

FEDERAL AND STATE LAW AND POLICY RESOURCES REGARDING KINSHIP PLACEMENTS

- *New Opportunities for Kinship Families: Action Steps to Implement the Family First Prevention Services Act in Your Community*, ABA CENTER ON CHILDREN AND THE LAW, CHILDREN’S DEFENSE FUND, AND GENERATIONS UNITED (last accessed 1/21/22), <https://www.grandfamilies.org/Portals/0/Documents/FFPSA/new-opportunities-kinship-families.pdf>.

This brief champions the federal Family First Prevention Services Act (Family First Act) and encourages meaningful implementation to support kinship families. It highlights the potential benefits of the Act for kin, such as prevention services to keep children out of foster care, elimination of licensing barriers in order to increase the number of kinship foster homes, support for kinship navigator programs to aid kinship families, and better family involvement for children in group homes.

- Children’s Bureau, *Placement of Children with Relatives: State Statutes Current through January 2018*, CHILD WELFARE INFORMATION GATEWAY (Jan. 2018), <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/systemwide/laws-policies/statutes/placement/>.

This article details how U.S. states and territories can receive federal support for foster care and adoption under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act. In particular, Title IV-E requires that states “consider giving preference to an adult relative over a non-relative caregiver . . . provided that the relative caregiver meets all relevant state child protection standards.” This provides an incentive to place children with kin when possible. The article also discusses various state requirements for placement with kinship providers, including inquiries into the caregiver’s criminal background, fitness and willingness to provide the child care. The article notes that some states provide provisional foster care licensure, while many more require the caregiver be fully licensed in order to assume care.