

Kinship Care Overview

August 16, 2022

Lac du Flambeau



Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

Kinship Care Program Overview

- Kinship Care is designed to help support children and families outside of the parental home. Children live with a relative, due to safety concerns, temporarily or for long term.
- All Tribes and Counties manage their own Kinship Care programs, following the guidelines & requirements in State Administrative code DCF 58.



Types of Relative Caregiving

- Kinship Care is an alternative for children whose needs are better met by relatives due to safety concerns
- There are three types of Kinship Care:

Voluntary

(Informal or 48.9795
Guardianship)

Court Ordered
(CHIPS/JIPS)

Long-Term

(48.977
Guardianship or
Tribal equivalent)



Kinship Care Relative Definition

DCF 58.02(22)

“Relative” means an adult that is the child’s stepparent, brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister, half brother, half sister, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, first cousin, 2nd cousin, nephew, niece, uncle, aunt, step-uncle, step-aunt, or any person of a preceding generation as denoted by the prefix of grand, great, or great-great, whether by blood, marriage, or legal adoption, or the spouse of any person named in this subsection, even if the marriage is terminated by death or divorce.



Recent Changes to Kinship Care

- In 2020, DCF Chapter 58 underwent significant updates focused on the following improvements:
 - Provided consistency and code organization for agency staff
 - Updated procedure guidance and clarification of policy
 - Streamlined and improved program timelines for the benefit of families and staff
- Governor Evers raised the monthly KC rate to \$300 on Jan.1 2022
- July 2022, guardianships established in tribal courts were included as eligible for long-term kinship care in chapter 58



Native American Children in Kinship Care

Count of Native American Children in Kinship Care Placement Settings, May 2022	
Kinship Care Placement Settings	Count of Native American Children
Kinship Care Provider - Long Term 48.977	152
Kinship Care Provider – Voluntary	473
Kinship Care-Court Ordered	338
Grand Total	963

Of the 963 total children:

- 440 = children enrolled in county Kinship Care program
- 523 = Children enrolled in tribal kinship Care program



Resources

Kinship Care Website: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/kinship>

Kinship Navigator Portal: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/kinship/navigator>

211 Relative Caregiver Guided Search:

<https://211wisconsin.communityos.org/relativecaregiversearch>

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