

SAN DIEGO KINSHIP ROAD MAP

Are you raising your grandchild, another family member's child, or a close family friend's child? This roadmap will guide you step by step through this journey. Check the back for resources to help you along the way.

Step

Establish Caregiver Status

01

If possible, work with the child's parents to get important documents. You will need the child's birth certificate and Social Security number. Try to get a "power of attorney" signed by the parents that spells out your role. If the parents are absent, consider completing a "caregiver's authorization affidavit."

* If the child was placed with you by the County's Child and Family Well Being Department (CFWB), work with your case worker and they can help you get information needed to care for your child. Complete your Resource Family Approval process to care for your kin children in foster care and possibly long-term.

Step

Address Basic Needs

02

Schedule health checkups, enroll the child in school, and connect with community resources. Consider applying for benefits such as Medi-Cal, CalFresh, WIC, CalWORKS child-only or family grants, and child care subsidies.

* If the child was placed with you by CFWB, work with your caseworker on the child's health and education needs. Your caseworker can help you get resources such as foster care payments, child care, and more.

Step

Secure Other Support

03

Consider joining a caregiver support group for advice and emotional help. If needed for the child, get counseling and/or help for developmental needs.

* If the child was placed with you by CFWB, your case worker can help connect you to services for you and the child.

Step

Consider Permanent Legal Options

04

Consider options, like adoption or guardianship, for creating a legally permanent family.

* If the child was placed with you by CFWB and can't go back to their parents, think about permanent care through adoption or guardianship. These legal options provide stability for the child and possible financial supports for caregivers.



LIVE WELL
SAN DIEGO

ROAD MAP RESOURCES

Find Help on Your Caregiving Journey

Live Well San Diego GRG – Connect with local resources and support for kinship caregivers in San Diego – www.LiveWellSD.org/Kinship



YMCA Kinship Support – Connect with a kinship navigator who can help you find tailored resources, including a kinship support group – www.ymcasd.org/kinship; call 877-YMCA-4-KIN (877-9622-4-546) or email kinshipyfs@ymcasd.org

Establish Caregiver Status

- ▶ **Caregiver's Authorization Affidavit to obtain the authority to enroll the child in school and get medical care** – <https://www4.courts.ca.gov/documents/caregiver.pdf>
- ▶ **Power of Attorney** – <https://selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/guardianship/other-options>

Address Basic Needs

- ▶ **BenefitsCal** – Information on applying for CalFresh, CalWORKS child-only or family grants, Medi-Cal, WIC, and other programs – <https://benefitscal.com/>
- ▶ **Child care eligibility information** – <https://childcaresandiego.com/>
- ▶ **Feeding San Diego** – Find food banks – <https://feedingsandiego.org/>

Secure Other Support

- ▶ **211 San Diego** – Information on available support – bit.ly/4pxaAOf
- ▶ **San Diego Access & Crisis Line** – Immediate help from experienced and multi-lingual counselors – (888) 724-7240
- ▶ **Project KEEP** – Support groups and training – <https://shorturl.at/QvqH0>
- ▶ **FAKCE/Grossmont College** – Free training for all kinship caregivers – <https://fakce.org>
- ▶ **San Diego Regional Center** – Support for children with developmental disabilities – <http://www.sdrcc.org/>

Consider Permanent Legal Options

- ▶ **Information on obtaining guardianship through probate court** – <https://sdcourt.ca.gov/sdcourt/probate2/guardianship> AND <https://selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/guardianship>
- ▶ **Information on adoption** – <https://selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/independent-adoption>
- ▶ **San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program** – (619) 235-5656 – <https://sdvlp.org/>
- ▶ **Chart for kinship resource families that compares guardianship and adoption** – <https://shorturl.at/CbaP3>