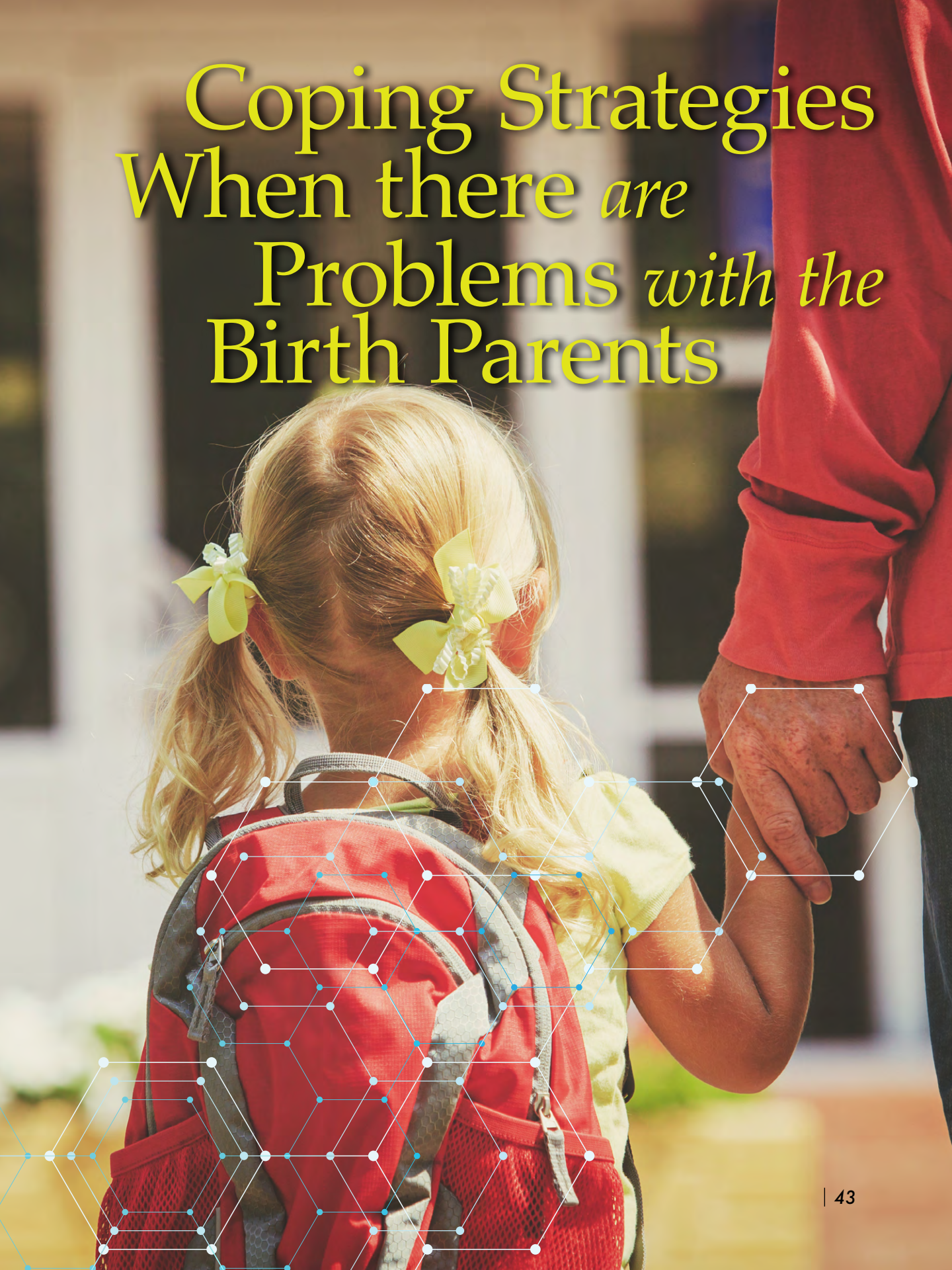
Eligible children may receive one or more of the following types of assistance:

- * One-time-only payment for non-recurring adoption expenses.
- * Payment, through issuance of a Medicaid card, for medical services that are not covered through public or private insurance or other public resources, and the necessary counseling services for the adoptive family and child following the adoption.
- * Monthly payment in an amount that is determined for each child, based on the child's needs and the circumstances of the family.
- * Conditional adoption assistance may be available for children who at the time of the adoption do not meet the eligibility criteria but may be at risk for future physical, mental or emotional disability.



For general information on adoptions through DHS, call 1-800-376-9729, or check the Web site at <https://okfosters.org/>

Coping Strategies When there *are* Problems *with the* Birth Parents



Coping Strategies When There are Problems with the Birth Parents

Depending on the particulars of the situation for which you became a caregiver, you may at some point encounter problems with the children's birth parents. If you have legal custody of the children, you may be able to get either a Protective Order or Supervised Visitation in court.

Protective Order. This is an order issued by a judge that orders the parent to stay away from you, the children, and your home. Failure to abide by a court order is cause for police arrest. You file for a protective order at the office of the district court in your county.

Supervised Visitation. If you are worried about the safety of the children during visitation with birth parents, you may ask a judge to order that all visitation by the children and the birth parents be supervised.

Note: Both protective orders and supervised visitation may be modified as situations change, or as the court determines.

Relative Visitation Rights

Remember, visitation of the child is not a right. Oklahoma law provides that relatives have reasonable rights of visitation only if a court deems visitation to be in the best interest of the child.

For information on legal services, contact your local Legal Aid office by visiting www.legalaidok.org/ or Attorney Referral Service at www.okattorneyreferrals.com/.

Grandparent Support Groups

The number of support groups for grandparents raising grandchildren is increasing in Oklahoma. Many of them offer child care so that both grandparents and their grandchildren have a chance to socialize. For many grandparents, support groups such as these offer the only respite from their child care duties.

How Support Groups Can Help:

- * Offer emotional support to grandparents who feel alone and isolated.
- * Create a network of grandparents who are in caregiving situations.
- * Offer guidance, assistance and advice to grandparents in their efforts to care for their grandchildren.
- * Give grandparents ideas on formulating positive solutions to difficult and challenging problems.
- * Serve as a clearinghouse for resources and information.
- * Offer a safe, understanding place for grandparents to discuss the emotional ups and downs of raising their grandchildren and blow off steam.
- * Provide tools for advocacy and awareness of the issues facing grandparents raising grandchildren.



Tips for Organizing a GRRC Support Group

If there is not already an established support group in your area, you may want to consider organizing one. There are many different ways to go about doing this. The following tips may help you get started.

Learn from others. Contact established support groups in other cities and ask for advice in starting a support group. The Senior Info-Line at 1-800-211-2116 can help you locate existing support groups in the state.

Contact professionals in the community. Ask for help from family counselors, therapists, local health associations, hospitals, social service agencies, etc. in getting a support group started. If any of the people you contact has expertise in issues facing relatives raising grandchildren, ask if they would be willing to facilitate group meetings or serve as special speakers once the group is formed.

Talk to the school superintendent for permission to distribute support group meeting information at schools to the principals and counselors.

Find a location for meetings. Churches, hospitals, non-profit organizations, schools, and libraries may have facilities that the group could use at little or no charge. The facility will need to have a separate room for the child care. Explain the importance of support groups. Do not be bashful about asking for free space.

Use public service announcements to generate interest. Local newspapers, radio broadcasts, television spots and church newsletters are good places to put notices of meetings and articles about GRRC.

Hold an organization meeting. Enlist the help of other GRRC, service providers, and others interested in GRRC issues.

Be patient in your attempts to organize a support group. Planning and organizing a group takes time, effort, and lots of perseverance. Remember: the benefits of the group will make all your time and effort worthwhile.



For more information on Grandparent Raising Grandchildren support groups, call 211.

Stress Reducing Suggestions for GRRC

(Adapted from Illinois Task Force on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Tip Sheet)
Your adult child's circumstances are not your fault.

1. Join a support group. This is an excellent place to get information, ideas, and emotional support.
2. Keep up your own health.
3. Walk or exercise regularly.
4. Insist on regular quiet hour.
5. Take time for yourself.
6. Do something you enjoy.
7. Talk out your problems with friends, other GRRC, or a family counselor.
8. Consider your religious community and personal faith for strength and assistance.
9. Concentrate on the task at hand. Don't dwell on the past. Looking too far ahead can also be overwhelming. If you can't take a day at a time, try to accomplish one thing at a time.
10. Learn to say no.
11. Practice patience. Let those you are caring for do as much for themselves as possible.
12. Set limits with the children and stick to them.
13. Focus on the positive and keep a sense of humor.
14. Accept reality. See things as they are and not how you wish them to be.
15. Eliminate hurtful thoughts and self-pity. These negative emotions only drag you down.
16. Reward yourself. Even small rewards will help your emotional well-being.
17. Avoid isolation. Make an effort to maintain friendships, even if it is by telephone for now.
18. Look into parenting classes to learn new methods for helping children develop self-esteem, confidence, accountability and responsibility.



Resources for Grandparent Caregivers and other Relatives Raising Children

Resources for Grandparent Caregivers

Oklahoma

211

211oklahoma.org

Senior Info-Line

1-800-211-2116

Oklahoma Department of Human Services

www.okdhs.org

405-521-3646

Oklahoma Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services

www.ok.gov/odmhsas

405-248-9200

Oklahoma State Department of Health

www.ok.gov/health

1-800-522-0203

Oklahoma Health Care Authority

www.okhca.org

405-522-7300

Oklahoma Health Care Authority

www.okhca.org

SoonerCare - 1-800-987-7767; Insure Oklahoma - 1-888-365-3742

Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma

www.legalaidok.org

1-888-534-5243

National

Generations United

202-289-3979

www.gu.org

The Brookdale Foundation Group

201-836-4602

www.brookdalefoundation.org/

Legal Services for Prisoners with Children

415-255-7036

www.prisonerswithchildren.org

Area Agencies on Aging

Areawide Agency on Aging, Inc.

Canadian, Cleveland, Logan and Oklahoma

4101 Perimeter Center Drive, Ste.310

Oklahoma City, OK 73112-5910

405-942-8500 (TDD)

www.areawideaging.org

Association of South Central Oklahoma Governments (ASCOG) AAA

Caddo, Comanche, Cotton, Grady, Jefferson, McClain,

Stephens and Tillman

802 Main Street

P. O. Box 1647

Duncan, OK 73533-1647

580-736-7036 / 1-800-658-1466

www.ascog.org

Central Oklahoma Economic

Development District (COEDD) AAA

Hughes, Lincoln, Okfuskee, Pawnee, Payne,

Pottawatomie and Seminole

400 North Bell Avenue

P. O. Box 3398

Shawnee, OK 74802-3398

405-273-6410 / 1-800-375-8255

www.coedd.net

Eastern Oklahoma Development District (EODD) AAA

Adair, Cherokee, McIntosh, Muskogee, Okmulgee,

Sequoyah and Wagoner

1012 North 38th Street

P. O. Box 1367

Muskogee, OK 74402-1367

918-682-7891

www.eoddok.org

Grand Gateway Economic Development Association AAA

Craig, Delaware, Mayes, Nowata, Ottawa, Rogers and Washington

333 South Oak Street

P.O. Box Drawer B

Big Cabin, OK 74332-0502

918-783-5793 / 1-800-482-4594

www.grandgateway.org/seniors.html

Indian Nations Council of Government (INCOG) AAA

Creek, Osage, and Tulsa

2 West Second Street, Suite 800

Tulsa, OK 74103-3116

918-584-7526

www.incog.org

Kiamichi Economic Development District of Oklahoma (KEDDO) AAA

Choctaw, Haskell, Latimer, LeFlore, McCurtain,

Pittsburg and Pushmataha

Vo-Tech Administration Addition

1002 Highway 2 North

Wilburton, OK 74578

918-465-2367 / 1-800-722-8180 (TDD)

www.keddo.org/Aging.html

Long Term Care Authority of Enid (LTCA-E) AAA

Alfalfa, Blaine, Garfield, Grant, Kay, Kingfisher, Major and Noble

202 West Broadway Avenue, Suite A

Enid, OK 73701-4048

580-234-7475

Area Agencies on Aging *Continued*

Oklahoma Economic Development

Authority (OEDA) AAA

*Beaver, Cimarron, Dewey, Ellis, Harper, Texas, Woods
and Woodward*

330 Douglas Ave.

P.O. Box 668

Beaver, OK 73932-0668

580-625-4531 / 1-800-658-2844

www.oeda.org/aaa.htm

Southern Oklahoma Development

Association (SODA) AAA

*Atoka, Bryan, Carter, Coal, Garvin, Johnston, Love,
Marshall, Murray and Pontotoc*

2704 North First Avenue

Durant, OK 74701

(580) 920-1388

www.soda-ok.org

Southwestern Oklahoma Development

Authority (SWODA) AAA

*Beckham, Custer, Greer, Harmon, Kiowa, Jackson,
Roger Mills and Washita*

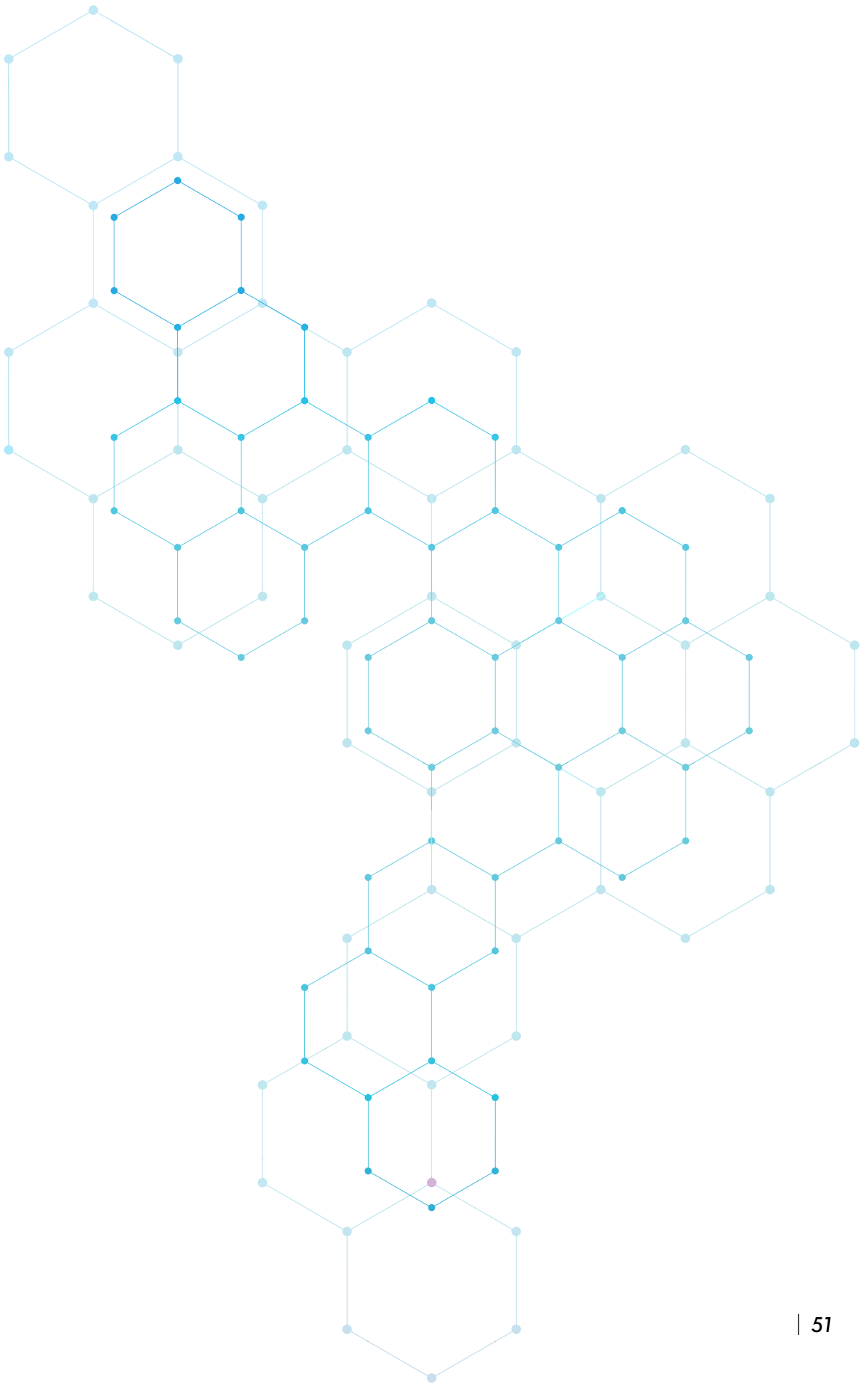
Building 420, Sooner Drive

P. O. Box 569

Burns Flat, OK 73624-0569

(580) 562-4882 / 1-800-627-4882 (TDD)

www.swoda.org/aaa





OKLAHOMA
Human Services

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