

Kinship Care Values

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Kinship Care is the full-time nurturing and protection of children who must be separated from their parents and temporarily placed in the home of a caregiver who has an existing relationship with the child and/or the child's family. The level of agency involvement is a key factor in determining if the arrangement is considered formal or informal kinship care. The following is a list of the kinship care values established by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare;

- a. Kinship care is the historical and natural way to support children within their family system.
- b. Kinship care preserves significant attachments, identity, and culture for children.
- c. Kinship caregiver's, the children and the children's parents have value, dignity and worth.
- d. Kinship caregiver's, as members of the extended family system, have long-term commitment to the children in their care.
- e. Kinship care is a form of family preservation.
- f. Social service agencies should adapt their methods and policies to strengthen families, including extended kinship networks.
- g. Agencies should recognize the unique and positive qualities of kinship care.
- h. Kinship caregivers perform a valuable service for their family, for the children, and for the community.
- i. Kinship caregivers deserve supports, which meet their needs and the needs of children and their parents.
- j. Kinship care encompasses many cultures. We must learn to work effectively across cultural boundaries and respect the culture of the caregivers.