

Becoming a Kin in Care Parent

If the Society worker determines that the child's best interests can be met by placement in a prospective Kin in Care home, he/she can, in an emergency situation, complete a preliminary investigation (place of safety) to assess the preparedness of the family and suitability of the home to accept the child, to meet the Ministry's mandated home approval requirements and the child's immediate placement needs. This process, if approved, can recommend the placement of the child for an initial period of up to 60 days.

When it is anticipated that the placement will extend beyond 5 days (at the first court appearance) the worker involved will formally request that a full home assessment be initiated.

Whether the placement is planned or unplanned, it is extremely important that all members of the Kin family consent to, and cooperate with, the assessment process as there are strict Ministry timelines for completion (60 days).

PROTECT

We all share a responsibility to protect children from harm - a responsibility that extends to those situations where children suffer abuse or neglect.

CARE

The Society believes that every child has the right to grow and develop in a family environment. When this is not possible due to an unsafe, abusive or neglectful situation, then having caring Foster or Kin parents to call upon to help bridge the gap is a must.

EMPOWER

Highland Shores Children's Aid believes in empowering children, youth and families to be all they can be and it offers many programs and services in this regard. We also offer support and tools to children and youth to help them succeed.



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Highland Shores Children's Aid
serves the counties of
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A GUIDE FOR KIN IN CARE FAMILIES



What is a Kin in Care Home?

At Highland Shores Children's Aid we believe that the best place for a child or youth to learn, to develop and to grow is with a happy, loving and healthy family. We strive for that option with all of the children we work with however Kin in Care allows us to partner with families to make the best possible placement choices during difficult times.

Kin in Care can be a temporary solution until a family achieves stability, or it can be a long-term or permanent solution for some families. But whether a Kin arrangement is temporary or permanent, short-term or long-term, it's a solution that promotes stability and safety for the child involved, and one that relies on the strengths and skills of the extended family.

What We Believe

The Society recognizes that the least restrictive or disruptive course of action that is available and appropriate to children and families should be followed when considering placement of children outside the home because maintaining stability of important family relationships is necessary for a child's growth and development. Whenever possible, Kin should be engaged as the first choice in a continuum of services for children and youth. To that end, the model is guided by the principle that the Kin placement must ensure the child's safety, protection and well-being.

A Kin in Care home is a family or individual, formally approved by the Society and known to the child, utilized as the Kin in Care placement during the time the child is in the Society's care.

Kin in Care homes are assessed and approved for a specific child. The child is placed in the legal custody of the Society, with Kin providing the full-time care, protection and nurturing that the child requires, with ongoing support from Society staff.

As a result of placement in a Kin in Care home, the child has the advantage of residing with a caregiver who is familiar to them. This plan often avoids school disruptions and other adjustment challenges that can occur when placing a child in a Society approved foster home that is unfamiliar to them.



Responsibilities of the Society

As the child's legal guardian, the Society assumes responsibility for ensuring that the home selected is a safe, secure and nurturing environment for the child to reside in and ensures that the Kin in Care family, or individual, understands and accepts their role and responsibility to the child and to the Society as an alternate care provider.

Responsibilities of the Society to the Kin in Care Parent(s)

- To provide reasonable board rates and reimbursement for clothing, medical, dental and vision care, prescription medicines, transportation and other items considered necessary for the well-being of the child according to Society guidelines.
- To keep in regular contact with both the Kin in Care parent(s) and the Kin in Care child.
- To provide the Kin in Care parent(s) with ongoing support and guidance with respect to the care and management of the child.
- To advise the Kin in Care parent(s) of the Society's various policies, procedures and expectations.

Responsibilities of the Kin in Care Parent(s)

- To provide a safe home environment.
- To meet all Ministry, residential and licensing standards to ensure the safety, protection and well-being of the child.
- To ensure the child's medical, educational, social and emotional needs are met.

- To provide each Kin in Care child with daily nutritional meals and appropriate clothing.
- To ensure the child's physical needs are met (for example, ensuring the child is provided with social/recreational activities, school supplies and bedroom furnishings).
- To be involved with the Society's worker(s) in monitoring the Kin in Care child's adjustment and progress in the Kin in Care home and to report any concerns when they first arise.
- To support the child's connections to his/her family members and community.
- To cooperate with the Society in the development of the child's plan of care.
- To reinforce and support the child's culture and heritage.
- To adhere to the Society's disciplinary standards including refraining from spanking.
- To actively participate in the Society's home study, selection and review processes.
- To attend and participate in the Society's pre-service training program.
- To attend ongoing support groups and training opportunities.
- Under no circumstances to release the child into the care of another person without the consent of the Society.