



Educational Campaign to promote the expansion of the Grandparent Power of Attorney (POA) and Caretaker Affidavit Authorization (CAA)

This campaign is being led by the Ohio Federation for Health Equity and Social Justice, Ohio Grandparent Kinship Coalition and the Ohio Poverty Law Center.

More than 100,000 grandparents are raising 100,000 grandchildren in Ohio. (American Community Survey 2022) The number of children being cared for by other relatives (i.e. aunts, cousins, siblings, uncles etc.) is approximately 108,000. (American Community Survey 2022). These numbers continue to grow as a direct result of the opioid crisis and were made even more devastating by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Many caregivers continue to report that one of their greatest challenges in caring for the children is getting accurate legal information about their legal status with the child and legal supports available to their families. Many caregivers often are overwhelmed when searching for government services and benefits and may not know about private resources or have the financial ability to access them. The Grandparent Power of Attorney (POA) and Caretaker Affidavit (CAA), which do not require financial resources to execute, are an additional tool to help families achieve stability.

These documents give caregivers the authorization to be involved in and make decisions about the child's education and health care. Currently, Ohio is the only state in the nation that restricts the use of the POA and CAA to grandparents. The expansion of the POA and CAA is needed statewide for all kinship caregivers to use. It is for these reasons that supporting the needs of kinship families is so important.

Clearly, Ohio needs a proactive agenda to ensure that kinship caregivers in all situations (formal and informal) have the support they need to care for these children.



According to the Public Children Services Association 2017 Factbook, since 2010 there has been a 62 percent increase in the number of children being cared for by their relatives where children services-maintained custody. More recent reports reflect that this trend continues. National statistics show that 2.24 million children are living with relative caregivers without either parent present, including 1.51 million living with grandparents and 729,000 living with other relatives. Studies have shown that kinship care is the best placement option for children by keeping them out of the child welfare system and achieving permanency and stability in their lives.



About The Organizations

The **Ohio Federation for Health Equity and Social Justice** is the Dba name of the Health Disparities Collaborative of Ohio Inc., a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization incorporated in the State of Ohio and is principally made up of agencies, organizations and individuals concerned about minority and multicultural health, health equity, social justice and the elimination of disparities for racial/ethnic populations in the areas of health, child welfare, juvenile justice and education.



OHIO FEDERATION
for Health Equity and Social Justice

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The **Ohio Grandparent Kinship Coalition** is a statewide 501(c)(3) organization which advocates, provides networking opportunities for, and educates and empowers caregivers taking care of children other than their own when parents are unwilling or unable to care for them.



**Ohio Grandparent/
Kinship Coalition**

Ohio's Statewide Kinship Navigator
"Since 1998"

Where Your Voice is Heard!

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The **Ohio Poverty Law Center** advocates for policies to reduce poverty and increase access to opportunities and justice for all Ohioans. We draw on the day-to-day experiences of Ohio's legal aid attorneys who provide free civil legal services to low-income Ohioans to drive our policy agenda. From improving access to health care to removing barriers to employment, we focus on changing and addressing systems and policies that keep people in poverty.



OPLC
Ohio Poverty Law Center

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