

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 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 KINSHIP SERVICE FAMILIES



What is a Kinship Service 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 Kinship allows us to partner with families to make the best possible placement choices during difficult times.

Kinship can be a temporary solution until a family achieves stability, or it can be a long-term or permanent solution. 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 strength 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. 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.

Kinship Services

Kinship Services occurs when a family, who are subject to child protection concerns, or the Society decide that a child will live with relatives or someone else known to the child. In all cases there must be a supervision order or a voluntary service agreement in place with the child's family. In a Kinship Service arrangement a child welfare worker (also known as a Kinship worker) will be involved in assessing and supporting the Kinship caregivers and in helping them plan for the child.

Kinship Service caregivers are not approved foster parents. The Society does not assume legal custody of, or responsibility for, the child. Kinship Service providers must participate in the initial screening and assessment process, followed by a more thorough assessment as well as ongoing planning for the child via the Kinship Plan of Service. Kin arrangements are intended to be short-term, however if protection concerns within the family are not resolved legal custody of the child by the Kinship Service family will be explored.

Kinship Service families are eligible to receive the Temporary Care Allowance through Ontario Works, the Child Tax Benefit as well as episodic support from HSCA to assist with the purchase of child specific requirements.

Expectations of Kinship Caregivers

To fully participate in the Kinship Service assessment process and understand that all persons 18 years of age and older residing in the home will be included in the assessment.

To ensure the child attends necessary appointments, including counselling and extra-curricular activities.

To allow for and facilitate access to the biological parent(s) as arranged by Highland Shores Children's Aid.

Responsibilities of Kinship Caregivers

To provide a safe home environment.

To meet the child's medical, educational, social and emotional needs.

To be involved with the Society's workers in monitoring the child's adjustment and progress in the Kinship home and to report any concerns when they first arise.

Responsibilities of the Society

To provide the Kinship parent with ongoing support and guidance with respect to the care and management of the child.

To maintain regular contact with both the Kinship caregivers and the child.