

Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Grandchildren



A Resource Guide for North Carolina

September 2004

Preface

The growing number of grandparents raising grandchildren is a social phenomenon not limited to any particular ethnic group, geographical location, or economic circumstance.

Grandparents and other relatives may find themselves raising children for many reasons. Substance abuse, mental illness, death, divorce, abandonment, child abuse or neglect, loss of job, incarceration, health issues, and other circumstances contribute to reasons children are being raised by grandparents or other relatives, either permanently or temporarily.

Statistics from the 2000 U.S. Census show that in North Carolina about 135,000 or 6.9% of all children under age 18 live in grandparent-headed households. Another 39,000 live in homes headed by relatives other than grandparents. In North Carolina, public and private agencies and grassroots coalitions of grandparents and other relative caregivers have been working together to expand the services available to kinship care families outside the child welfare system.

The North Carolina Division of Aging and Adult Services has led efforts to develop programs, services, and resources for grandparents and other older relatives raising grandchildren. In 1997, North Carolina became one of the first states to receive a grant from the Brookdale Foundation Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP) to initiate a statewide task force, interagency collaborations, and development of local support groups. With the implementation of the National Family Caregiver Support Program (FCSP) in 2001, the Division increased its ability to promote regional and local programming for grandparents and other relatives age 60 and older taking care of children age 18 and under.

Regional Area Agencies on Aging offer a range of programs, including information and assistance, support groups, caregiver training and counseling, respite and supplemental services. AARP North Carolina provides resource information, training, and assistance for grandparents raising grandchildren and other relative caregivers. North Carolina Cooperative Extension provides workshops and programs for grandparents and other relatives raising children and for professionals. The CARES Program of the University of North Carolina School of Social Work in Chapel Hill provides educational services to professionals who work with kinship care families.

These and other organizations recognize the complex situations grandparents face in raising grandchildren. *Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children—A Resource Guide for North Carolina* was developed to assist grandparents and other kinship caregivers find needed resources. It will also be a valuable resource for professionals assisting grandparents and other kinship caregivers.

While *Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children—A Resource Guide for North Carolina* is not inclusive of all available resources, it is a look at the issues and a roadmap to solutions.



ROBERTS

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Glossary of Terms

AARP: AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization dedicated to making life better for people 50 and over. We provide information and resources; engage in legislative, regulatory and legal advocacy; assist members in serving their communities; and offer a wide range of unique benefits, special products, and services for our members. These include *AARP The Magazine*, published bimonthly; *AARP Bulletin*, our monthly newspaper; *AARP Segunda Juventud*, our quarterly newspaper in Spanish; *NRTA Live & Learn*, our quarterly newsletter for 50+ educators; and our Web site, www.aarp.org. We have staffed offices in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Adoption: becoming the legal parent of a child that is not biologically one's own. Biological parental rights are terminated.

Adoption subsidy: financial and/or medical assistance provided after the adoption of a child with special needs.

Area Agencies on Aging (AAA): offices established through the Older Americans Act and associated with the Division of Aging and Adult Services that address the needs of older adults in multi-county regions in North Carolina.

Benefits Check-up: free Internet tool designed to help people over 55 with a moderate or low income to identify potential eligibility for public benefits and/or prescription drug benefits. Benefits Check-up is also a useful tool for caregivers, social service providers, clergy, and others.
www.benefitscheckup.org/link/aarpnc

Caregiver: a person responsible for attending to the needs of a dependent child or adult.

CARES: program through the University of North Carolina School of Social Work that provides educational services to professionals who work with kinship care families.

Cooperative Extension: statewide educational program that focuses upon strengthening and sustaining families, developing responsible youth, and building quality communities. Located in every county and on the Cherokee Reservation, Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Agents conduct educational programs, supply educational materials, and answer questions regarding family and consumer issues.

Custody: care and control of a child that may include the legal authority to determine the place of residence, medical care, and education; custody may involve the Department of Social Services (DSS) if through a court order.

Legal custody: custody that grants legal authority to parent granted a minor after a court process.

Physical custody: informal arrangement between the parent and a caregiver for the child's physical care.

Voluntary care: voluntary agreement with DSS signed by a parent or guardian for substitute care placement in certain circumstances.

Division of Services for the Blind: state agency that administers services and assistance to blind and legally blind North Carolina residents.

Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing: state agency that administers specialized services to people of all ages who are deaf and hard of hearing, information to family members, and technical assistance and training to agencies.

Department of Health and Human Service (DHHS): cabinet level state agency that oversees North Carolina's human service agencies such as the Department of Social Services, Division of Aging and Adult Services, Division of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, and the Division of Medical Assistance.

Departments of Health: county agencies that administer community health services and education for individuals and families.

Department of Social Services (DSS): state agency that administers various public aid programs, receives and responds to reports of child abuse and neglect, and whose mission is to protect children and strengthen families.

Division of Aging and Adult Services: state agency responsible for planning, administering, coordinating, and evaluating the activities developed under the federal Older Americans Act and the programs for older adults funded by the North Carolina General Assembly. The Division of Aging and Adult Services partners with Area Agencies on Aging, local service providers, senior leaders, and other public and private interests to advance the social, health, and economic well being of older North Carolinians.

Division of Medical Assistance (DMA): state agency that administers medical insurance (Medicaid) and medical coverage (Health Choice for Children) to income-eligible individuals.

Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services: state agency that administers services to children and adults with serious or long-term mental illness, mental retardation/developmental, and substance abuse disorders.

Family caregiver resource specialists: professionals who provide information and support services to family caregivers. A family caregiver resource specialist can be found in each of the Area Agencies on Aging (Appendix D).

Durable power of attorney: document that appoints a trusted individual as attorney-in-fact agent to take care of financial, business and personal matters if a person cannot manage their own affairs.

Foster care: program through the Department of Social Services in which children are placed temporarily with individuals who have been approved and trained through the Department.

Guardianship: legal process in which one individual is granted authority by the court to act on behalf of another. The guardian may be given authority to make personal, financial, and medical decisions. With a stand-by guardianship, the parent or a legal guardian who is terminally ill can name, in advance, the person to take over the care of their child when the parent or legal guardian becomes incapacitated or dies.

Health care power of attorney: document that appoints an agent to make medical decisions in the event an individual can no longer communicate their wishes.

Housing:

Federally Assisted Housing (Public Housing): rental housing built and operated with financial help from the federal government and designed for low-income families of all ages. Some buildings have been specifically designed to meet the needs of low-income people age 62 and over.

Rental Assistance (Housing Assistance Section 8): federal government program that provides financial assistance to older people and others with qualifying low incomes.

Housing and Urban Development (HUD): federal government agency responsible for encouraging the development of adequate and affordable housing.

Living will: document that states in advance whether or not a person who has been declared terminally and incurably ill and unable to communicate, wishes to be placed or kept on life-sustaining medical equipment or

wishes to die a natural death.

Medicaid: health care benefit provided through the Division of Medical Assistance to individuals and families who meet eligibility criteria.

Medicare: federal health insurance program for people age 65 and over and for certain people with disabilities under age 65. The program is administered by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Simple will: document that provides for the distribution of assets in an uncomplicated estate with no itemized gifts to specific individuals and generally leaves everything to a spouse or grown children.

Social Security: federal benefit program for participating wage earners with retirement, survivor's, and disability benefits. It is administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA).

Social Security Retirement Benefit: income paid to retired individuals who have worked the required number of quarters under Social Security.

Disability: benefits paid to qualified individuals over the age of 18 who are determined to be disabled under Social Security guidelines. Benefits are usually paid based on an individual's own earnings, but in some cases may be paid based on the earnings of a parent, a spouse, or a grandparent.

Survivor's: benefits that certain relations, such as widows, children, and dependent parents can collect under a deceased family member's earnings.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI): federal/state needs-based program administered by the Social Security Administration. It provides monthly income to people who are disabled or blind (including children), or elderly, and who have both low income and few financial resources.

Support group: a group of people with similar concerns who meet periodically to discuss how better to cope with their situations.

Subsidy: financial aid given by the government to individuals or groups.

Victims and Citizens Services: office within the North Carolina Attorney General's office that assists victims and citizens by referring them to appropriate agencies and resource services that can address their concerns.

Work First: program in North Carolina that provides benefits such as a monthly cash grant and medical assistance to income-eligible families (available in most counties).

Information, Services, & Programs

Raising a grandchild can be confusing, difficult and time consuming. Knowing how and where to get help is essential in managing new family situations and responsibilities.

Birth Certificates

Q. Where and how do I obtain birth and death certificates?

Each county's Registrar of Deeds is responsible for registering all births, deaths, fetal deaths, marriages, and divorces that occur in that county and can provide certified copies of those records. For birth certificates, contact the Registrar of Deeds in the county of the child's birth and provide the full name on the certificate, date of birth, mother's full maiden name, father's full name, and place of birth. For more information and records, contact the North Carolina Vital Records Unit at 919-733-3526 or www.vitalrecords.dhhs.state.nc.us.

Child Care

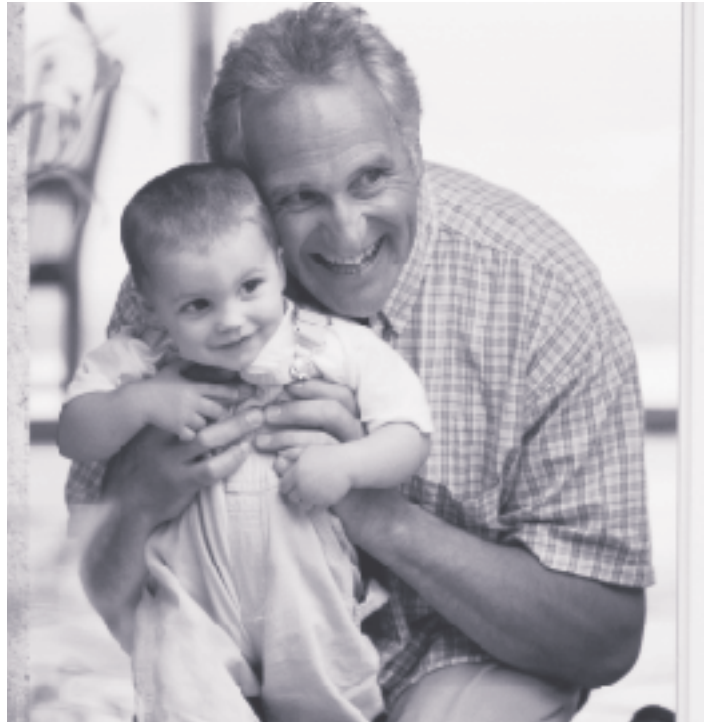
Q. What does it mean if a child care center is "licensed"?

Child care centers must be licensed unless they are informal care half-day programs, or programs with 5 children or less. Along with varying costs, quality of care will also vary from center to center. North Carolina uses licensure to raise the quality of child care centers by using a "star rating" system. This system is based on program standards, staff education levels, and compliance history with child care regulations. One star indicates the center meets only minimum standards for a licensed center or child care home, and five stars are the maximum or highest rating. For more information about the star rating system, go to the Division of Child Development Web site at www.dhhs.state.nc.us/dcd.



Q. How do I select a good quality child care program for my grandchild(ren)?

There are many issues surrounding child care today. You can get a good idea about how well a child care program measures up by asking about their “star rating” mentioned above. However, keep in mind the child’s needs as well. Consider how comfortable the program feels, how knowledgeable and friendly the staff is, and how many children each staff person is responsible for at any given time. Other issues to consider include whether caregivers can stop by at any time, fees for late pick-up, payments required if the child fails to attend for any reason, whether the programs they have are educational programs or just “play,” and whether the center is safe, well maintained, and secure. These are just a few questions grandparents should keep in mind when selecting child care. For more information on how to choose the best program for your child, see www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/fcs/humandev/pubs/qualcheck.html or contact the agencies listed at the end of this section.



Q. How do I pay for child care?

There are many programs where your child may qualify for free or subsidized (at a reduced rate) care. Contact the County Department of Social Services (Appendix B) or the agencies listed below for referrals to programs available in your area.

Other Resources

North Carolina Cooperative Extension—Cooperative Extension has statewide educational programs that focus upon strengthening and sustaining families, developing responsible youth, and building quality communities. Located in every county and on the Cherokee Reservation, Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Agents conduct educational programs, supply educational materials, and answer questions regarding family and consumer issues. See Appendix C for telephone numbers and addresses. Specific publications and resources are available at www.ces.ncsu.edu/resources/consumer.

North Carolina Partnership for Children—Located in each county, this agency coordinates services regarding family, health, and child care needs. Find a listing of star ratings at

<http://ncchildcare.dhhs.state.nc.us/general/home.asp>

NC Partnership for Children (NCPC)
1100 Wake Forest Road, Raleigh, NC 27604
919-821-7999
www.smartstart-nc.org

North Carolina Child Care Network—This network serves as a child care resource and referral agency in North Carolina. It provides child care referrals to families and information for child care providers.

www.ncchildcarenetwork.org
919-933-5090

North Carolina Division of Child Development—This agency works to build a stronger social and economic future for North Carolina by promoting high quality early childhood experiences.

www.ncchildcare.net
800-859-0829 (in-state only)
919-662-4499

Family Health and Child Care Resource Phone Line—A resource for questions and information about health insurance for children and child safety in child care settings.

800-367-2229

National Association for the Education of Young Children—An organization that provides information on early childhood education and child care for both parents and caregivers.

1509 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036-1426
800-424-2460
www.naeyc.org

Finances/Public Benefits

Q. How do I get help with my finances now that I am caring for my grandchild(ren)?

Benefits Check-up is a free Internet tool at www.benefitscheckup.org/link/aarpnc that is designed to help people over 55 with a moderate or low income to identify potential eligibility for public benefits and/or prescription drug benefits. Benefits Check-up is also a useful tool for caregivers, social service



providers, clergy, and others. Information needed to use Benefits Check-up includes the state and zip code, date of birth (for self and spouse), type of home, length of time in current home, veteran status, current income and assets, and an estimate of current expenses. AARP North Carolina hosts the Web site. If you don't have Internet access, call 866-389-5650 to use this resource.

Cash assistance may be available to children and their grandparents or relative caregivers through North Carolina's "Work First" program. Under "Work First," an adult caretaker who is not the parent of the child may receive a monthly assistance check under certain guidelines if the adult meets specified kinship criteria (brother, sister, grandparent, great-grandparent, great-great-grandparent, uncle or aunt, great-uncle or aunt, great-great-uncle or aunt, nephew, niece, first cousin), or if the adult has legal custody or legal guardianship (granted by the court). The child must be under 18 years of age, living in the household, have applied for a Social Security number, and the family must have an income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. It is also possible to submit a "child only" application for Work First benefits where only the child's income is considered. Visit www.dhhs.state.nc.us/dss/ei/ei_hm.htm for more information.

Kinship care families may also be eligible for food stamps and Medicaid to help meet children's food, nutrition, and medical needs. While food stamps are based on the family income, Medicaid for a child is based on the child's income. Families that are not eligible for food stamps may still qualify for benefits for the child(ren). For more information about these programs, contact the county Department of Social Services (Appendix B).

Housing

Q. Where can I get affordable housing for my grandchild(ren) and myself?

Access to adequate and affordable housing can be a major challenge for grandparents and other relatives, particularly older relative caregivers, who are raising children. Many are severely limited in the



ability to find adequate housing for themselves and the second generation of children they are raising. Many of these caregivers live on fixed incomes in small apartments and houses that are not suitable for children. There may be restrictions in some types of housing on the ages of residents.

Housing options will vary in each community. Options to consider include emergency and short-term housing, subsidized rent/public housing, local Housing Authority units, privately owned apartments with subsidized rent programs, and other housing programs such as transitional housing, programs for homeless people, housing for senior citizens, children and/or adults with disabilities, specialized housing, and home ownership programs.

The federal government offers a housing choice voucher program to help very low-income families, older adults, and people with disabilities afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market. Participants in the program are able to find their own housing, including single-family homes, townhouses, and apartments, that meets the requirements of the program and are not limited to units located in subsidized housing projects. Housing choice vouchers are administered locally by public housing agencies.

Sources for all housing information include the county Department of Social Services, city neighborhood development programs, and local housing coalitions. The Web site www.socialserve.com may provide additional resources and updated housing information.

Legal Aid

Q. My income is very limited. Is there someone affordable to help me with my legal problems?

Attorneys who specialize in public benefits, housing or family law can assist grandparents and other relatives raising children. Some law firms have attorneys who will take cases on a “pro bono” (no charge) basis. Contact Legal Aid of North Carolina at 919-856-2564 or www.legalaidnc.org. Contact the North Carolina Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service at 800-662-7660 or www.ncbar.org/legalProf/publicService/index.aspx for assistance. See Appendix F for a list of Legal Aid of North Carolina offices.



CEDERHOLD

Legal assistance is also available from the North Carolina Attorney General's office, through Victims and Citizens Services. Contact that office at 919-716-6780 or by e-mail at wpolk@mail.jus.state.nc.us.

AARP's Legal Services Network offers affordable legal assistance through participating attorneys to AARP members, associate members, and people settling a deceased AARP member's estate. Network attorneys can offer assistance in preparing documents such as simple wills (\$75 for an individual and \$100 for a couple), financial (durable) powers of attorney (\$35), and health care powers of attorney and living wills (\$35). Other legal services are available at a 20% reduction in cost, and the initial 30-minute consultation is free. Contact the Legal Services Network at 888-OUR-AARP (687-2277) or www.aarp.org/lsn. Regional Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) also have modest legal assistance programs for seniors age 60 and over. In many regions seniors can get simple wills and advance directives (living will and healthcare power of attorney) for free. See the NC Family Caregiver Support Program list for the name of the AAA near you.



Medical Care/Health Insurance

Q. Can I authorize medical care for my grandchild(ren)?

Any adult can seek emergency care in a life-threatening situation, but in more routine circumstances, a kinship caregiver who has physical custody cannot obtain routine medical care for the child without the parent's consent. North Carolina has a medical consent law that allows a custodial parent or other legal custodian to authorize another adult, in whose care the minor child has been living, to consent to health care for the child. When properly signed and notarized, the Authorization to Consent to Health Care for Minor (Appendix J) allows the caregiver to arrange for medical care, get physical examinations, and obtain all inoculations/immunizations necessary for school enrollment, daycare, or summer camp. Visit www.dhhs.state.nc.us/aging/home.htm.

Q. Where can I get affordable health insurance and medical care for my grandchild(ren) and myself?

Grandparents and other relative caregivers may apply for free or low-cost health care on behalf of the children they are raising through the North Carolina Health Choice for Children program. Eligibility is deter-

mined by family income—children must be a part of a family that makes less than certain federal income standards. This is a comprehensive health insurance plan that covers hospitalizations as well as outpatient care and preventive dental, vision, and hearing benefits. Since this program is limited by the amount of funds that are available, it is open to children on a first-come, first-served basis. Applications for this program are available in county Departments of Social Services and local Health Departments. Contact Health Choice at 919-857-4019 or visit the Web site at www.dhhs.state.nc.us/dma/cpcont.htm.

The Medicaid program is a federal-state partnership that assists states in providing medical services to eligible, low-income individuals. Medicaid is the largest source of funding for medical and health-related services for people with low incomes in the United States. Medicaid covers all services that a doctor or other health care professional identifies as being “medically necessary.” Medicaid for grandchildren is based on the child’s income, not the grandparent’s. Contact the county Department of Social Services (Appendix B) to apply.

Medicare-eligible grandparents who need assistance with health insurance for themselves should contact the Seniors’ Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) through the North Carolina Department of Insurance. SHIIP offers free counseling and information on Medicare and supplemental insurance at 800-443-9354 or www.ncshiip.com.

Mental Health

Q. My grandchildren are not adjusting well to the changes in their lives. Is there any counseling available?

County mental health centers have a range of services which may include diagnosis and treatment plans, individual or group therapy and counseling, case management, day programs, and medication management.

The North Carolina Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services can offer children and their families the necessary prevention, intervention, treatment, services, and support to live successfully in their communities. For more information, contact the Division office at 919-715-2774 or www.dhhs.state.nc.us/mhddsas.



PAUL FETTERS

Support groups are available in some areas of the state for children and their grandparents. See Appendix E for available support groups.

Parenting

Q. It's different being a parent to my grandchildren than it was with my children. How do I deal with this?

Parenting, from the older caregiver's perspective, may have changed from the time spent raising their own children. Although a child's need for your time, attention, nurturance, kindness, love, and listening have not changed, grandparents often struggle with feelings of resentment over loss of personal time. What is now considered "updated parenting" and acceptable child behaviors may be foreign to older relative caregivers. Relating to children today takes on a whole new perspective, and a great deal of energy! Monitoring children's environments and friends, advocating in your child's life—making sure needs and rights are represented at their school and in community activities, and being able to navigate the many choices and opportunities for youth are all part of the "grandparenting" package.

Information on parenting skills are offered through various agencies and programs depending on the county in which you reside. See the Appendices for agencies and resources that can help.



CHAMBERLAIN PHOTOGRAPHY

Q. What other resources are available to help me?

Grandparents raising grandchildren and other kinship caregivers often face stresses that take a toll on physical and mental health. As with other kinds of family caregivers, they are often reluctant to take time for themselves or to seek or accept help from others. Many grandparent caregivers feel isolated or stigmatized by their situation. Sometimes it is helpful simply for a grandparent to know that he or she is not alone and that there are thousands of people all across the United States in the same situation. There are local support groups, respite care services, mental health services and wellness programs available to provide information, education, companionship, mutual understanding and support:

The National Family Caregiver Support Program

The enactment of the Older Americans Act Amendments of 2000 established an important new program, the National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP). The program was developed by the Administration on Aging (AoA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Along with family caregivers of adults age 60 and older, the Act allows states to spend up to 10% of their funds on activities to assist grandparents and relative caregivers age 60 and older, who are raising minor children. A priority group includes older relatives raising children with mental retardation and developmental disabilities. The program calls for states to build multifaceted systems of support for caregivers, working in partnership with Area Agencies on Aging and local community service providers to have five basic services, including: information about resources; assistance in locating services from a variety of programs and agencies; caregiver counseling, training and peer support; respite care to enable caregivers to be temporarily relieved from their caregiving responsibilities; and limited supplemental services to complement care. Limited services are available in some counties for grandparents raising grandchildren. See Appendix D for a list of Family Caregiver Resource Specialists in North Carolina.

Family Resource Centers

Family Resource Centers (FRCs) are central locations in a community that provide some or all of a variety of programs to help strengthen families. They may be established by Boards of Education, Departments of Social Services, Smart Start/Headstart programs, private not-for-profit organizations, or other entities. Most offer either child care or help in finding child care as well as parenting classes that are open to kinship caregivers. The purpose of FRCs is to help the entire family, but their focus is on children. Some centers focus on families with children of elementary school age or younger, while others have activities and programs for teens as well. A few are focused only on families whose chil-

dren have specific health or developmental needs. The services available vary from center to center, reflecting needs identified by the local community. These may include health and developmental screenings for children, immunizations, drug awareness and counseling, financial counseling, tutorial programs, evening homework clubs, adult literacy programs, safe play areas, after school care, and information and referral to other community resources. A few offer specific services such as support groups to grandparents and other kinship care providers. Check with the county Department of Social Services (Appendix B) to see if there is a Family Resource Center available in your area.

Support groups

Support groups can prevent a feeling of isolation and provide interaction with others in similar situations. They can be facilitated by a professional or led by the participants themselves.

The North Carolina Division of Aging and Adult Services has encouraged the development of kinship care support groups, and is working with North Carolina Cooperative Extension and other organizations to create a network of these groups across the state. Additional information on support groups can be obtained from the AARP Grandparent Information Center at www.aarp.org/grandparents, or 888-OUR-AARP (687-2277) or the North Carolina Division of Aging at www.dhhs.state.nc.us/aging/grandlis.htm.

A listing of local support groups can be found in Appendix E.

Recreation

Q. Where can I get my grandchild(ren) involved in recreation activities and sports teams?

Important resources for grandparents raising grandchildren are often the free or reasonably priced community activities, recreation, and resources available to them. These resources can give you some much needed “down time”, while providing your child with socialization and entertainment. You can locate local activities ranging from interactive sports teams, scheduled field trips, summer camps (ask about available scholarships), reading programs, tutoring or men-



toring programs, after school activities, and many more. To find resources near you, contact:

- ▶ Local Parks and Recreation offices (sports teams, classes, special events)
- ▶ Your public library for free ongoing programs or one-time events (especially around holidays)
- ▶ The school system (school guidance counselor)
- ▶ County Departments of Social Services (Children Services) and Health Departments for “free” programs.
- ▶ Available preschool programs (for example, Partnership for Children, Smart Start, Head Start)
- ▶ 4-H programs through North Carolina Cooperative Extension
- ▶ Local newspapers for “Calendar of Events” that often list up coming community- and church-based activities
- ▶ Local child advocate groups that have specialized activities for people who may qualify under program guidelines
- ▶ YMCAs and YWCAs
- ▶ Boys Clubs and Girls Clubs
- ▶ Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts
- ▶ Museums



DANIELS

Respite Care

Q. What is respite care?

Respite care services are designed to give caregivers a break. Some respite services are provided in the home to allow the caregiver to get time away; some are provided at a community site or camp where children can be taken care of in a group. The availability of respite care for kinship caregivers varies from county to county. Additional services may be available through community organizations for children.

Q. Where can I find respite services for my child with special needs?

The ARC (Association of Retarded Citizens) of North Carolina offers respite services for a developmentally disabled person in the family. Contact them at 800-662-8706 or www.arcnc.org . Easter Seals UCP

North Carolina offers some services and provides information and referral to other community resources. Their toll-free number is 800-662-7119, the Web site is www.easterseals.com, and the mailing address is as follows:
2315 Myron Drive
Raleigh, NC 27607

Schools

Q. How do I enroll my grandchild(ren) in school?

One of the first responsibilities many grandparents and other relative caregivers have is to enroll a child in school. North Carolina's School Enrollment Law (G.S. 115C-366(a3)) allows an adult who is raising a child without legal custody or guardianship to enroll that child in the school district where that adult lives if they meet certain provisions of the law.

The law requires two affidavits attesting to an adult's caregiving relationship with the child, one from the caregiver and the second from the parent or legal guardian of the child. The first affidavit must state that the primary reason the child is with the caregiver is NOT because the child is trying to get into a particular school but because the parent is seriously ill, incarcerated, dead, or the child was abused, neglected or abandoned, or the parent's mental or physical condition prevents the parent from providing adequate care, or the child's home was destroyed by a natural disaster. The adult caregiver also must accept responsibility for all the educational decisions. (See Appendix K—Affidavit Attesting Responsibility for School Enrollment by the Adult the Student Lives With). The biological or custodial parent, if available and willing, also must complete and sign an affidavit to explain why the student is not living with them. (See Appendix L—Affidavit by Parent, Guardian, or Legal Custodian Giving Responsibility for School Enrollment to the Adult the Student Lives). If the parent or guardian is unable, refuses, or is unavailable to give consent, the adult caregiver may include that fact in his/her affidavit, and the parental affidavit may be omitted



BARTLETT

Social Security

Q. How do I find out if my grandchild(ren) are eligible for Social Security benefits?

Children may be eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments from birth to age 18 based on disability or blindness if the income and resources of the parents and the child are within the allowed limits. Children must have a severe disability that meets Social Security guidelines.

Unmarried children under 18 (or up to age 19 if they are attending high school full time) may be eligible for Social Security survivor's benefits if one or both of their parents are deceased.

A dependent grandchild or step-grandchild may qualify for benefits if their natural or adoptive parents are deceased or disabled at the time the grandparent dies or becomes entitled to retirement or disability benefits, or if the child was legally adopted by the grandparents.

Contact the local Social Security office, visit www.ssa.gov or call 800-772-1213 for more information.

Special Needs

Q. Where can I find help for my grandchild(ren) with special needs?

Children with emotional or physical disorders may qualify for special services. See Appendix H for information and resources for children with special needs.

Support Groups

Q. Where can I find a list of support groups for me and my grandchild(ren)?

Appendix E lists some of the support groups available in North Carolina. Additional information on support groups and databases of local support groups can be obtained from the AARP Grandparent Information Center at www.aarp.org/grandparents or 888-OUR-AARP (687-2277) or the North Carolina Division of Aging and Adult Services Web site at www.dhhs.state.nc.us/aging/grandlis.htm.



Options and Considerations

Adoption, Custody, Foster care, Guardianship, and Visitation

Once a grandparent or other relative has made the decision to care for a child, there are a number of different ways in which care can be assumed.

Q. What are my options in caring for my grandchild(ren)?

ADOPTION

Adoption is the most legally binding, permanent relationship. Biological parental rights are ended and the parent's support duty ends. Any parental visitation/contact is at the discretion of the adoptive parent(s). This process is done through the courts and requires an attorney to represent both the child and the adoptive parent. Once adoption is completed, the adoptive parents assume the full rights and responsibilities of parents.

CUSTODY

Physical custody is merely having the child present in the home. A grandparent who has only physical custody of the child does not have legal authority to make decisions or get services for the child.

Legal custody of a child is granted through a court process. Legal custody awards do not terminate parental rights, but the grandparent has control of and can make decisions for the child, subject to any limitations imposed by the custody order. Obtaining legal custody may be done voluntarily with the full cooperation of the biological parents. Otherwise, the grandparent must show in a court of law that the biological parent is unfit to parent the child.

FOSTER CARE

When a child is determined to be in need of placement with someone other than the parents, the state will take custody of the child and the Department of Social Services (DSS) will make a temporary placement with individuals who have been approved through the Department. The best alternative resource can often be found within the extended family and other relatives. Additionally, the juvenile court supervising the child's case is required to ascertain whether or not a relative is willing and able to provide proper care and supervision for the child. Foster



parents who are relatives have to meet the same licensing standards and training requirements and receive the same foster care payment rate as non-relative foster parents. However, the DSS may apply for a waiver of some requirements of relative foster homes that do not affect the health and safety of the child. If you become a foster parent to your grandchild (or other relative), he or she is still in the custody of the state of North Carolina.

GUARDIANSHIP

Guardianship of a minor is only available in certain circumstances in North Carolina. Guardianship of a juvenile can only be granted when both parents are deceased or when the child is the legal responsibility of the county Department of Social Services and in the foster care system. A grandparent cannot otherwise seek guardianship of the child if the child's biological parents are still living. In a standby guardianship, a parent or a legal guardian can name in advance a person to take over the care of the child in the event that the parent or legal guardian becomes incapacitated or dies.

Q. If I'm concerned that my grandchild is suffering from physical abuse, neglect, or abandonment, what steps can I take?

If you suspect that a child is being abused or neglected, contact local law enforcement (i.e., the police or sheriff's office) and the Child Protective Services unit in your county Department of Social Services (See Appendix B). The Child Protective Services unit helps prevent harm

to children from intentional physical or mental injury, sexual abuse, exploitation, or neglect by a person responsible for a child's health or welfare. Child Protective Services workers also help protect children who have no parent, guardian, or custodian, or whose parent or guardian or custodian is unable to provide care or supervision and lacks an appropriate alternative child care arrangement.

Q. Do I have any visitation rights regarding my grandchildren?

In North Carolina, grandparents only have the right to request court-ordered visitation if there has been a disruption of the family and the biological parents no longer live together because of legal separation, divorce, or death. When the court is determining custody and visitation in a legal separation or divorce action, the law states that an order for custody of a minor child may include visitation rights for a grandparent. When the child is adopted by a stepparent, a biological grandparent may ask for visitation rights when it is determined that there has already been a substantial relationship between grandparent and child. Once custody and visitation orders have been determined, North Carolina law only allows changes when there has been a substantial change of circumstances.

North Carolina laws on divorce addresses the issue of grandparent visitation rights in General Statute sections 50-13.2 (b1), 13.2A, and 13.5(j).

Q. Are there programs available to help with the legal costs in getting custody or adopting my grandchild(ren)?

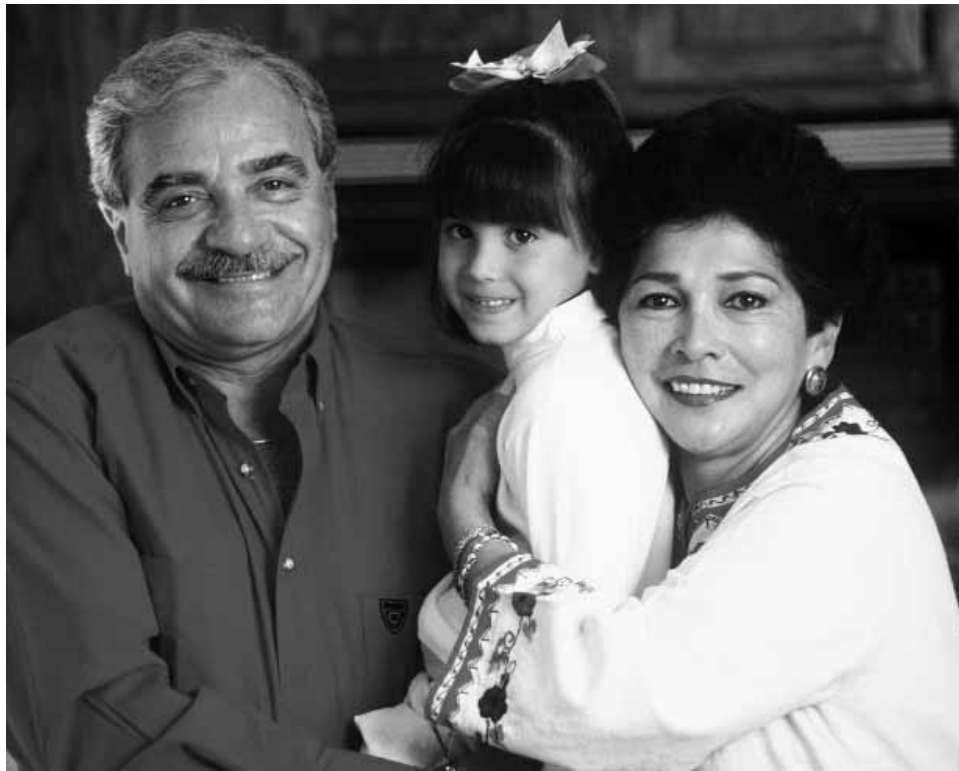
There is a pro bono (at no cost) adoption program for grandparents and relative caregivers in Forsyth, Mecklenburg, and Wake counties. It is designed to provide free legal services to low-income kinship caregivers who have been the primary caregivers of the adoptive children for a minimum of six months and are now willing and able to make the commitment to care for the child(ren) on a permanent basis. The biological parent(s), if available, must be agreeable to the adoption by the kinship caregiver and there must be no contested custody issues between the biological parents or the kinship caregiver. Contact the North Carolina Division of Aging and Adult Services, Legal Services at 919-733-3983 or www.dhhs.state.nc.us/aging/legal.htm.

See Appendix F for other legal assistance resources.

Summary

The dilemma of grandparents and relatives who are raising their grandchildren/kinship is a growing concern in North Carolina and the nation. We hope *Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Grandchildren—A Resource Guide for North Carolina* will help alleviate some concerns of professionals, grandparents, and kinship caregivers.

We have made a concerted effort to provide available resources for foreseeable needs by researching the issues and by having the resource guide compiled and reviewed by “experts” (grandparents and relatives actually raising their grandchildren and children) and professionals who work with these families. We hope that you will find the answers you seek and if you do not, contact the AARP Grandparent Information Center at 888-OUR-AARP (687-2277), gic@aarp.org or www.aarp.org/grandparents and/or the AARP North Carolina State Office at 1-866-389-5650.



Appendices

AARP Grandparent Information Center	Appendix A
County Departments of Social Services	Appendix B
North Carolina Cooperative Extension County Centers	Appendix C
Family Caregiver Resource Specialists	Appendix D
Grandparent Support Groups	Appendix E
Legal Assistance Resources	Appendix F
Local Contacts for Aging Information & Assistance	Appendix G
Resources for Children With Special Needs	Appendix H
Other Contacts and Resources	Appendix I
Authorization to Consent to Health Care for Minor	Appendix J
Affidavit Attesting Responsibility for School	Appendix K
Enrollment by the Adult the Student Lives With Affidavit by Parent, Guardian, or Legal Custodian Giving Responsibility for School Enrollment to the Adult the Student Lives With	Appendix L

AARP Grandparent Information Center (GIC)

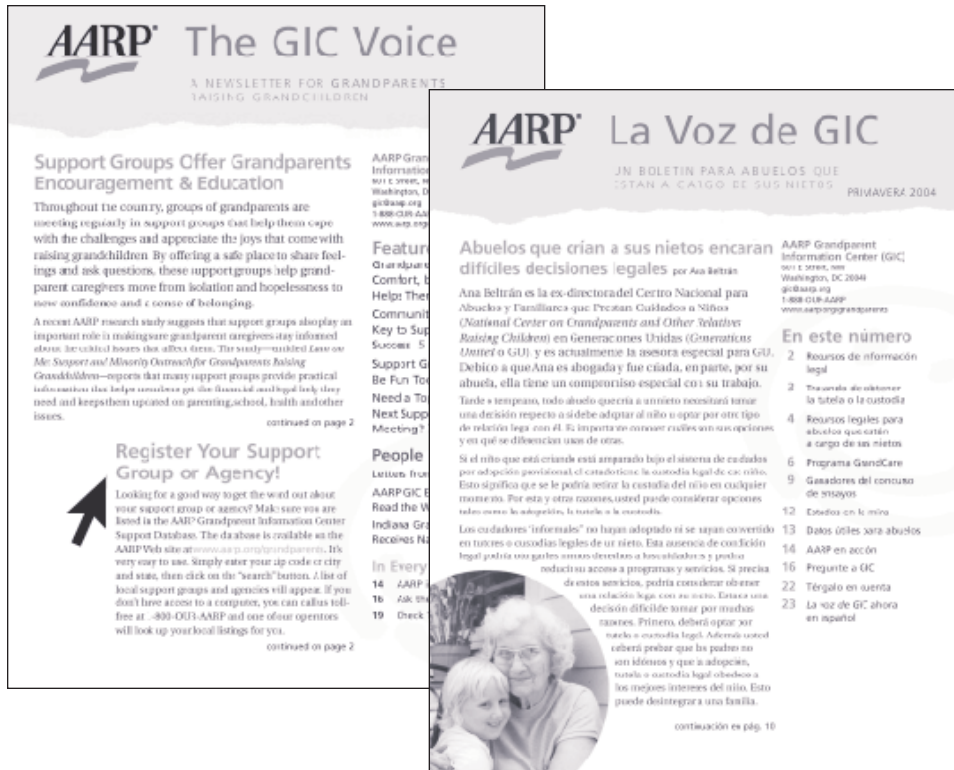
601 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20049
888-OUR-AARP (687-2277)
Web site: www.aarp.org/grandparents
E-mail: gic@aarp.org

AARP Grandparent Information Center (GIC) has a variety of resources to help grandparents in various family roles. GIC provides information for grandparents, including grandparents raising grandchildren, grandparents who have problems with visiting their grandchildren, step-grandparents and “traditional” grandparents who want to have a positive role in their grandchildren’s lives.

The AARP GIC serves grandparents in a variety of ways:

- ▶ A Web site with many articles, message boards, and databases of local support groups and agencies
- ▶ Booklets in English and Spanish
- ▶ Information and referral to grandparent support groups and agencies
- ▶ Networking and assistance to local, state, and national organizations
- ▶ Research about grandparenting
- ▶ Advocacy for grandparents in collaboration with AARP’s State Affairs and Legal Advocacy groups

AARP North Carolina offers numerous consumer education opportunities such as the *AARP Grandparent Raising Grandchildren Educational Program Manual*, and other publications. Contact Suzanne LaFollette-Cameron, AARP North Carolina Associate State Director at 919-508-0269 or slcameron@aarp.org.



The *GIC Voice* is a newsletter written to meet the needs of grandparents who are raising their grandchildren and professionals who serve them. It is offered free of charge in English and Spanish from the AARP Grandparent Information Center (GIC) and contains supportive information for grandparents who are raising their grandchildren, information for professionals who support the families, news about creative initiatives across the country and resources of interest. This newsletter is currently only available in a print edition and is sent on a quarterly basis through the U.S. Postal Service.

Visit the AARP GIC Web site at www.aarp.org/Articles/a2004-01-20-gicvoicenewsletter.html to be added to the newsletter mailing list.

Grandparent Support Groups

There are many support groups that focus on grandparents who are actively raising their grandchildren and provide an opportunity to meet others who share similar experiences. GIC maintains a list of these grandparent support groups online at: www.aarp.org/Articles/a2004-01-20-supportgroups.html.

Grandparenting Survey

The AARP grandparenting survey, "The Sharing and Caring Between Mature Grandparents and Their Grandchildren," was published in November 1999. See <http://research.aarp.org>.

North Carolina County Departments of Social Services (DSS)

Alamance County DSS
336-570-6532

Alexander County DSS
828-632-1080

Alleghany County DSS
336-372-2411

Anson County DSS
704-694-9351

Ashe County DSS
336-219-2700

Avery County DSS
828-733-8230

Beaufort County DSS
252-975-5500

Bertie County DSS
252-794-5320

Bladen County DSS
910-862-6800

Brunswick County DSS
910-253-2077

Buncombe County DSS
828-250-5500

Burke County DSS
828-439-2000

Cabarrus County DSS
704-920-1400

Caldwell County DSS
828-426-8256

Camden County DSS
252-331-4787

Carteret County DSS
252-728-3181

Caswell County DSS
336-694-4141

Catawba County DSS
828-695-5600

Chatham County DSS
919-542-2759

Cherokee County DSS
828-837-7455

Chowan County DSS
252-482-7441

Clay County DSS
828-389-6301

Cleveland County DSS
704-487-0661

Columbus County DSS
910-642-2800

Craven County DSS
252-636-4900

Cumberland County DSS
910-323-1540

Currituck County DSS
252-232-3083

Dare County DSS
252-473-1471

Davidson County DSS
336-242-2500

Davie County DSS
336-751-8800

Duplin County DSS
910-296-2200

Durham County DSS
919-560-8000

APPENDIX B

Edgecombe County DSS
252-641-7611 (Tarboro)
252-985-4101 (Rocky Mt.)

Forsyth County DSS
336-727-2248

Franklin County DSS
919-496-5721

Gaston County DSS
704-862-7500

Gates County DSS
252-357-0075

Graham County DSS
828-479-7911

Granville County DSS
919-693-1511

Greene County DSS
252-747-5932

Guilford County DSS
336-641-3071

Halifax County DSS
252-536-2511

Harnett County DSS
910-893-7500

Haywood County DSS
828-452-6620

Henderson County DSS
828-697-5500

Hertford County DSS
252-358-7830

Hoke County DSS
910-875-8725

Hyde County DSS
252-926-4199

Iredell County DSS
704-873-5631

Jackson County DSS
828-586-5546

Johnston County DSS
919-989-5300

Jones County DSS
252-448-2581

Lee County DSS
919-718-4690

Lenoir County DSS
252-559-6400

Lincoln County DSS
704-732-0738

Macon County DSS
828-349-2124

Madison County DSS
828-649-2711

Martin County DSS
252-809-6400

McDowell County DSS
828-652-3355

Mecklenburg County DSS
704-336-3150

Mitchell County DSS
828-688-2174

Montgomery County DSS
910-576-6531

Moore County DSS
910-947-2436

Nash County DSS
252-459-9818

New Hanover County DSS
910-341-4700

Northampton County DSS
252-534-5811

Onslow County DSS
910-455-4145

Orange County DSS
919-732-8181

Pamlico County DSS
252-745-4086

Pasquotank County DSS
252-338-2126

Pender County DSS
910-259-1240

Perquimans County DSS
252-426-7373

Person County DSS
336-599-8361

Pitt County DSS
252-413-1101

Polk County DSS
828-859-5825

Randolph County DSS
336-683-8000

Richmond County DSS
910-997-8400

Robeson County DSS
910-671-3500

Rockingham County DSS
336-342-1394

Rowan County DSS
704-633-4921

Rutherford County DSS
828-287-6199

Sampson County DSS
910-592-7131

Scotland County DSS
910-277-2500

Stanly County DSS
704-982-6100

Stokes County DSS
336-593-2861

Surry County DSS
336-401-8700

Swain County DSS
828-488-6921

Transylvania County DSS
828-884-3174

Tyrrell County DSS
252-796-3421

Union County DSS
704-296-4300

Vance County DSS
252-492-5001

Wake County Human Services
919-212-7000

Warren County DSS
252-257-5000

Washington County DSS
252-793-4041

Watauga County DSS
828-265-8100

Wayne County DSS
919-580-4034

Wilkes County DSS
336-651-7400

Wilson County DSS
252-206-4000

Yadkin County DSS
336-679-4210

Yancey County DSS
828-682-6148

North Carolina Cooperative Extension County Centers

Alamance
209-C N. Graham-Hopedale Rd.
Burlington, NC 27217
336-570-6740

Alexander
621 Liledoun Rd., Box 5
Taylorsville, NC 28681
828-632-4451

Alleghany
PO Box 7
Sparta, NC 28675
336-372-5597

Anson
PO Box 633
Wadesboro, NC 28170
704-694-2415

Ashe
134 Government Circle, Suite 202
Jefferson, NC 28640
336-219-2650

Avery
805 Cranberry St.
Newland, NC 28657
828-733-8270

Beaufort
155-A Airport Rd.
Washington, NC 27889
252-946-0111

Bertie
PO Box 280
Windsor, NC 27983
252-794-5319

Bladen
PO Box 249
Elizabethtown, NC 28337
910-862-4591

Brunswick
PO Box 109
Bolivia, NC 28422
910-253-2610

Buncombe
PO Box 7667
Asheville, NC 28802
828-255-5522

Burke
130 Ammons Dr., Suite 2
Morganton, NC 28655
828-439-4460

Cabarrus
PO Box 387
Concord, NC 28026-0387
704-920-3310

Caldwell
120 Hospital Ave NE, Suite 1
Lenoir, NC 28645
828-757-1290

Camden
PO Box 129
Camden, NC 27921-0129
252-338-1919

Carteret
303 College Circle
Morehead City, NC 28557
252-222-6352

Caswell
PO Box 220
Yanceyville, NC 27379
336-694-4158

Catawba
PO Box 389
Newton, NC 28658-0389
828-465-8240

Chatham
 PO Box 279
 Pittsboro, NC 27312
 919-542-8202

Cherokee
 39 Peachtree St., Suite 103
 Murphy, NC 28906
 828-837-2210

Cherokee Reservation
 PO Box 456
 Cherokee, NC 28719
 828-497-3521

Chowan
 Agricultural Center
 730 N. Granville St., Suite A
 Edenton, NC 27932-1434
 252-482-6585

Clay
 PO Box 156
 Hayesville, NC 28904
 828-389-6305

Cleveland
 130 S. Post Rd., Suite 1
 Shelby, NC 28152
 704-482-4365

Columbus
 45 Government Complex Rd.
 Suite A
 Whiteville, NC 28472
 910-640-6605

Craven
 300 Industrial Dr.
 New Bern, NC 28562
 252-633-1477

Cumberland
 301 E. Mountain Dr.
 Fayetteville, NC 28306-3422
 910-321-6860

Currituck
 PO Box 10
 Currituck, NC 27929
 252-232-2261

Dare
 PO Box 968
 Manteo, NC 27954
 252-473-1101

Davidson
 301 E Center St.
 Lexington, NC 27292
 336-242-2090

Davie
 180 S Main St.
 Mocksville, NC 27028
 336-751-6297

Duplin
 PO Box 949
 Kenansville, NC 28349
 910-296-2143

Durham
 721 Foster St.
 Durham, NC 27701
 919-560-0525

Edgecombe
 PO Box 129
 Tarboro, NC 27886
 252-641-7815

Forsyth
 1450 Fairchild Dr
 Winston-Salem, NC 27105
 336-767-8213

Franklin
 Extension Center
 103 S Bickett Blvd
 Louisburg, NC 27549
 919-496-3344

Gaston
 PO Box 1578
 Gastonia, NC 28053-1578
 704-922-2130

Gates
 PO Box 46
 Gatesville, NC 27938
 252-357-1400

APPENDIX C

Graham
PO Box 486
Robbinsville, NC 28771
828-479-7979

Granville
PO Box 926
Oxford, NC 27565
919-603-1350

Greene
229 Kingold Blvd., Suite E
Snow Hill, NC 28580
252-747-5831

Guilford
3309 Burlington Rd.
Greensboro, NC 27405
336-375-5876

Halifax
PO Box 37
Halifax, NC 27839
252-583-5161

Harnett
PO Box 1089
Lillington, NC 27546-1089
910-893-7530

Haywood
PO Box 308
Waynesville, NC 28786
828-456-3575

Henderson
740 Glover St.
Hendersonville, NC 28792
828-697-4891

Hertford
PO Box 188
Winton, NC 27986
252-358-7822

Hoke
PO Box 578
Raeford, NC 28376
910-875-2162

Hyde
PO Box 219
Swan Quarter, NC 27885
252-926-3201

Iredell
PO Box 311
Statesville, NC 28687
704-873-0507

Jackson
538 Scotts Creek Rd., Suite 205
Sylva, NC 28779
828-586-4009

Johnston
806 North St.
Smithfield, NC 27577
919-989-5380

Jones
PO Box 218
Trenton, NC 28585
252-448-9621

Lee
2420 Tramway Rd.
Sanford, NC 27332-9174
919-775-5624

Lenoir
1791 Highway 11/55
Kinston, NC 28504
252-527-2191

Lincoln
115 W Main St.
Lincolnton, NC 28092
704-736-8452

Macon
193 Thomas Heights Rd.
Franklin, NC 28734
828-349-2046

Madison
PO Box 609
Marshall, NC 28753
828-649-2411

Martin
PO Box 1148
Williamston, NC 27892
252-792-1621

McDowell
60 E Court St.
Marion, NC 28752
828-652-7121

Mecklenburg
700 N Tryon St.
Charlotte, NC 28202
704-336-2082

Mitchell
PO Box 366
Bakersville, NC 28705
828-688-4811

Montgomery
203 W Main St.
Troy, NC 27371
910-576-6011

Moore
PO Box 1149
Carthage, NC 28327
910-947-3188

Nash
Ag Center Dr
Nashville, NC 27856
252-459-9810

New Hanover
6206 Oleander Dr
Wilmington, NC 28403
910-452-6393

Northampton
PO Box 606
Jackson, NC 27845
252-534-2711

Onslow
4024 Richlands Hwy
Jacksonville, NC 28540
910-455-5873

Orange
PO Box 8181
Hillsborough, NC 27278
919-732-2069, x205

Pamlico
PO Box 8
Bayboro, NC 28515
252-745-4121

Pasquotank
PO Box 1608
Elizabeth City, NC 27909
252-338-3954

Pender
801 S Walker St.
Burgaw, NC 28425
910-259-1235

Perquimans
PO Box 87
Hertford, NC 27944
252-426-5428

Person
304 S Morgan St.
Roxboro, NC 27573
336-599-1195

Pitt
403 Government Circle
Greenville, NC 27834
252-757-2803

Polk
PO Box 187
Columbus, NC 28722
828-894-8218

Randolph
2222-S S Fayetteville St.
Asheboro, NC 27205
336-318-6000

Richmond
PO Box 1358
Rockingham, NC 28380
910-997-8255

APPENDIX C

Robeson
PO Box 2280
Lumberton, NC 28359-2280
910-671-3276

Rockingham
525 NC Hwy 65, Suite 200
Reidsville, NC 27320-8861
336-342-8230

Rowan
2727-A Old Concord Rd.
Salisbury, NC 28146
704-633-0571

Rutherford
193 Callahan-Koon Rd., Suite 164
Spindale, NC 28160
828-287-6010

Sampson
369 Rowan Rd.
Clinton, NC 28328
910-592-7161

Scotland
231 E Cronly St./Suite 800
Laurinburg, NC 28352
910-277-2422

Stanly
26032-E Newt Rd.
Albemarle, NC 28001
704-983-3987

Stokes
PO Box 460
Danbury, NC 27016-0460
336-593-8179

Surry
PO Box 324
Dobson, NC 27017
336-401-8025

Swain
PO Box 2329
Bryson City, NC 28713
828-488-3848

Transylvania
203 E Morgan St.
Brevard, NC 28712
828-884-3109

Tyrrell
PO Box 209
Columbia, NC 27925-0209
252-796-1581

Union
500 N. Main St.
Monroe, NC 28112
704-283-3801

Vance
PO Box 1028
Henderson, NC 27536
252-438-8188

Wake
4001-E Carya Dr
Raleigh, NC 27610-2914
919-250-1100

Warren
PO Box 708
Warrenton, NC 27589-0708
252-257-3640

Washington
PO Box 70
Plymouth, NC 27962
252-793-2163

Watauga
971 W King St.
Boone, NC 28607
828-264-3061

Wayne
PO Box 68
Goldsboro, NC 27533-0068
919-731-1520

Wilkes
110 North St.
Wilkesboro, NC 28697
336-651-7331

Wilson
1806 SW Goldsboro St.
Wilson, NC 27893
252-237-0111

Yadkin
PO Box 97
Yadkinville, NC 27055
336-679-2061

Yancey
10 Orchard Dr
Burnsville, NC 28714
828-682-6186

NC Family Caregiver Support Program

Area Agency on Aging | Family Caregiver Resource Specialists

REGION	COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT (COG) ADDRESS	COUNTIES SERVED
A	Southwestern Commission PO Box 850, Bryson City, NC 28713 828-488-9211 www.regiona.org	Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Swain
B	Land-of-Sky Regional Council 25 Heritage Dr., Asheville, NC 28806 828-251-6622 www.landofsky.org/aaa	Buncombe, Henderson, Madison, Transylvania
C	Isothermal Planning & Development Commission PO Box 841, Rutherfordton, NC 28139 828-287-2281 www.regionc.org	Cleveland, McDowell, Polk, Rutherford
D	Region D Council of Governments PO Box 1820, Boone, NC 28607 828-265-5434 www.regiond.org	Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Mitchell, Watauga, Wilkes, Yancey
E	Western Piedmont Council of Governments PO Box 9026, Hickory, NC 28603 828-322-9191 www.wpcog.org	Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba
F	Centralina Council of Governments 1300 Baxter St., PO Box 35008, Charlotte, NC 28235 704-372-2416 www.centralina.org	Anson, Cabarrus, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Rowan, Stanly, Union
G	Piedmont Triad Council of Governments, Koger Center Wilmington Building , 2216 W. Meadowview Road, #201 Greensboro, NC 27407-3480 336-294-4950 www.ptcog.org/aging/index.html	Alamance, Caswell, Davidson, Guilford, Montgomery, Randolph, Rockingham
I	Northwest Piedmont Council of Governments 400 West Fourth St., #400, Winston-Salem, NC 27101 336-761-2111 www.nwpcog.dst.nc.us	Davie, Forsyth, Stokes, Surry, Yadkin

<p>J Triangle J Council of Governments PO Box 12276, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709 www.tjcog.dst.nc.us</p>	<p>Chatham, Durham, Johnston, Lee, Moore, Orange, Wake</p>
<p>K Kerr Tar Regional COG PO Box 709, Henderson, NC 27536 252-436-2040</p>	<p>Granville, Franklin, Vance, Warren, Person</p>
<p>L Upper Coastal Plain Council of Governments PO Drawer 2748, Rocky Mount, NC 27802 252-446-0411 www.ucpcog.org</p>	<p>Edgecombe, Halifax, Nash, Northampton, Wilson</p>
<p>M Mid-Carolina Council of Governments PO Drawer 1510, Fayetteville, NC 28302 910-323-4191</p>	<p>Cumberland, Harnett, Sampson</p>
<p>N Lumber River Council of Governments 4721 Fayetteville Road, Lumberton, NC 28358 910-618-5533</p>	<p>Bladen, Hoke, Richmond, Robeson, Scotland</p>
<p>O Cape Fear Council of Governments 1480 Harbour Dr., Wilmington, NC 28401 910-395-4553 www.capefearcog.org</p>	<p>Brunswick, Columbus, New Hanover, Pender</p>
<p>P Eastern Carolina Council of Governments 233 Middle St., PO Box 1717, New Bern, NC 28563 252-638-3185 800-824-4648 www.eccog.org</p>	<p>Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, Onslow, Pamlico, Wayne</p>
<p>Q Mid-East Commission 1385 John Small Ave., PO Box 1787, Washington, NC 27889 252-974-1800 www.mecaaa.org</p>	<p>Beaufort, Bertie, Hertford, Martin, Pitt</p>
<p>R Albemarle Commission PO Box 646, Hertford, NC 27944 252-426-5753</p>	<p>Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hyde, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell, Washington</p>

Grandparent Support Groups in North Carolina (April 2004)

The GrandCare Program

Sponsor: Charlotte-Mecklenburg Senior Center
2225 Tyvola Rd., Charlotte, NC
Contact Sue Korenstein, 704-522-6222

The GrandCare Program offers support groups each month at various times, dates, and locations. Many programs are offered at the Senior Center and other community locations.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (GRG) Support Program

Sponsors: Senior Resources of Guilford, YWCA of Greensboro, and YWCA of Greater High Point
YWCA—Greensboro, 1 YWCA Place, Greensboro, NC
YWCA—High Point, 112 Gatewood Ave., High Point, NC
Contact Chanda Hurms (Senior Resources), 336-373-4816, ext. 31
Contact L. Nicole Baker (YWCA—Greensboro), 336-273-3461, ext. 109
Contact Tee Taylor (YWCA—High Point), 336-882-4126

Luncheon meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month from noon to 1 p.m. at the Greensboro YWCA and on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from noon to 1 p.m. at the High Point YWCA. Support group meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Greensboro YWCA. Transportation and child care are available with at least three days prior notice.

Parenting Again

Sponsor: Help, Inc. Center Against Violence
Help, Inc.
335 County Home Rd., Wentworth, NC
Contact Maureen Blum, 336-342-3331, ext.16

Call for more information and meeting dates.

Operation Breakthrough

Sponsor: Operation Breakthrough, Inc.
200 E Umstead St., Durham, NC 27702
Contact Nancy Pierce, 919-688-8111

Hours of Operation: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Grandparents As Parents

Sponsor: Raleigh Nursery School

601 Chavis Way Raleigh, NC

Contact Ula Turner, 919-834-0707 or e-mail: rnursery@bellsouth.net

One group meets at night and a second group meets during a lunch hour to accommodate those who work, need public transportation or do not drive at night. There is also free child care for those five years of age and under.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Sponsor: Catawba County Parenting Network & AARP

810 Fairgrove Church Road, Hickory, NC

Contact Nancy Riddick-McClelland, 828-291-6718

Meetings are held the 3rd Monday of every month: One month from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. and the following month from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Location varies for the morning meetings; however, the evening meetings are held at:

The Children's Advocacy Center

1007 First Ave South

Conover, NC

Free child care is offered in the evening only.

Gran-care Support Group

Sponsor: Lee County Senior Services

Lee County Enrichment Center, 1615 S. Third St., Sanford, NC

Contact Vanessa Murchison, 919-776-0501

Held quarterly in February, May, August, and December on 4th Thursday at 5:30 p.m. Child care available upon request.

Grandparents in the Know

Sponsor: Edgecombe County Family Resource Center

Family Resource Center, 403 Beasley, Princeville, NC

Contact Susan Morgan, 252-641-7096.

Call for more information and meeting dates.

Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP)

Sponsor: Forsyth County Family and Children's Services

St. Peters World Outreach Center, Café Court

3683 Old Lexington Road, Winston-Salem, NC

Contact Evelyn Hardy, 336-703-3500

Meetings are held the 1st Thursday of each month from 6 to 7:30 p.m. A light meal is provided.

Everything Relative

Sponsor: Forsyth County Family and Children's Services
Mazie Woodruff Ctr., Forsyth Technical College
4905 Lansing Dr., Winston-Salem, NC
Contact Evelyn Hardy, 336-703-3500

Meets the 1st Wednesday of each month from noon to 1 p.m. A light lunch is provided. Reservations are needed for lunch count.

Caregivers Support Program

Sponsor: Caswell County Senior Center
Caswell County Senior Center, 142 Main St., Yanceyville, NC
Contact Jeannine Everidge, 336-694-7447

Individual and group information sessions are offered. Call for more information.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group

Sponsor: Alamance Regional Medical Center
Meeting locations vary. Call for specific locations.
Contact Helen Brennan, 336-570-8442

Meets monthly, except in the month of July. There are four emotional support meetings each year, held at local schools, and four family dinner meetings held at local churches, with the meal provided at no cost by the church.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren "The Second Time Around"

Sponsor: Randolph County Cooperative Extension
Meeting locations vary.
Call 336-318-6000 for information.

A six-week course designed to provide grandparents with needed tools to meet the challenges of parenting the second time around. Locations and class times vary.

Foothills Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group

Sponsor: Rutherford County Cooperative Extension
193 Callahan Koon Rd., Suite 164, Spindale, NC
Contact Tracy Davis, 828-287-6020

Meets 2nd Tuesday each month at noon for light lunch, fellowship, emotional support, and education.

The Grandparent Program at Winston-Salem State University

Affiliate of the National Center on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
at Georgia State University, Atlanta, Georgia

The Grandparenting Office

Piedmont Park

1130 East 29th St., Winston-Salem, NC

Call 336-725-8167 or e-mail: [grandparenting @bellsouth.net](mailto:grandparenting@bellsouth.net)

The Grandparent Program provides services to grandparents residing in Forsyth County who are raising one or more grandchildren 16 years of age or younger. Services include health assessments, chronic illness management, health and mental health referrals, developmental assessments and referrals, adoption and custody referrals, individualized plan of care and more.

Down East Partnership For Children

215 Lexington St., Rocky Mount, NC

Call Edwina Garrett, 919-985-4300

Meets 3rd Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m.-8 p.m. Meal and child care are provided; registration is required.

Legal Assistance Resources

Victims and Citizens Services
 Office of the North Carolina Attorney General
 William Polk, Director
 PO Box 629, Raleigh, NC 27602-0629
 919-716-6780 phone
 919-716-6705 fax
 wpolk@mail.jus.state.nc.us

Legal Aid of North Carolina

www.legalaidnc.org
 224 S. Dawson St., Raleigh, NC 27601
 919-856-2564 phone
 919-856-2120 fax

Northeast

Ahoskie	252-332-5124
Goldsboro	919-731-2800
Greenville	252-758-0113
New Bern	252-637-9502
Rocky Mount	252-442-0635
Wilson	252-291-6851

Southeast

Fayetteville	910-483-0400
Pembroke	910-521-2831
Wilmington	910-763-6207

Triad

Greensboro	336-272-0148
Lexington	336-249-7736
Winston-Salem	336-725-9162

Triangle

Durham	919-688-6396
Hillsborough	919-732-8137
Raleigh	919-828-4647
Sanford	919-774-6241
Smithfield	919-934-5027

West

Asheville	828-236-1080
Boone	828-264-5640
Charlotte	704-971-2621
Concord	704-786-4145
Gastonia	704-865-2357
Monroe	704-786-4145
Morganton	828-437-8280
Sylva	828-586-8931

AARP Legal Services

AARP's Legal Services Network offers affordable legal assistance through participating attorneys to AARP members, associate members, and persons settling a deceased AARP member's estate. Network attorneys can offer assistance in preparing documents such as simple wills (\$75 for an individual and \$100 for a couple), financial (durable) powers of attorney (\$35), and health care powers of attorney and living wills (\$35). Other legal services are available at a 20% reduction in cost and the initial 30-minute consultation is free. Contact the Legal Services Network at 888-OUR-AARP (687-2277) or www.aarp.org/lcn.

Local Contacts for Aging Information & Assistance

Alamance Eldercare

PO Box 202
Burlington, NC 27216
336-538-8080

Alexander County Senior Center

590 Seventh St., SW
Taylorsville, NC 28681
828-632-1717

Alleghany County Council on Aging

PO Box 416
Sparta, NC 28675
336-372-4640

Anson County Council on Aging

Route 3, Box 8
Wadesboro, NC 28170
704-694-6217

Ashe Services for Aging, Inc.

PO Box 9
West Jefferson, NC 28694
336-246-2461

Avery Senior Services

PO Box 447
Newland, NC 28657
828-733-8220

Beaufort County DSS

PO Box 1358
Washington, NC 27889-1358
252-975-5547

Bertie County Council on Aging

103 W. School St.
Windsor, NC 27983-1519
252-794-5315

Bladen County Division on Aging

PO Box 520
Elizabethtown, NC 28337
910-862-6930

Brunswick Senior Resources, Inc.

PO Box 219
Bolivia, NC 28422
910-253-2174

Buncombe County Council on Aging

50 S. French Road, #101
Asheville, NC 28801
828-258-8027

Burke County DSS

PO Drawer 549
Morganton, NC 28680-0549
828-439-2000

Cabarrus County Dept. of Aging

PO Box 707
Concord, NC 28026-0707
704-788-9899

Caldwell County DSS

1966 H Morganton Blvd., SW
Lenoir, NC 28645
828-757-1111

Camden County Senior Center

PO Box 190
Camden, NC 27921
252-338-7611

Carteret: Leon Mann, Jr. Enrichment Center

3820 Galantis Dr.
Morehead City, NC 28516
252-247-2626

Caswell County Senior Citizens Center

142 Main St.
Yanceyville, NC 27379
336-694-7447

Catawba County Council on Aging

PO Box 835
Hickory, NC 28603-0835
828-328-2269

APPENDIX G

Chatham County Council on Aging

PO Box 715
Pittsboro, NC 27312
919-542-4512

Cherokee: J. Robert Penland Senior Center

69 Alpine St.
Murphy, NC 28906
828-837-2467

Chowan County Senior Center

PO Box 1030
Edenton, NC 27932
252-482-2242

Clay County Senior Center

PO Box 118
Hayesville, NC 28904
828-389-9271

Cleveland County Council on Aging

408 E. Marion St.
Shelby, NC 28150
704-482-3488

Columbus County Dept. of Aging

PO Box 1187
Whiteville, NC 28472
910-640-6602

Craven: United Senior Services

PO Box 114
New Bern, NC 28563
252-638-3800

Cumberland Coordinating Council on Aging

339 Devers St.
Fayetteville, NC 28303
910-484-0111

Currituck County Senior Center

PO Box 200
Currituck, NC 27929
252-323-3505

Dare County Older Adults Services

PO Box 1000
Manteo, NC 27954
252-441-1181

Davidson County Dept. of Senior Services

106 Alma Owens Dr.
Lexington, NC 27292
336-242-2290

Davie County Senior Center

622 N. Main St.
Mocksville, NC 27028
336-751-0611

Duplin County Services for Aged

PO Box 928
Kenansville, NC 28349
910-296-2140

Durham: Council for Senior Citizens

807 S. Duke St.
Durham, NC 27701
919-688-8247

Eastern Band of Cherokees: Tsali Manor Senior Center

133 Tsali Manor St.
Cherokee, NC 28719
828-497-4471

Edgecombe County Home Care

2213 St. Andrew St.
Tarboro, NC
252-641-7589

Forsyth: Senior Services

836 Oak St., #320
Winston-Salem, NC 27101
336-725-0907

Franklin County Dept. of Aging

127 Shannon Village
Louisburg, NC 27549
919-496-1131

Gaston County DSS

330 N. Marietta St.
Gastonia, NC 28052
704-862-7540

Gates County Dept. of Social Services

PO Box 185
Gatesville, NC 27938
252-357-0075

Graham County Senior Services

PO Box 1725
Robbinsville, NC 28771
828-479-7977

Granville County Senior Services

120 Orange St.
Oxford, NC 27565
919-693-1930

Greene County Council on Aging

PO Box 36
Snow Hill, NC 28580
252-747-5436

Senior Resources of Guilford

301 E. Washington St.
Greensboro, NC 27420
336-373-4816

Halifax County Council on Aging

PO Box 159
Halifax, NC 27839
252-583-1212

Harnett County Dept. of Aging

309 Cornelius Harnett Blvd.
Lillington, NC 27546
910-893-7578

Haywood County Council on Aging

1271 East St.
Waynesville, NC 28786
828-452-2370

Henderson County Council on Aging

304 Chadwick Ave.
Hendersonville, NC 28739
828-692-4203

Hertford County Office of Aging

408 S. Camp St.
Winton, NC 27986-9702
252-358-7856

Senior Services of Hoke County

PO Box 637
Raeford, NC 28376
910-875-8588

Hyde Focus on Aging

Rte. 1 Box 114
Swan Quarter, NC 27885
252-926-1956

Iredell Council on Aging

PO Box 344
Statesville, NC 28687-0344
704-873-5171

Jackson County Dept. on Aging

PO Box 596
Sylva, NC 28779-0596
828-586-8562

Johnston County Council on Aging

213 N. 7th St., PO Box 2235
Smithfield, NC 27577
919-934-6066

Jones: United Senior Services, Inc.

PO Box 694
Pollocksville, NC 28585
252-448-1001

Lee County Senior Services

1615 S. Third St.
Sanford, NC 27330
919-776-0501

Lenoir County Council on Aging

112 E. Blount St.
Kinston, NC 2850
252-527-1545

Lincoln County Senior Services Dept.

PO Box 939
Lincolnton, NC 28093
704-732-9053

Macon County Dept. on Aging

125 Hyatt Rd.
Franklin, NC 28734
828-349-2058

APPENDIX G

Madison County Dept. of Community Services

462 Long Branch Rd.
Marshall, NC 28753
828-649-2722

Martin County Senior Center

PO Box 1023
Williamston, NC 27892
252-792-1027

McDowell County DSS

PO Box 338
Marion, NC 28752
828-652-8953

Mecklenburg County DSS

Billingsley Rd.
Charlotte, NC 28211
704-432-1111

Mitchell Senior Center

120 School Rd.
Bakersville, NC 28705
828-688-3019

Montgomery County Council on Aging

PO Box 697
Troy, NC 27371
910-572-3757

Moore County Dept. of Aging

PO Box 487
Carthage, NC 28327
910-947-2881

Nash County Office on Aging

120 W. Washington St., #3072
Nashville, NC 27856
252-459-1691

New Hanover County Dept of Aging

2222 S. College Rd.
Wilmington, NC 28403
910-452-6400

Northampton County Council on Aging

PO Box 1034
Jackson, NC 27845
252-534-1668

Onslow Senior Services

Box 982
Jacksonville, NC 28540
910-455-2747

Orange County Dept. on Aging

PO Box 8181
Hillsborough, NC 27278
919-245-2000

Pamlico Senior Services

PO Box 184
Alliance, NC 28509
252-745-7196

Pasquotank: Elizabeth City/Pasquotank Senior Center

200 E. Ward St.
Elizabeth City, NC 27909
252-338-2940

Pender Adult Services

PO Box 1251
Burgaw, NC 28425
910-259-9119

Perquimans County Senior Center

300 Grubb St.
Hertford, NC 27944
252-426-5404

Person County Council on Aging

PO Box 764
Roxboro, NC 27573
336-599-7484

Pitt County Council on Aging

PO Box 7272
Greenville, NC 27835-7272
252-752-1717

Polk: Saluda Senior Center

PO Box 892
Saluda, NC 28773
828-749-9245

Randolph County Senior Adults

133 W. Wainman Ave.
Asheboro, NC 27203
336-625-3389

Richmond County Council on Aging

PO Box 340
Rockingham, NC 28379
910-997-4491

Robeson County Church & Community Center

210 E. 15th St.
Lumberton, NC 28358
910-738-5204

Rockingham County Council on Aging

105 Lawsonville Rd.
Reidsville, NC 27323
336-349-2343

Rowan County Senior Services Dept.

1120-A South Boundary St.
Salisbury, NC 28144
704-636-2344

Rutherford County Dept. of Aging

193 Callahan Koon Rd., #132
Spindale, NC 28160
828-287-6409

Sampson County Dept. on Aging

371 Rowan Rd.
Clinton, NC 28328
910-592-4653

Scotland Dept. of Social Services

PO Box 1668
Laurinburg, NC 28353
910-277-2500

Stanly County Senior Service Dept.

283 N. Third St.
Albemarle, NC 28001
704-986-3769

Stokes County Senior Citizens Dept.

PO Box 29
Danbury, NC 27016
336-593-8156

Senior Services Surry County

220 Cooper St.
Dobson, NC 27017
336-401-8500

Swain: State of Franklin Services

PO Box 356
Bryson City, NC 28713
828-488-3047

Transylvania Dept. of Social Services

207 S. Broad St.
Brevard, NC 28712
828-884-3174

Tyrrell County Focal Point on Aging

PO Box 426
Columbia, NC 27925
252-796-0365

Council on Aging in Union County

PO Box 185
Monroe, NC 28111
704-289-1797

Vance County Dept. of Social Services

350 Ruin Creek Rd.
Henderson, NC 27536
252-492-5001

Wake: Resources for Seniors

1110 Navaho Dr., #400
Raleigh, NC 27609
919-872-7933

Coordinating Council—Warren County

435 W. Franklin St.
Warrenton, NC 27589
252-257-3111

Washington County Senior Center

Highway 45, PO Box 1007
Plymouth, NC 27962
252-793-3816

APPENDIX G

Watauga Project on Aging

132 Poplar Grove Center, Suite A
Boone, NC 28607
828-265-8090

Wayne County Services on Aging

PO Box 227
Goldboro, NC 27530
919-731-1591

Respite Care of Wilkes County

PO Box 2695
North Wilkesboro, NC 28659
336-670-2644

Wilson Office of Senior Citizens

2500 W. Nash St., Suite E off D
Wilson, NC 27896
252-237-1303

Yadkin County Elder Affairs

PO Box 2418
Yadkinville, NC 27055-2418
336-679-2854

Yadkin:Yveddi

PO Box 309
Booneville, NC 27011
336-367-7251

Yancey County Committee on Aging

10 Swiss Ave.
Burn, NC 28714
828-682-6011

Resources for Children with Special Needs

The Arc of North Carolina

An advocacy organization committed to securing for all people with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities the opportunity to choose and realize their goals of where and how they learn, live, work, and play.

800-662-8706

www.arcnc.org

Governor's Advocacy Council for Persons with Disabilities

provides a statewide protection and advocacy program to investigate complaints, pursue legal remedies for protection, review and recommend changes in laws, aid and assist local advocacy programs and advise and assist on employment issues.

800-821-6922

www.gacpd.com

North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities

organization whose mission is to ensure that people with developmental disabilities and their families participate in the design of and have access to culturally competent services and supports, as well as other assistance and opportunities, that promote inclusive communities.

800-357-6916

www.nc-ddc.org

Exceptional Children's Assistance Center (ECAC)

full service Parent Training & Information Center serving families in North Carolina with more than 25 full and part-time staff and offices throughout NC. All services are provided at no charge to parents and families.

704-892-1321

www.ecac-parentcenter.org

Administration on Developmental Disabilities

A national organization that ensures that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families participate in the design of and have access to culturally competent services, supports, and other assistance and opportunities that promotes independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion into the community.

[202-690-6590](tel:202-690-6590)

www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/add

National Council on Disability

An independent federal agency making recommendations to the President and Congress on issues affecting Americans with disabilities.

[202-272-2004](tel:202-272-2004)

www.ncd.gov

National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities

Provides information to the nation on disabilities in children and youth, programs and services for infants, children, and youth with disabilities, IDEA (special education law), No Child Left Behind (general education law), and research-based information on effective practices for children with disabilities.

[800-695-0285](tel:800-695-0285)

www.nichcy.org

Other Contacts and Resources

2-1-1

Human Services Information and Referral Services is available 24 hours a day by dialing 2-1-1 in the following counties: Buncombe, Cabarrus, Chatham, Durham, Forsyth, Guilford, Henderson, McDowell, Mecklenburg, Orange, Randolph, Rockingham, and Wake

Brookdale Foundation

Organization that initiated the Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP), designed to encourage and promote the creation or expansion of services for grandparents and other relatives who have taken on the responsibility of surrogate parenting.

212-308-7355

www.brookdalefoundation.org

E-mail: BkdIFdn@aol.com

CARELINE

Through the CARELINE Information and Referral Service, citizens receive information on human service agencies in government, non-profit agencies and support groups across North Carolina. The CARELINE Information & Referral Specialists answer questions and make appropriate referrals to persons seeking assistance or information on available human service programs.

800-662-7030

CARES Program (UNC School of Social Work)

Provides educational services to professionals who work with kinship care families.

<http://ssw.unc.edu/cares/cares.htm>

Casey Family Programs

Contains information on foster care, kinship care and adoption.

206-282-7300 phone

206-282-3555 fax

www.casey.org

Childrens Defense Fund

Advocacy organization features information on legislative and public policy issues.

www.childrensdefense.org

202-628-8787

Child Welfare League of America

Directory of organizations serving children and a Web site featuring legislative and public policy issues regarding child welfare.

[202-638-2952 phone](tel:202-638-2952)

[202-638-4004 fax](tel:202-638-4004)

www.cwla.org

Full Circle of Care

Resources and information for grandparents

www.fullcirclegcare.org/grandparents/grandparents.htm

Generations United

Generations National Center on Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children is a good source of information about issues affecting relative caregivers.

[202-289-3979 phone](tel:202-289-3979)

[202-638-7555 fax](tel:202-638-7555)

www.gu.org

Grandparent's Guide to Navigating the Legal System from the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare contains general legal information. Topics include reasons why grandparents might go to court, the advantages and disadvantages of representing oneself, how groups can ease the financial burden of raising their grandchildren, and who to contact for more information. Order from:

National Committee to Preserve Social Security & Medicare

2000 K St., NW, Suite 800

Washington, DC 20006

[800-966-1935](tel:800-966-1935)

Grands Place

Web site for grandparents raising grandchildren includes chat room and pages for kids.

www.grandsplace.com

National Committee of Grandparents for Children's Rights

A coalition of concerned grandparents, citizens and agencies whose mission is to advocate and lobby for substantial and urgent legislative changes that protect the rights of grandparents to secure their grandchildren's health, happiness and well-being.

www.grandparentsforchildren.org

North Carolina Cooperative Extension

Cooperative Extension has statewide educational programs that focus upon strengthening and sustaining families, developing responsible youth, and building quality communities. Located in every county and on the Cherokee Reservation, Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Agents conduct educational programs, supply educational materials, and answer questions regarding family and consumer issues. See Appendix C for telephone numbers and addresses.

North Carolina Division of Social Services

The North Carolina Division of Social Services (DSS) is dedicated to assisting and providing opportunities for individuals and families in need of basic economic support and services to become self-supporting and self-reliant. The Division of Social Services strives to ensure that children and adults are protected from abuse, neglect, exploitation, enable citizens to maintain or achieve self-sufficiency, strengthen families, assist the disabled, and ensure that families have sufficient economic resources. Offices are located in each county (Appendix B).

www.dhhs.state.nc.us/dss

North Carolina Foster Parent Association

Organization that offers training and support to kin foster parents, including helping DSS to recruit and retain foster parents and provide guidance on their training needs.

<http://ncfpa.org>

Prevent Child Abuse America

Organization that works with community, state, and national groups to expand and disseminate knowledge about child abuse prevention, and to translate that knowledge into community action.

www.childabuse.org
800-CHILDREN phone

AUTHORIZATION TO CONSENT TO HEALTH CARE FOR MINOR

(North Carolina G.S. § 32A-34)

I, _____, of _____ County, North Carolina, am the custodial parent having legal custody of _____, a minor child, age _____, born _____, ____ .

I authorize _____, an adult in whose care the minor child has been entrusted, and who resides at _____, to do any acts which may be necessary or proper to provide for the health care of the minor child, including, but not limited to, the power (i) to provide for such health care at any hospital or other institution, or the employing of any physician, dentist, nurse, or other person whose services may be needed for such health care, and (ii) consent to and authorize any health care, including administration of anesthesia, X-ray examination, performance of operations, and other procedures by physicians, dentists, and other medical personnel except the withholding or withdrawal of life sustaining procedures.

[Optional: This consent shall be effective from the date of execution to and including _____, 20____].

By signing here, I indicate that I have the understanding and capacity to communicate health care decisions and that I am fully informed as to the contents of this document and understand the full import of this grant of powers to the agent named herein.

_____ (SEAL) _____
Custodial Parent Date

STATE of NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY of _____

On this _____ day of _____, _____, personally appeared before me the named _____, to me known and known to me to be the person described in and who executed the foregoing instrument and he (or she) acknowledges that he (or she) executed the same and being duly sworn by me, made oath that the statements in the foregoing instrument are true.

(Official Seal)

NOTARY PUBLIC _____

My Commission Expires: _____

AFFIDAVIT ATTESTING RESPONSIBILITY FOR SCHOOL ENROLLMENT BY THE ADULT THE STUDENT LIVES WITH

STATE of NORTH CAROLINA

COUNTY of _____

The undersigned affiant, being first duly sworn, says that:

1. I, _____ (name of adult) am domiciled in _____ County.
2. I am eighteen (18) years of age or older.
3. I am _____ (name of child), _____ (age), _____ (date of birth), resides with me as the result of (check appropriately):
 - The physical or mental condition of the parent or legal guardian is such that he or she cannot provide adequate care and supervision of the student.
 - The death, serious illness, or incarceration of a parent or legal guardian.
 - The abandonment by a parent or legal guardian of the complete control of the student as evidenced by the failure to provide substantial financial support and parental guidance.
 - Abuse or neglect by the parent or legal guardian according to a court of law.
 - The loss or uninhabitability of the student's home as the result of a natural disaster.
4. _____ (name of child) is neither suspended nor expelled from a local school unit in this or any other state for conduct that could have led to a suspension or expulsion from the local school administrative unit.
5. I attest that the student's claim of residency is not primarily related to attendance at a particular school within the local administrative unit.
6. I have been given and accept responsibility for educational decisions for the child, including receiving notices of discipline under North Carolina General Statute 115C-391, attending conferences with school personnel, granting permission for school-related activities, and taking appropriate action in connection with student records.
7. I acknowledge that willfully and knowingly providing false information in this affidavit is a Class 1 misdemeanor and carries the penalty of paying the local board an amount equal to the cost of educating the child during the period of enrollment.
8. I attest to the fact that the student's parent, guardian, or legal custodian is: unavailable unable unwilling to sign an affidavit giving me the responsibility for educational decisions concerning the child. [A notary public must witness you signing this form.]

I, _____, do declare, certify and state under penalty of perjury that the foregoing statements are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

This, the ____ day of ____ (month), ____ (year)

Signature _____

On this the ____ day of _____, _____, personally appeared before me, the said named _____, to me know and known to be the person described in and who executed the foregoing instrument and he/she acknowledged that he/she executed the same and being duly sworn by me, made oath that the statements in the foregoing instrument are true.

Printed name of Notary Public NOTARY PUBLIC (signature)

My Commission expires _____

AFFIDAVIT BY PARENT, GUARDIAN, OR LEGAL CUSTODIAN GIVING RESPONSIBILITY FOR SCHOOL ENROLLMENT TO THE ADULT THE STUDENT LIVES WITH

STATE of NORTH CAROLINA

COUNTY of _____

1. I, _____ (name of adult) am domiciled in _____ County.
2. I am eighteen (18) years of age or older.
3. I am the parent, guardian, or legal custodian of _____ (name of child), _____ (age), _____ (date of birth), who *does not* reside with me as the result of (check appropriately):
 - My physical or mental condition is such that I cannot provide adequate care and supervision of the student.
 - I am seriously ill, or incarcerated.
 - My home is lost or uninhabitable as the result of a natural disaster.
4. _____ (name of child) is neither suspended nor expelled from a local school unit in this or any other state for conduct that could have led to a suspension or expulsion from the local school administrative unit.
5. I attest that the student's claim of residency is not primarily related to attendance at a particular school within the local administrative unit.
6. I willingly give responsibility for educational decisions for the child, including receiving notices of discipline under North Carolina General Statute 115C-391, attending conferences with school personnel, granting permission for school-related activities and taking appropriate action in connection with student records to _____ (name of the adult the child resides with).
7. I acknowledge that willfully and knowingly providing false information in this affidavit is a Class 1 misdemeanor and carries the penalty of paying the local board an amount equal to the cost of educating the child during the period of enrollment. [A notary public must witness you signing this form.]

I, _____, do declare, certify and state under penalty of perjury that the foregoing statements are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.
This, the ____ day of ____ (month), ____ (year)

Signature _____

On this the ____ day of _____, _____, personally appeared before me, the said named _____, to me know and known to be the person described in and who executed the foregoing instrument and he/she acknowledged that he/she executed the same and being duly sworn by me, made oath that the statements in the foregoing instrument are true.

Printed name of Notary Public

NOTARY PUBLIC (signature)

My Commission expires _____

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A Tribute to Grandparents Who Are Raising Their Grandchildren

- G** Grandchildren, to whom they are so devoted
- R** Remarkable Resourcefulness Raising their Grandchildren; the Richness of their Heritage
- A** Admiration and Appreciation for their Achievements and Accomplishments
- N** Needs that have to be addressed in a No-Nonsense fashion
- D** Determination; Devotion; Dedication; Diversity
- P** Preservation of family; Priorities, Public Policy; Problem solvers
- A** Awareness they have created as Active Ardent Advocates
- R** Responsiveness and sense of Responsibility; Rewarding Role model they've created; Respect from all
- E** Empowerment, and Enriching their grandchildren's lives; the Experience they bring
- N** Noteworthy National visibility
- T** Tough and Tenacious Trainers and Teachers; Togetherness
- S** Strength and Sacrifice; Sense of Sharing—Superb Supportive Surrogate parents

by Janet Sainer, Relatives as Parents Program,
Brookdale Foundation Group