

## Your Kinship Coordinator Information:

Children Services encourages you to be open and honest with your kinship coordinator as you work together to develop an individualized support plan just for you.

Your kinship coordinator is:

Your kinship coordinator's telephone number is:

Your kinship coordinator's email address is:

Notes:

## Stark County Job & Family Services

### Human Services Division

221 3rd Street S.E.  
Canton, OH 44702  
Cash, Food & Medical Assistance  
*Customer Service:* 330.451.8861  
*Customer Service e-mail:*  
stark\_csc@jfs.ohio.gov  
*New Applications:* 330.451.8500  
*Child Care:* 330.452.4661

### Children Services Division

402 2nd Street S.E.  
Canton, OH 44702  
*Child Abuse/Neglect Report Line:*  
330.455.KIDS  
*Foster/Adopt:*  
330.451.8789

### Child Support Division

221 3rd Street S.E.  
Canton, OH 44702  
*Customer Service:* 330.451.8930  
*Payment information:*  
jfs.ohio.gov/ocs

### SCJFS Executive Offices

221 3rd Street S.E.  
Canton, OH 44702  
330.452.4661



[starkjfs.org](http://starkjfs.org)



revised  
04/20



# Kinship Care

## Children Services Division



**Stark County  
Job & Family Services**

## What is Kinship Care?

Kinship Care is an arrangement in which a relative, or non-related adult with a strong relationship with a child and/or family, takes over the child's full-time, substitute care. This may be temporary, or it may be permanent.

The Children Services Division of Stark County Job and Family Services (SCJFS) believes kinship care is the most desirable out-of-home placement option for children who cannot live with their parents.

Kinship care offers the greatest level of stability by allowing children to maintain their sense of belonging. Kinship care enhances a child's ability to identify with his or her family's culture and traditions.

## Why are children placed in Kinship Care?

Kinship Care happens when parents are unable, or unwilling, to care for a child for reasons that might include:

- chronic illness or death,
- substance abuse,
- incarceration,
- domestic violence,
- child abuse or neglect,
- teenage pregnancy,
- unemployment, and/or
- poverty.

## How is Kinship Care established?

Kinship Care includes relationships established through:

- an informal arrangement;
- a legal custody or guardianship order;
- a relative foster care placement; or
- a kinship adoption.



## What is a Kinship Coordinator?

As a kinship caregiver your commitment to care for a child other than you own will be both challenging and rewarding. The Children Services staff is committed to helping you support the physical, emotional and basic needs of the child you bring into your home.

To help you in your role as a kinship caregiver, you will be assigned a Children Services kinship coordinator and advocate. Your kinship coordinator/advocate will help you navigate through services in our county and will provide you with information about agency assistance programs for which you may be eligible:

- cash assistance through Ohio Works First;
- medical coverage for the children in your care;
- the SNAP food assistance program and;
- Title XX child care and other potential programs and benefits.

Your kinship coordinator/advocate will also be available to assist with information and referral to other community services in our area and to support you as you navigate the child welfare system. This includes:

- family team meetings;
- court hearings;
- case review, and
- other community meetings.