



NATIONAL CONFERENCE *of* STATE LEGISLATURES

The Forum for America's Ideas

STATE LEGISLATIVE ENACTMENTS SUPPORTING RELATIVES, KINSHIP CARE PROVIDERS AND GRANDPARENTS 2007 - 2012

For more information on state legislative enactments supporting relative caregivers, please also see:

[NCSL Fostering Connections Act Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payments Charts](#)

[NCSL Fostering Connections Act Relative Notification Provisions](#)

[Big Decisions for Little Children: NCSL School Enrollment and Medical Consent Laws for Relative Caregivers](#)

A number of states have enacted legislation to expand support for grandparent and relative caregivers. The chart below reflects legislation enacted between 2012 and 2007. The categories identified include easing of licensure requirements, waivers and variances; expanded definition of relative; relative placement preference; school enrollment and medical consent; payment, reimbursement, subsidies; supporting relative adoption; studies, commissions and task forces; and, miscellaneous.

STATE	ENACTMENT	PROVISIONS	EASES LICENSING REQUIREMENTS/WAIVERS/VARIANCES
Colorado	2012 House Bill 1047—03/22/2012 - Enacted	Concerns the waiver of non-safety licensing standards for kinship foster care; provides that a county director of social services may limit or restrict a license issued to a kinship foster care entity or require that entity to enter into a compliance agreement to ensure the safety and well-being of a child or children in that entity's care.	Waiver of non-safety licensing standards for kinship foster care.
Indiana	2012 Senate Bill 286—03/14/2012 - Enacted	Provides that a person may operate a foster family home for a related person without a license.	Eases licensing requirements for foster family homes caring for related persons.
Virginia	2012 Senate Bill 299—04/04/2012 - Enacted	Provides that the Commissioner of Social Services may grant a variance for approval of foster homes for children if the placement is a kinship foster care placement and the variance will not adversely affect the safety and well-being of the child, provides that a local board or child-placing	Allows a variance for approval of foster homes if the placement is a kinship foster care placement.

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		agency may approve as a kinship foster care parent an applicant convicted of drugs or arson under certain circumstances.	
Nevada	2009 Assembly Bill 76— Chapter 145	Exempts, for the purpose of placing a child, certain relatives from licensure as foster care providers.	Eases foster care licensing restrictions for certain relatives.
Utah	2008 House Bill 36— Chapter 17	Provides that the requirement that a child in state custody may not be placed with a prospective foster or adoptive parent until the Department of Human Services conducts a comprehensive background check does not prohibit the Division of Child and Family Services or a court from placing the child with a noncustodial parent or with a relative, pending further investigation.	Background checks for relatives.
Connecticut	2007 Senate Bill 1152—Public Act 07-8	Increases short-term, unlicensed placement options for children, allows the Department of Children and Families to place half- and step-siblings with an unlicensed caregiver who is related to at least one of the children and lowers the minimum age for placing children temporarily with unlicensed family friends or other responsible adults who already know the child.	Increases unlicensed placement options for children, to include relatives.
STATE	ENACTMENT	PROVISIONS	EXPANDS DEFINITION OF RELATIVE
California	2012 Assembly Bill 1712—09/30/2012 - Enacted	The bill would expand the definition of a relative for purposes of the federally funded Kin-GAP program to include guardians who are non-related extended family members, tribal kin, or current caregivers of foster children, as specified.	Expands definition of relative.
Colorado	2012 Senate Bill 66— 04/06/2012 - Enacted	Concerns expanding those persons eligible as guardians in the guardianship assistance program to include persons ascribed by the family as having a family-like relationship with the child or who have had a prior significant relationship with the child.	Expands definition of relative.
Indiana	2009 Senate Bill 365—Public Law 131	Section 8: Defines “relative” as a maternal or paternal grandparent, an adult aunt or uncle or any other adult relative suggested by either parent of a child.	Expands definition of grandparent.
Nevada	2009 Senate Bill 342—Chapter 65	Expands the relatives who receive preference when a child is placed in the custody of a person other than the parent of the child by a court, an agency that provides child welfare services or another person. The expanded definition of relatives includes any person related within the fifth degree of consanguinity to the child who is suitable and able to	Expands definition of relative.

		provide proper care and guidance for the child.	
Nevada	2009 Senate Bill 343—Chapter 90	Expands the relatives who receive preference when a child is placed in the custody of a person other than the parent of the child by a court, an agency that provides child welfare services or another person. The expanded definition of relatives includes any person related within the - fifth degree of consanguinity to the child who is suitable and able to provide proper care and guidance for the child.	Expands definition of relative.
Hawaii	2007 Senate Bill 1916—Act 204	Extends the Joint Legislative Committee on Family Care giving. Provides a broader definition of “family caregiver” by including grandparents who are caregivers for grandchildren who are age 18 or younger or age 19 or older with physical or cognitive limitations.	Expands definition of family caregiver to include grandparents.
STATE	ENACTMENT	PROVISIONS	PRIORITIZES RELATIVE PLACEMENT/ EMPHASIZES IMPORTANCE OF RELATIVE PLACEMENT
Kansas	2012 Senate Bill 262—05/14/2012 - Enacted	Requires substantial consideration of a grandparent who requests custody when a court evaluates what custody, visitation, or residency arrangements are in the best interest of a child who has been removed from custody of a parent and not placed with the child's other parent. The court must consider the wishes of the parents, child, and grandparent; the extent that the grandparent has cared for the child; the intent and circumstances under which the child is placed with the grandparent; and the physical and mental health of all involved individuals. The court is required to state this evaluation on the record. If the court does not give custody to a grandparent, but places the child in the custody of the Secretary of Social and Rehabilitation Services (Secretary) for placement, then a grandparent who requests placement shall receive substantial consideration in the evaluation for placement, using the factors listed in the bill. If the grandparent is not selected for placement, the Secretary shall prepare and maintain a written report with specific reasons for the finding.	Consideration of grandparent as placement option.
Utah	2012 House Bill 161—03/22/2012 - Enacted	Emphasizes the importance of in-home services and kinship placement over other forms of state intervention.	Emphasizes the importance of kinship placement.
Utah	2012 House Bill	Requires DCFS to have "clear and convincing evidence" before it could	Protects relative placements.

	242—03/20/2012 - Enacted	remove a child from a relative's care based on age or health-related problems alleged to be incapacitating. Amends the procedure for taking a foster child away from a foster parent who is that child's relative. Prohibits the Division of Child and Family services from removing a foster child from a foster parent who is the child's relative without clear and convincing evidence that the relative is incapable of caring for the child.	
Arkansas	2011 Senate Bill 625—Act 591	Adds juveniles' siblings or step-siblings as minors who may be placed with a juvenile in a provisional foster home with the juvenile's relatives. In all custodial placements by the Division of Children and Family Services in foster care or adoption, the law gives preferential consideration to an adult relative over a nonrelated caregiver if the relative caregiver meets all relevant child protection standards and it is in the best interests of the child to be placed with the relative caregiver.	Allows preferential consideration to an adult relative for placement.
Idaho	2010 House Bill 610—Chapter 147	Sec. 3: Stipulates that, when the Department of Health and Welfare is considering a placement for a child in foster care, it must consider placement priority for the child. Placement priority shall include a fit and willing relative, a fit and willing non-relative who has a significant relationship with the child, and licensed foster parents. Sec. 4: Defines "relative" as a child's grandparent, great grandparent, aunt, great aunt, uncle, great uncle, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, first cousin, sibling and half-sibling.	Prioritizes placement with a fit and willing relative.
Florida	2009 House Bill 381—Chapter 43	Creates the "Zahid Jones, Jr., Give Grandparents and Other Relatives a Voice Act." Establishes that in court proceedings involving the child in state custody, the department shall notify a relative requesting notification of all proceedings. Provides for the establishment of procedures and protocols that serve to advance the continued safety of children by acknowledging the valued resource uniquely available through grandparents and relatives of children, and establishes a yearly "Grandparents' and Family Caregivers' Day."	Requires relative notification in court proceedings and acknowledges the value of grandparents and relatives as caregivers for children.
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<p>Illinois</p>	<p>2009 House Bill 2365—Public Act 276</p>	<p>Creates the Kinship Navigator Act. Denies “kinship care” as the full-time care of children by relatives, members of their tribes or clans, grandparents, godparents, stepparents or any adult who has physical custody and a kinship bond. Establishes a program, to be administered through a grant to a not-for-profit organization, to serve as liaison among State agencies and groups to promote kinship care and provide diversity services.</p>	<p>Creates a Kinship Navigator Act.</p>
<p>Texas</p>	<p>2009 Senate Bill 2385—Chapter 856</p>	<p>Requires the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), at certain adversary hearings, to file with the court, after redacting any Social Security numbers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A copy of each proposed child placement resources form, completed by the parent or other person having legal custody of the child; • A copy of any completed home study; and • The name of the relative or other designated caregiver with whom the child has been placed. <p>Requires the DFPS, if the child has not been placed with a relative or other designated caregiver by the time of the hearing, to file with the court a statement explaining the reasons why the child has not been placed and the actions the DFPS is taking, if any, to place the child with a relative or other designated caregiver. Requires a court issuing an appropriate temporary order under the Family Code to require each</p>	<p>Requires DFPS to provide an explanation as to why a child is not placed with a relative.</p>

		parent, alleged father or relative of the child before the court to complete the proposed child placement resources form provided under the Family Code and to file the form with the court, if the form has not been previously filed. Requires the DFPS, not later than the 10th day before the date set for a hearing, to file with the court certain documents that have not already been filed. The DFPS is not required to file the documents if the child is in an adoptive placement or another placement that is intended to be permanent.	
Washington	2009 Senate Bill 5811, Chapter 491	Requires the court to determine whether placement with a relative or other suitable person is in a child's best interests and to consider a child's existing relationships and attachments when determining placement. Establishes that the department shall place on the public Web site maintained by the agency a document listing the duties and responsibilities that the department has to a child subject to a dependency petition. These include, but are not limited to, reasonable efforts made toward reunification of the child with his or her family, sibling visits and parent-child visits.	Requires the court to determine whether placement with a relative is in child's best interest.
Hawaii	2008 Senate Bill 2730—Act 199	Requires the Department of Human Services to provide an application within 15 days of an inquiry from a relative to be a foster placement. Provides that placement preference shall be given to appropriate relatives identified by the department. Requires the department to make reasonable efforts to identify all relatives within six months after assuming foster custody of a child.	Relative placement preference.
Maryland	2008 Senate Bill 551—Chapter 190	Prohibits the court from considering a disability of the relative or non-relative, except under certain circumstances, when determining whether to grant custody and guardianship of a child in need of assistance to a relative or a non-relative.	Eases consideration of disability in relative placement determinations.
South Dakota	2008 House Bill 1302—Chapter 26	Requires a family service specialist within the Division of Child Protection Services who is contacted by a relative about the relative's desire to take temporary or permanent placement of an alleged or adjudicated abused or neglected child who has been removed from the child's parent, guardian or custodian, to document the contact in the child's file. Stipulates that the division send information to the relative	Relative placement preference.

		within five business days informing the relative of the steps required for the relative to be considered for placement.	
California	2007 Assembly Bill 298—Chapter 565	Provides support and priority for relative caregivers of children under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court. Requires the child welfare agency to give relatives information about permanency options. States that the child welfare agency cannot remove a child from the home of a relative solely on the basis of the relative's preference of legal guardianship over adoption. Requires the child welfare agency to provide family reunification services to a relative prior to removing a child from their home.	Priority for relative caregivers.
Idaho	2007 Senate Bill 1061—Chapter 72	Makes guardianship available as a permanent placement option for children under the jurisdiction of the Child Protective Act. States that currently such guardianships are not available because of Idaho law, which deems the guardianships too susceptible to modification or termination after the close of the Child Protective Act case and therefore not meeting the requirement of permanency. Intends to make guardianships more permanent so that they can be ordered as a final placement more often, children will be more likely to qualify for federal funding and the possibility that a guardianship might be used to go around the court's jurisdiction in a Child Protective Act case can be eliminated.	Makes guardianship a permanent placement option.
Maine	2007 Senate Bill 170—Chapter 284	Allows for a person who served as the guardian, permanency guardian or legal custodian of an incapacitated person when the incapacitated person was a child, to serve as permanency guardian or receive a permanency guardianship subsidy if the person was actively serving in that capacity immediately before the incapacitated person's 18th birthday.	Expands permanent guardianship subsidies.
Montana	2007 Senate Bill 31—Chapter 496	Creates a procedure in which caretaker relatives may maintain custody in cases in which parents abandon their children. Caretaker relatives, upon the return of the parent, retain rights to a continuing custody affidavit, a review, a finding and order by district court, limited reconsideration and immunity. Provides for an ex parte order by district court. Allows the caretaker relative to retain custody of the child for five days after the return of the parent. Requires that peace officers may not remove the child with the exception of certain circumstances. Provides civil and	Promotes relative custody.

		criminal immunity for the caretaker relative.	
Okla- homa	2007 Senate Bill 469—Chapter 94	States the intent of the Legislature that every attempt be made to place a child with a member of the child’s family.	Relative placement preference.
Oregon	2007 Senate Bill 414— Chapter 806	Sec. 3. Recognizes the importance, as a matter of state policy, of a child’s relationship with parents, siblings and other relatives. Sec. 4. Requires that a court make written findings when a child is removed from the home concerning whether the Children, Adults and Families Division made reasonable efforts to place the child with a relative.	Relative placement preference.
Texas	2007 Senate Bill 723—Chapter 524	Sec. 1. Requires the Department of Family and Protective Services to keep a record of each child placement that failed solely because the relative or designated caregiver could not afford to care for the child. Requires the department to document, if possible, the amount of money to which the caregiver would be entitled and the amount of assistance that would have made the placement affordable to the caregiver. Requires this information to be included in the annual report to the legislature.	Relative placement preference.
Virginia	2007 Senate Bill 48— Chapter 360	Directs local boards to determine whether a child has a relative eligible to become a kinship foster parent who will be eligible to receive payments at full foster care rates and will be eligible for all services related to foster care placement.	Relative placement preference.
Washing- ton	2007 House Bill 1377—Chapter 412	Authorizes placement of a child who is in the custody of the Children’s Administration with a non-relative who meets certain criteria. Expands the list of relatives who may receive and care for a foster child to include second cousins and relatives of any half-sibling. Gives placement preference to any person who has a preexisting relationship with the child, as long as certain conditions are met. Establishes preference for placement with a relative, and requires a child-placing entity to follow the wishes of the parent regarding placement of the child.	Relative placement preference.
STATE	ENACTMENT	PROVISIONS	SCHOOL ENROLLMENT/ MEDICAL CONSENT (See also: <u>NCSL School Enrollment and Medical Consent Laws for Relative Caregivers</u>)

<p>2012 Maryland</p>	<p>2012 Senate Bill 178— 05/02/2012 - Enacted</p>	<p>Authorizes county superintendents of schools to require that an affidavit verifying to the superintendent that a child is living in an informal kinship care arrangement for school attendance purposes be accompanied by supporting documentation only after allowing a child to enroll in a public school, specifies that if documentation is required it be consistent with existing policies and statutes.</p>	<p>Eases school enrollment for children in informal kinship care arrangements.</p>
<p>Okla-homa</p>	<p>House Bill 1964— Chapter 358</p>	<p>Sec. 7: Allows the court of each county to grant a qualified relative “custody by abandonment” of a minor if 1) the minor is residing full-time with the qualified relative and the qualified relative contributes the major degree of support for the minor, and 2) the qualified relative is unable to contact the parents or those who have legal custody of the minor, or the parents or others who have legal custody of the minor fail to or refuse to regain physical custody of the minor after a written request to do so by the qualified relative. “Qualified relative” means an adult grandparent, great grandparent, brother, sister, half-brother, half-sister, uncle, aunt, niece or nephew, or a spouse of a qualified relative. The law allows a qualified relative to arrange for, authorize and consent to day care; medical, psychological, dental and educational assessment and services; and the treatment, education and welfare of the minor or minors who are given to legal guardians by the Oklahoma Guardianship and Conservatorship Act. The relative may not consent to an adoption of the minor or minors.</p>	<p>Stipulates relative placement custody procedures and allows relatives to authorize and consent to daycare, medical/dental/educational and other services.</p>
<p>Georgia</p>	<p>2008 Senate Bill 88— Act 540</p>	<p>Creates the “Power of Attorney for the Care of a Minor Child Act.” Allows a parent of a minor child to delegate, to any grandparent residing in the state, care-giving authority regarding the minor child when hardship prevents the parent from caring for the child. Allows the authority to be delegated without the approval of a court, by executing in writing a power of attorney for the care of a minor child. States that the reasons that parents may delegate this authority may include being unable to provide care because of the death of the other parent, serious or terminal illness, the physical or mental condition of the parent or child, incarceration of the parent, loss or un-inhabitability of the child’s home as a result of natural disaster, or active military duty of a parent</p>	<p>Allows grandparents to enroll children in school and arrange for medical/dental/mental health and other services.</p>

		<p>exceeding 24 months. Specifies that such authority may not be granted for the purpose of subverting an investigation of the child’s welfare by the Department of Human Resources. States that the power of attorney may grant the grandparent the authority to enroll the child in school and extracurricular activities; arrange for medical, dental and mental health treatment for the child; have access to the child’s medical, dental and mental health records; provide for the child’s food, lodging, housing, recreation and travel; and exercise any additional powers specified by the parent. Allows the grandparent the right to enroll the child in school, kindergarten or daycare where the grandparent resides.</p>	
Maryland	2008 Senate Bill 77— Chapter 361	<p>Requires a superintendent of schools to allow a child to attend a public school different than the one where the child is domiciled with the child’s parent or legal guardian if the child lives with a relative in an informal kinship care relationship in an area outside of their original school area.</p>	Eases school attendance for children in informal kinship care placements.
Maryland	2008 House Bill 169—Chapter 362	<p>Allows a child to attend a public school in a school attendance area other than the school where the child is domiciled with the child’s parent or legal guardian if the child lives with a relative providing informal kinship care in the school attendance area and the relative verifies the kinship care relationship through a sworn affidavit.</p>	Eases school attendance for children in informal kinship care placements.
Montana	2007 Senate Bill 48— Chapter 393	<p>Allows relatives who care for children temporarily surrendered by their parents the power to approve medical care under certain conditions. Provides for a caretaker relative medical authorization affidavit. Provides immunity to public or private health care providers and public or private school officials.</p>	Medical authorization.
Montana	2007 Senate Bill 49— Chapter 442	<p>Allows relatives who care for children temporarily surrendered by their parents the power to enroll a child in school, discuss certain school-related matters and consent to school-related medical care. Provides an educational authorization affidavit to a caretaker relative. Provides for immunity to a public or private entity or individual.</p>	School enrollment.
STATE	ENACTMENT	PROVISIONS	PAYMENT/REIMBURSEMENT /SUBSIDIES (See Also: <u>NCSL Fostering Connections Act Kinship</u>)

			Guardianship Assistance Payments Charts)
California	2012 Assembly Bill 1712—09/30/2012 - Enacted	<p>Existing law authorizes payment of CalWORKs aid to a non-minor dependent placed in the approved home of a relative, as specified, if the non-minor dependent is involved in certain educational or employment activities. The new legislation authorizes the CalWORKs payments to be made out of state when the non-minor dependent is placed in the approved home of a relative who resides in another state.</p> <p>This bill would also revise the provisions relating to state-funded and federally funded Kin-GAP payments, and would make Kin-GAP and Adoption Assistance Program payments for non-minor former dependents between 20 and 21 years of age contingent upon appropriations by the Legislature.</p>	Support to dependents placed in an approved home of a relative residing in another state.
New York	2012 Assembly Bill 8339— 01/27/2012 - Enacted	Expands the categories of children who could be eligible for the kinship guardianship assistance program to include destitute children, thereby expanding permanency options for such children.	Expands eligibility for kinship guardianship assistance.
Kansas	2009 Senate Bill 109— Chapter 2009-27	Amends the “Grandparents as Caregivers Act” to include that if a person meets the financial eligibility requirements developed by the Secretary, a grandparent shall be eligible to participate in the program if the grandchild is living in the grandparent’s home and the child’s income is below the income limit for the household size according to the payment standards contained in the rules and regulations promulgated by the Secretary. States that grandparents in the program shall continue to receive reimbursement until the child reaches age 19, if such child is in full-time attendance at a secondary school.	Expands eligibility requirements for financial support for grandparents raising grandchildren.
Kansas	2009 Senate Bill 125— Chapter 2009-21	Determines that when a child is placed in the custody of the child’s grandparent, the Secretary shall have the power and authority to provide a sufficient amount of reimbursement to the grandparent for the costs of the child’s care, after considering the grandparent’s resources available to meet the needs of the child, except that the amount of reimbursement shall not exceed the maximum reimbursement rate that foster care parents receive for the care of the child under similar circumstances.	Provides for grandparent reimbursement for costs of caring for a grandchild.

Connecticut	2008 Senate Bill 66— Public Act 97	Allows a grandparent or other relative caregiver who is appointed a guardian of a child or children and who is not a recipient of subsidized guardianship subsidies or foster care payments from the Department of Children and Families to be eligible to apply for grants under the Kinship Fund and Grandparents and Relatives Respite Fund administered by the Children’s Trust Fund Council through the Probate Court.	Allows grandparents and relative caregivers to be eligible for Kinship Care Fund grants.
Michigan	2008 Senate Bill 170— Act 260	Establishes the Subsidized Guardianship Assistance Act. Permits the Department of Human Services (DHS) to pay subsidized assistance to a court-appointed legal guardian on behalf of an eligible child if the guardian is the child’s relative or legal custodian and is approved for assistance by the DHS. Sets eligibility criteria for the child and guardian. Requires the guardian to apply for and maintain any public or private medical insurance or assistance for which the child was eligible. States that if Title IV-E funding is approved as a funding source for the program, DHS would be subject to all requirements in federal laws and regulations.	Subsidized guardianship assistance.
Michigan	2008 Senate Bill 170— Act 260	Establishes the Subsidized Guardianship Assistance Act. Permits the Department of Human Services (DHS) to pay subsidized assistance to a court-appointed legal guardian on behalf of an eligible child if the guardian is the child’s relative or legal custodian and is approved for assistance by the DHS. Sets eligibility criteria for the child and guardian. Requires the guardian to apply for and maintain any public or private medical insurance or assistance for which the child was eligible. States that if Title IV-E funding is approved as a funding source for the program, DHS would be subject to all requirements in federal laws and regulations.	Subsidized guardianship assistance.
Mississippi	2008 Senate Bill 2603—Chapter 538	Provides for monthly payments to relatives other than the natural parents who care for children placed in their home by the Department of Human Services.	Monthly payments for relative caregivers.
Ohio	2008 House Bill 119— Chapter 115	Changes eligibility requirements for the Kinship Permanency Incentive Program to support relative caregivers. Eliminates the requirement that the child have special needs, and raises the maximum income eligibility of a participant to 300 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. Requires the ODJFS to prepare reports, due Dec. 31, 2008, and Dec. 31, 2010, to	Expands eligibility for the Kinship Permanency Incentive Program.

		<p>the governor and legislature, on stability and permanency outcomes for children in the Kinship Permanency Incentive Program; total amount of payments made under the program; patterns of expenditures made per child under the program; and cost savings realized through the program from placement with kinship caregivers rather than in other out-of-home placements. Contingent on the availability of funding, requires the ODJFS to implement and oversee the use of a Child Placement Level of Care Tool on a pilot basis. The tool will be used to assess a child's placement needs when a child must be removed from home and cannot be placed with a relative or kin not certified as a foster caregiver. Requires the tool to include assessment of a child's behavior, history, psychological state and the involvement of service systems.</p>	
Virginia	2008 House Bill 811—Chapter 132	<p>Provides that the 24-month period of ineligibility for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) financial assistance shall not apply when a child is removed from his or her parent's home as the result of a child protective services report or complaint and placed with a relative. The relative with whom the child is placed shall be eligible for TANF financial assistance immediately and without waiting for the 24-month period to run.</p>	Eases eligibility for TANF for relative placements.
Arkansas	2007 House Bill 2256—Chapter 621	<p>Enacts the Arkansas Subsidized Guardianship Act of 2007, contingent upon adequate funding and appropriation, which would provide a subsidy to caregivers of children who have been removed from parental custody, for whom permanent placement with a guardian is in their best interest and for whom neither adoption nor reunification are possible. Stipulates that the subsidy amount cannot exceed the current foster care board rate.</p>	Subsidized guardianship.
Connecticut	2007 House Bill 7037—Public Act 174	<p>Sec. 1. Requires the Commissioner of the Department of Children and Families to provide a relative caregiver who is receiving a guardianship payment for a related child and is also caring for the child's sibling with a guardianship subsidy for the sibling if the sibling has been in foster care for not more than 18 months.</p>	Expands relative guardianship subsidies.
Mississippi	2007 House Bill 885—Chapter 480	<p>Allows the department to make monthly kinship care payments to help defray a relative's expenses for room and board. The department may continue those payments after the department relinquishes legal custody</p>	Monthly kinship care payments to help defray costs.

		to the relative.	
STATE	ENACTMENT	PROVISIONS	RELATIVE ADOPTION
Arizona	Senate Bill 1128— 03/13/2012 - Enacted	Eliminates the possibility of a home study when an adoption involves a child's relatives.	Eases barriers to relative adoptions.
STATE	ENACTMENT	PROVISIONS	STUDY/COMMISSIONS/ TASK FORCES
Louisiana	Senate Bill 57— Chapter 358	Creates the Council on the Status of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren within the Department of Social Services to serve as a liaison between government and private interest groups with regard to matters of unique interest and concern to grandparents in the state who are raising grandchildren.	Creates a council to address issues facing grandparents raising grandchildren.
Arkansas	Senate Resolution Bill 26	Requests an interim study of the issue of grandparents raising grandchildren and the feasibility of providing a subsidy to low- to moderate-income grandparents raising grandchildren.	Study of grandparent issues.
Hawaii	2008 Senate Bill 2830—Act 220	Extends the work of the Joint Legislative Committee on Family Care giving, and requires the Committee to submit to the legislature a report of its findings and recommendations as they relate to family care giving.	Study of family care giving.
Massachusetts	2008 House Bill 4905—Chapter 176	Sec. 1. Creates a permanent commission on the status of grandparents raising grandchildren. Sets membership, appointments and duties. These include acting as a resource on issues affecting grandparents raising grandchildren, serving as a liaison between government and private interest groups on this issue, assessing programs and practices in all state agencies related to grandparents raising grandchildren, identifying issues, advising the legislature and executive agency of the potential effects of proposed legislation on this population and investigating the establishment of a state agency dedicated to grandparents' issues. Requires a report to the legislature by December 31 each year.	Creates permanent commission on the status of grandparents.
STATE	ENACTMENT	PROVISIONS	MISCELLANEOUS
California	2012 Senate Bill 1064—09/30/2012 - Enacted	Permits a court to place a child in any dissolution, dependency, or probate guardianship proceedings with a parent, legal guardian, or relative regardless of the relative's immigration status. Permits a relative's foreign consulate identification card or foreign passport to be used for	Eases barriers to relative placement related to relatives' immigration status.

		<p>initiating the criminal records and fingerprint clearance checks. Authorizes extension of review hearing periods under certain circumstances. Provides for information exchange and assistance in juvenile court cases.</p>	
Illinois	2009 House Bill 2365—Public Act 276	<p>Creates the Kinship Navigator Act. Denies “kinship care” as the full-time care of children by relatives, members of their tribes or clans, grandparents, godparents, stepparents or any adult who has physical custody and a kinship bond. Establishes a program, to be administered through a grant to a not-for-profit organization, to serve as liaison among State agencies and groups to promote kinship care and provide diversity services.</p>	<p>Creates a Kinship Navigator Act.</p>
Montana	2009 House Bill 397—Chapter 196	<p>Creates a registry for voluntary registration by close relatives for purposes of notifying those relatives when a child that is related has been removed from the child’s home by the state.</p>	<p>Creates a relative notification registry.</p>
Louisiana	2008 Senate Bill 152—Act 404	<p>Expands eligibility for coverage under group life insurance policies by authorizing coverage of unmarried grandchildren under a specified age who are in the legal custody of a grandparent. Authorizes continued coverage for those in the legal custody of a grandparent who are incapable of self-sustaining employment by reason of a developmental disability or physical handicap.</p>	<p>Expands life insurance coverage for grandchildren in legal custody of grandparents.</p>
California	2007 Assembly 714—Chapter 108	<p>Authorizes the state, in the case of a disrupted adoption, to search for relatives of the child and to provide them with information on the child if doing so will benefit the child’s well-being.</p>	<p>Authorizes relative search in disrupted adoption cases.</p>