Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Resource & Information Guide

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force
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INTRODUCTION

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force

The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force (“Task Force”), created by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, was first convened by the Office on Aging and the Advisory Council on Aging in October 1998. The Task Force was directed by the Board of Supervisors to identify a central point of access for grandparents into the county service system, and to address and resolve problems and issues being experienced by grandparents raising children. The Task Force has been active since inception and continues to report to the Board on an annual basis.

The Task Force consists of representatives from the variety of County agencies that impact the lives of these families, representatives of County and State elected officials, grandparents and community volunteers. Two subcommittees carry on the work of the Task Force:

The Legislative/Systems Change Committee identifies legislative, regulatory, and policy barriers, along with program gaps that impact direct services for grandparents raising their grandchildren, and to propose changes to reduce the various barriers and close the gaps.

The Program and Public Relations Committee develops a work plan to assess the needs of grandparents, and provides information, education and leveraging of resources to meet their on-going family needs.

Grandparents often provide support and nurture for their children and grandchildren, but typically play a secondary role in the actual parenting of the children. However, many of today’s grandparents are finding themselves as parents again. In many grandparents raising grandchildren households, the parents cannot or will not keep their children at home for a variety of reasons. Some instances may be due to illness, death, divorce or financial hardships. Some parents may suffer mental illness or substance abuse. Other more traumatic circumstances may involve abuse, domestic violence and incarceration and require intervention.

This publication is dedicated to the thousands of courageous and deeply committed grandparents who give so much of themselves so that their grandchildren may live safely and with a sense of belonging and family.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Resource & Information Guide 2011

This edition of the Information Guide gives a quick overview of services, programs and places to start looking for resources and how to access them. The guide also provides tips and general information that you, as grandparents, may want to think about as you take on the responsibility of raising your grandchildren. The information may remind you of things that you may have forgotten or that may have changed since you brought up your children.
guidelines here reflect basic elements of the procedures and programs. Since each family situation is unique, it is important to make the contacts identified throughout the Guide to clarify how you should proceed and your family’s eligibility. If you are not clear on whom to contact, call the Kinship WarmLine 1-800-303-0001.

The information provided is current as of June 2011. It is not a comprehensive list of services and neither represents endorsement of particular programs or services, nor should be construed as legal advice. As program funding and priorities change, this information may also change. If you notice errors in telephone numbers, web addresses, or program availability, please let us know by contacting the Kinship WarmLine 1-800-303-001.

The project team was fortunate to be able to use resource material from many community and government sources. Some of the material was collated from pamphlets and brochures, other information came from relevant web sites. We have made every effort to acknowledge and refer to the original source and cite the reference. If we have inadvertently omitted any such acknowledgement, please accept our apology.

Acknowledgements

The Resource & Information Guide 2011 is the result of the dedication of representatives of the agencies of the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force. Specific contributions have been made by:

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- Penny Davis, Director of Foster & Kinship Care Education, Riverside City College
- Craig Demers, Public Health Nurse, Department of Public Health
- Chutima Ganthavorn, Nutrition, Family & Consumer Sciences Advisor for University of California, Riverside
- Gina Gonzalez, Field Representative for Senator Bill Emerson
- Opal Hellweg, Legislative Assistant for County Supervisor Jeff Stone
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- Mary Price, grandparent and chair of the Legislative/Systems Change Committee
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TERMS

- **Adoption:** When you adopt a child, your legal relationship with that child is the same as with a child born to you. An adopted child becomes your own child in all respects, including rights of inheritance. Adoption ends all rights and responsibilities between the birth parents and the child, including inheritance and visitation rights. The legal relationship with all other relatives by birth will also end. The adoptive parent can decide if the child will have continued contact with the birth parents or the parents’ family.

- **Caregiver Affidavit:** A form that shows you have physical custody of a child and authority to enroll that child in school and make decisions about medical treatment. The Affidavit is authorized by the California Family Code. Each school district may have its own version of the Affidavit and should be contacted directly. See further discussion on page 26.

- **Child Protective Services (“CPS”):** A division of the Riverside County Department of Public Social Services (“DPSS”). This agency responds to reports of child abuse and neglect. If the agency’s investigations show there is evidence of abuse or neglect, a child protection case may be opened and submitted to Juvenile Court.

- **Child Support Enforcement (“CSE”) Agency:** This Agency exists in every state to locate parents that do not have custody of their children (called "noncustodial parents," or "NCPs"), or to find the person assumed to be the father of a child (called a "putative father," or "PF") in order to collect child support money to reimburse some of the financial support assumed by the County and the guardian.

- **Court Appointed Special Advocate (“CASA”):** A person with special training may be appointed by the Juvenile Court to assist a child in court.

- **Court Stamp:** A raised seal or stamp that on court papers indicates it is the official document of the court. This stamp identifies the official Letter of Guardianship and should be evident when you present this document for official purposes.

- **Custody:** The protective care or guardianship of a child or dependent adult. Custody is a legal term indicating that the Court has ordered the care. The term is sometimes used to indicate where the child is living but this has no legal status.

- **De Facto Parent:** Gives an individual the right to be notified of hearings for a particular child in Juvenile Court and participate in proceedings and may be represented by their own attorney when appropriate. A petition must be filed with the court and the judge or commissioner will decide if De Facto status is allowed. For more information see page 15.

- **Delinquent:** A child under the age of 18 that has done something that would be a crime if he or she were 18 or older.

- **Dependent:** In Probate Court, this usually means a child that is financially supported by another person. In Juvenile Dependency Court, this means a child that requires the protection of the court because of allegations that he or she was abused or neglected. “Dependent” as used in this Guide refers to the child who is under the jurisdiction of Juvenile Court.
- **Emancipation**: Term used for children in foster care or guardianship who turn 18 and are considered to be an adult and the foster care system is no longer responsible for them. It is also used to describe a legal action where the Court declares a youth to be an independent adult before they are 18. Once a child is emancipated, his or her parents do not have custody, or control of him or her anymore. The parents are also no longer liable for the child’s actions.

- **Fee Waiver**: The Probate Court may grant petitioners with low-income permission to not pay the court’s filing fees. Applications can be obtained from the court clerk or downloaded from [www.courts.ca.gov/forms](http://www.courts.ca.gov/forms).

- **Foster Care**: A program that gives financial support to a person, family, or institution to help offset the cost of raising a dependent child. Eligibility is determined by an eligibility technician based on federal and state standards. For questions, refer to the local Foster Care office listed on page 47.

- **Guardianship**: In California, a court proceeding where a judge appoints someone to care for a person under age 18 or to manage the child’s estate (property), or both. In some states, conservatorship of an adult is called guardianship, but not in California.

- **Guardianship of the Estate**: Granted by the Probate Court giving responsibility to manage any income and other assets of the child, which includes keeping accurate financial records and filing regular accounting reports with the court.

- **Guardianship of the Person**: Granted by the Probate Court giving legal responsibility for a child who is not your biological child.

- **Independent Adoption**: Used in this Guide to refer to an adoption initiated by the grandparent and processed through Family Court as opposed to the adoption of a dependent child through Juvenile Court.

- **Individualized Education Plan ("IEP")**: A written education plan for a student who has special needs that describes how the child is currently doing in school and a plan for the next school year to improve the child’s educational outcomes and, when appropriate, referral to other resources. See page 23 for more information.

- **Juvenile Dependency Court**: Has jurisdiction over cases when there are allegations that a child has been abused or neglected by a parent or guardian.

- **Kinship Adoption Agreements**: Generally refers to an agreement made between the adoption parent(s) and the birth relatives or the birth parents for the purpose of maintaining contact with a child’s birth family after adoption. The agreement must be approved by the Court.

- **Minute Order**: The official record of a court proceeding. This will include any special instructions or conditions set by the Court such as visitation restrictions and educational rights.

- **Notice of Hearing**: The legal form that is used to notify all the people who have a legal right to know about a court proceeding. In Probate Court, the Petitioner is responsible for notifications. This is managed by the DPSS social worker in Juvenile Dependency Court. For more information see page 49.
• **Permanency Planning:** The primary goal of the child welfare system is to ensure that children who have been removed from their parents’ homes are reunified with their parent, or placed in adoption or legal guardianship.

• **Petitioner:** The person requesting some action by the Court and filing the necessary court documents.

• **Probate Court:** The department of Riverside County's Superior Court that deals with probate conservatorships, non-dependent guardianships, and the estates of people that have died.

• **Special Education:** Instruction specially designed to meet the unique needs of a child whose disability affects his or her educational performance or ability to learn in a regular classroom. See “IEP”

• **Superior Court:** The trial court in each county of the State of California. This court hears guardianship, adoption, family law, juvenile, criminal, civil, small claims, and probate cases.

• **Surrogate Parent:** A person that substitutes for the legal parent to advocate for a child's special educational rights and needs; can be selected by the child's parent or appointed by the school district or the Court.

• **Ward:** A term most commonly used to describe a youth under probation through the Juvenile Delinquency Court.

**FUNDING TERMS**

• **CalWorks:** Offers financial assistance to relatives raising a relative child in one of two ways:
  
  Needy: Based on your household income you may receive financial aid for both you and your relative child.

  Non-needy: You may receive financial aid for your child only.

  Apply at your local DPSS office. See page 46 for listings.

• **Federal Foster Care Benefit (AFDC-FC):** May be available for children who are or have been dependents of the Court. Eligibility is based on federal and state standards and is determined by DPSS. Applications will be initiated by the child’s social worker and you will be notified if the child qualifies. Contact your local Foster Care office listed on page 47.

• **Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment (“Kin-GAP”):** A state funded program for legal guardians raising children who are relatives and who were dependents of Juvenile Court. The child must have been officially placed with the relative for a prescribed period of time. The application will be initiated by the child’s social worker.
• **Supplemental Security Income ("SSI")**: Your child might be eligible for SSI if he/she has a diagnosed disability and is a legal resident of California. If the child receives SSI the child is also automatically eligible for Medi-Cal. Contact Social Security 1-800-772-1213

• **Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children ("WIC")**: Provides coupons for extra food and nutrition education for women who are pregnant or mothers with children 5 years of age and under. Eligibility is based on income. To apply, call 1-800-455-4942 for an appointment. You will be scheduled at your local WIC office.

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*A hundred years from now, it will not matter what your bank account balance was, the sort of house you lived in, or the kind of car you drove, but the world may be different because you were important in the life of a child.*

~author unknown
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

My son (daughter) is in jail and my grandchildren are living with me. Can I get temporary guardianship until their parent is released?
Provided the child’s situation is not being investigated by Child Protective Services, you can petition Probate Court for guardianship. It is important to understand that guardianship through Probate Court is considered permanent. When petitioning the Court for temporary guardianship, forms for permanent guardianship must also be filed. If the parent wishes to resume custody, they will have to petition the Court for return of guardianship. Probate Court will make a change only if it is shown to be in the best interest of the child. Unlike Juvenile Court, Probate does not actively seek to reunify the child with the parent.

What if the parents agree to let me care for their child and we don’t want to go through court?
The parents can sign a notarized letter that says you have “custody” of the child. The letter should specifically give you permission to make decisions about the child’s education and medical care. You should be aware that this letter does not constitute a legal document and may not be recognized by all providers. The parents retain “Parental Rights” and can overturn decisions you make for the child and cancel this agreement at any time.

What if the parents aren’t available to sign an agreement with me?
If the parents are not available to sign a private agreement, California Family Code provides for a Caregiver’s Authorization Affidavit. This form should allow you to enroll the child in school and obtain medical care for the child. Each school district may have its own version of the Affidavit and should be contacted directly. A sample Affidavit is found on page 26. See page 50 for contact information for School Districts in the County to obtain an approved affidavit for your District.

- Since the Court does not issue the Caregiver’s Authorization Affidavit, it may not be recognized in some settings as a legal document.
- Not all schools or medical facilities accept the Caregiver’s Authorization Affidavit or a notarized letter.
- The parents can cancel these forms or a letter at any time and take the child back into custody.

My grandchild was removed from his parent, what can I do to get custody?
Contact the Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-442-4918. Provide the name and date of birth of the child and the information you have been provided regarding removal. To protect the child, the Hotline will not be able to confirm or deny that the child is in custody. Explain that you understand that you will not be given information at that point, but that you want to be sure that the social worker has your name and telephone number and that you want to be considered for placement.
What are my rights as a grandparent if I have been caring for my grandchild prior to intervention by Child Protective Services?
This will depend on a number of factors and should be addressed with the social worker designated by Child Protective Services.

If I am not approved for placement, what are my options for maintaining contact with my grandchild?
If you as the grandparent are not selected for placement of the child in a Juvenile Court case, you may make a request for visitation to the assigned social worker. Conditions of visitation will be determined by the circumstances of the case and the placement decided on by the Court.

How long does the court give the parents to get their act together before considering adoption?
Welfare and Institutions Code allows birth parents six months of reunification services if the child is three or younger. One year is allowed for a child who is over three years of age. When there is more than one child involved, the time period is determined by the youngest child’s age. The judge will determine if reunification services will be offered to the birth parents and for what period of time. The judge may extend services if the parents appear to be progressing towards completion of their reunification plan.

Do I have any rights if my grandchild is taken from my home to reunite with their parent(s)?
No. If the parents have met the standard of reunification as ordered by Juvenile Court, they have the right to have their children returned to their care. As a grandparent, you can express your concerns to the social worker, but the decision rests with the court.

As a grandparent, do I have any rights for visitation with my grandchildren?
There are three ways California courts will order visitation rights for grandparents and other kin:

1. If a parent dies, the Court may award visitation rights to close relatives of the parent if it is in the best interest of the child. This also applies if the child has been removed from the parent by CPS and placed in foster care.
2. In a custody hearing related to a divorce proceeding, a court may grant kin visitation rights if it is in the best interest of the child.
3. Grandparents may file a court petition for visitation if the grandchild’s parents are not married or if certain other conditions are met.

The legal standard is that there must be a pre-existing bond between grandparent and grandchild, and that it is in the best interest of the child.
GUARDIANSHIP

What is Guardianship?
A legal guardian is a person who is given the authority and responsibility for care, custody, control and education of a child by the Court. A guardian may be related or unrelated to the child.

Is there an age limit for a grandparent who wants to obtain guardianship of a grandchild?
No. Placement depends on the relative’s ability to provide care and support for the child. A grandparent taking on responsibility for young children should consider their own health, financial situation and home environment to evaluate whether they are the best solution for the children. Grandparents should also give careful consideration to having a backup plan in case there is a change in their ability to provide care for the children.

Do I need an attorney to get guardianship or adopt?
If the child has an open Child Protective Services case and has been made a dependent of Juvenile Dependency Court, the answer is no. If CPS has placed the child in the grandparent’s care and reunification has been unsuccessful, Juvenile Court and CPS will assist the grandparent through the process of obtaining guardianship or adoption of the child at little or no cost to the grandparent.

If you are going to Probate Court to get an independent guardianship, an attorney is not required. You can petition the court yourself. There are services available to guide you through the process. If you are applying for Guardian of the Estate, it is recommended that you use an attorney due to the complexity of the financial accounting. There are fees for the application and investigations. If you cannot afford those fees, you may apply for a Fee Waiver. Applications are available from the Court Clerk or can be downloaded from www.courts.ca.gov/forms.

It is recommended that you consult an attorney if you wish to pursue adoption through Family Court.

Why are some Guardianship arrangements different from others?
If you have independently taken a grandchild into your custody for some reason and are acting as the child’s parent, you would seek guardianship through Probate at the Superior Court. Usually this comes about when a child has been placed in your care on an informal basis by the child’s parent. There are many things to consider before accepting responsibility for becoming the legal guardian. See the following pages for more details about the legal process.

If your grandchild was removed from the parents by Child Protective Services and came under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Dependency Court, the court took responsibility for the welfare of that child and developed a legal and financial support program for that child, including placement, based on federal, state and county regulations. It is also the goal of Juvenile
Dependency Court to work with the parent(s) to improve their situation and ability to provide a safe environment so that the child can be returned to them.

### JUVENILE VS. PROBATE GUARDIANSHIP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Juvenile Dependency Court</th>
<th>Probate Court</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Who</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The petition for guardianship is filed by CPS on behalf of the proposed guardian.</td>
<td>An adult wishing to have custody of the child files petition for guardianship.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Procedures</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The court process, investigations and services are managed by a DPSS social worker.</td>
<td>Petitioner is responsible for following court procedures and filing appropriate forms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fees</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Since the child is a dependent of the Court, there are no fees charged to the prospective guardian.</td>
<td>Petitioner is responsible for fees for filing and the investigation. Based on income, a Fee Waiver may be granted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Services</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The goal for Juvenile Court is to work toward returning the child to the care of the birth parents or guardian if CPS removed them. Services may be provided to the parents to help them improve their situation to achieve reunification.</td>
<td>Probate Court is not seeking reunification. Guardianship is viewed as a permanent placement. The Court standard is deciding the best and most stable situation for the child.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Financial Assistance</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Because the child has been named a dependent of the Court, various financial programs may be available depending on the child’s circumstances.</td>
<td>As an independent petitioner, the guardian has financial responsibility for the child. Based on income, the child may qualify for CalWorks and Medi-Cal.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Can I get assistance to apply for guardianship?**

Cases that are proceeding through the Juvenile Dependency Court are under the jurisdiction of the Court and the Department of Public Social Services and managed by the DPSS social worker. They will complete the required paper work and advise you about your role in the court process.

Assistance with independent petitions for guardianship through Probate Court is available through:

- Kin Care, a program of California Family Life Center, a non-profit organization. Contact 951-791-3557
- Guardianship Assistance Program and Public Service Law Corporation – 951-682-7968 (Riverside), 951-244-2920 (Mid-County), or 760-347-9456 (Indio)
- [www.riverside.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp/guardianship](http://www.riverside.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp/guardianship)
What is a De Facto Parent?
De facto parent status is a legal device that gives an individual the right to be notified of hearings for a particular child in Juvenile Court and participate in proceedings with their own attorney when appropriate. It gives a grandparent or relative the right to speak in court and have access to court reports and recommendations.

Qualifications for a De Facto Parent:
- The child in question is declared a dependent of the juvenile court
- How long you have cared for the child
- Activities you do with the child
- What you do for the child—provide food, shelter, clothing, affection, etc.
- You are current custodian or have been custodian of the child
- What you know about the child’s special needs
- If you can meet those special needs

How to Apply:
Fill out court forms “De Facto Parent Request” (JV-295) and “De Facto Parent Statement” (JV-296). These forms can be obtained from the clerk of the court or downloaded from www.courts.ca.gov. Kin Care will also provide assistance filling out the required forms.
When a child in your family has been removed from the care of his or her parents by Child Protective Services ("CPS") or law enforcement, the child needs to be in a safe place while risk and safety issues are being resolved. CPS workers prefer placement with relatives for children who cannot safely remain with their parents. Selection of placement is based on who can provide a safe and stable home for the child, meet the child’s needs, and cooperate effectively with the Court’s ordered plan to reunify parents and children.

If you have been identified as a potential placement for your grandchild, the social worker from CPS will complete an evaluation of your home as well as a criminal background check of every adult living in the home. The home must be inspected to ensure that it meets State regulations for the safety and comfort of the child.

CPS is a division of the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) and other divisions may become involved in your grandchild’s case as it moves through the Court. DPSS and the Juvenile Dependency Court are governed by legally mandated timelines in making decisions regarding permanent placement for children based on their age. These timelines may be as short as six months for younger children.

Since the focus of Juvenile Court is to reunify children who have been adjudicated with their parents whenever possible, the Court will not grant guardianship until reunification services have been offered to the parents and, having determined the parents are not successful, have been terminated by the court. At this time the Court will determine if the permanent plan should be guardianship or adoption.

If you have been approved for permanent placement, DPSS workers will file the appropriate petition on your behalf and guide you through the legal process.

Financial assistance and Medi-Cal insurance are available for relatives adopting or taking legal guardianship of dependent children. However, these amounts are limited and you should give careful consideration about your financial circumstances and ability to maintain household expenses, your personal and medical expenses, the child’s expenses and possible childcare.

**Permanency Plan**

Adoption and legal guardianship are the preferred permanency options for children in relative placement once reunification is no longer viable. There are important legal distinctions between adoption and legal guardianship.

A guardianship gives custody of a child to the guardian and parents’ rights to make decisions for the child are suspended only. Guardianship does not sever parental rights. Parents must continue to support their children financially even when another party has guardianship of the child. In guardianship children remain heir and beneficiary to the birth parents’ estate and survivor benefits from Social Security if appropriate. The children in a guardianship are still
related to the parents. The court may allow the parents or relatives to visit with the children while in a guardianship.

In adoption you become the legal parent and have all the rights, responsibilities and liabilities as a birth parent. The birth certificate may even be changed to reflect the adoptive parents. Adoption permanently severs the parental rights of the parents and they may not petition the court for custody.
FAMILY COURT-PROBATE GUARDIANSHIP

Before you file a petition for guardianship in the Probate Court, you should consider the following:

- Is guardianship really necessary?
- Have you considered the alternatives?
- Do the parents consent to the guardianship?
- Without parental consent, is there enough evidence for you to prove the need for a guardianship?
- Do you need legal advice or assistance?

If you decide that a child needs a probate guardianship, the first step in the process of establishing guardianship is to fill out and file the petition and other required documents with the Clerk of the Court. Appropriate forms can be picked up at the Clerks’ Office in Superior Court (locations on page 49). Any interested party or the child, if 12 years or older, may file the petition.

A hearing may be held to designate Temporary Guardianship depending on the child’s situation. The court may grant the petition or may find that there are insufficient grounds to establish a guardianship. If granted, you will be issued the Order Appointing Temporary Guardianship and Letters of Temporary Guardianship.

Before each hearing, specific persons must be given a Notice of Hearing and the Proof of Service must be provided to the Court. See below for details.

A hearing will be set to act on the petition for permanent guardianship. Prior to that hearing the court may order an investigation. This investigation may involve you, the child, other family members and any other persons deemed essential to the case. The investigator will give the court a report and make a recommendation on the guardianship. If approved, the Court will issue you the official Letter of Guardianship granting you the related powers and responsibilities.

There is a fee for filing a guardianship petition. In addition, you may be charged a fee for a guardianship investigation. If neither you nor the child’s estate can afford to pay the fees, you may request that the court waive the fee requirement. The court clerk can provide you with the application Request to Waive Court Fees (FW-001) or it can be found at www.courts.ca.gov/forms.
The court can appoint you as “Guardian of the Person,” “Guardian of the Estate” or both.

- Guardian of the Person for a child has the care, custody, and control of the child. As guardian, you are responsible for providing the child with food, clothing, shelter, meeting the educational, medical, and dental needs for the physical and emotional growth of the child.
- Guardian of the Estate has the additional duties to manage the child’s income or trust funds, collect and make inventory of the assets, keep accurate financial records, and regularly file financial accounting with the court. Because of the complexity of the accounting and liability for the estate, it is recommended that you consult a lawyer.

**What is the Notice of Hearing?**
This is a legal form that is used to notify all the people who have a legal right to know about the Petition of Guardianship. In a dependency case, the DPSS worker manages the notice process. In a probate case, the Petitioner is responsible for seeing that all interested parties receive notice. This notice must be delivered (“served”) in person to the child if 12 years and older, the child’s parents, any person with legal custody, any person nominated as guardian by the parents who are not in the petition. Grandparents and siblings may be noticed through the mail.

A **Proof of Service** must be filed with the court after the person has been served with the Notice of Hearing and the Petition for Guardianship. Someone other than you who is over 18 and is not a party to the action must complete the Proof of Service. The Petitioner cannot sign the Proof of Service. For more details and instruction on serving notice, see court form GC-510 available from the Clerk of the Court or on-line [www.courts.ca.gov/forms](http://www.courts.ca.gov/forms).
ADOPTION

Adoption is a legal process that transfers parental rights from birth parents to adoptive parents permanently. Adoption grants both the adopted parent and child the same rights and responsibilities as if the child had been born to the adopted parent. For example, if adopted the child has the same rights to inheritance as birth children. The birth parents no longer retain any legal connection to the child and have no rights to custody or to make decisions regarding the child. While the responsibilities of a guardian end at the age of 18 in most cases, adoption is for the child’s lifetime.

Who may become an adoptive parent?
A child may be adopted by a relative or an unrelated adult as long as the court has decided that adult can provide the best home for the child. Often a foster parent may want to make their relationship to the child more permanent through adoption.

How do I become an adoptive parent?
Like legal guardianships, the adoption process can take place in either the Juvenile Court or in Superior Court depending on the situation.

If your grandchild has been declared a dependent child by the Juvenile Court and the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) is considering placement in your home and the birth parent was unsuccessful in meeting the reunification requirements, you may be asked if you would consider becoming the child’s adoptive parent. If adoption is established as the permanency plan, the social worker from DPSS will guide you through the process.

If you are seeking an independent adoption, you will apply through the Superior Court. For more information check www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp

1. Begin by getting the appropriate forms from the Court Clerk at the courthouse or online at www.courts.ca.gov/forms and filing them with the Superior Court.
   • Adoption Request [ADOPT-200] provides information about you and the child.
   • Adoption Agreement [ADOPT-210] indicates that you and the child, if over 12, agree to the adoption. Complete the form but do not sign until the judge asks.
   • Adoption Order [ADOPT-215] is signed by the judge if your adoption is approved.
   • Other forms are required regarding whether the child may have Indian ancestry. Ask the Court Clerk or check on-line.

2. In independent adoptions, the adoption specialist writes a report giving the judge information about you and the child and the home you will be able to provide. You may be required to pay a fee for this report. The social worker will file the report and send you a copy. When you receive the report, ask the Court Clerk to schedule your adoption hearing.

3. When you appear in court for the Adoption Hearing, bring the child, Forms ADOPT-210 and ADOPT-215. In addition, you will need form ADOPT-230 Adoption Expenses used to item expenses you incurred during the adoption process.
4. If you want your child to have contact with the birth family complete form ADOPT-310 which asks for an “Open Adoption.”

Is there financial assistance for my grandchild if I adopt?
If the adoption is granted by the Juvenile Court, the Adoption Assistance Program (AAP) may provide monthly payments and Medi-Cal coverage for adopted children. The social worker from DPSS will let you know if your grandchild will receive AAP once the adoption is signed.

In independent adoptions, financial support is not usually available.

Are there fees to adopt a child?
There are Court fees for filing for a independent adoption in Family Court. Additional fees are charged for a Court investigation. If the child is a dependent of the Juvenile Court and adoption has been ordered as the permanent plan, there will be little or no cost to you.

Can I terminate the adoption if circumstance change?
No. When the adoption is finalized in Court it is a lifetime arrangement.
EDUCATION

Do I need to be a legal guardian to enroll my child in school?
If you are not the legal guardian of your grandchild you may complete and sign a Caregiver Affidavit as provided in California Family Code 6550. A sample copy of an affidavit is provided on page 26, but each school district may have its own version. It is recommended that you contact the District Office for your area. Contact numbers are provided on page 50.

What are education rights?
“Educational Rights” refer to the adult who has authority to make decisions and determinations about a child’s education programs and is able to advocate on behalf of the child. Education rights are retained by the birth parent in most cases unless the Court delegates to another representative or the School District appoints a third party surrogate. Legal guardians are able to act on behalf of the child and request special services, but these actions may be overturned by a birth parent that has retained educational rights.

How do I register my grandchild in school?
Begin by contacting the School District Office in your area to ask about its particular procedures and necessary documentation. A Checklist for Registration is provided on page 25. To transfer to a new school, proof of grade level, like a report card or transfer document, is generally required. If your grandchild is a dependent of Juvenile Court, these requirements may be streamlined. Contact the DPSS social worker responsible for your grandchild.

At what age can children be enrolled?
Registration typically begins May 1st for children starting school the following September. Children must be 5 years of age on or before December 2nd, in order to attend kindergarten in September. Some Districts may require that the child be age 5 by September 1st, instead of December 2nd. Ask your local School District Office to be sure.

Are there programs for pre-school children?
Children younger than 5 years of age may be admitted to nursery programs. These include Head Start, Early Childhood Education and pre-kindergarten programs and availability may vary within the School Districts. You should check with your School District for public programs and check the phone book for private programs in your area.

What should I do if I think my grandchild may have a disability?
If you suspect that your grandchild has any disability that would require special education you may request that he or she be tested. Children between the ages of 3 and 5, and students enrolled in grades kindergarten through twelve are eligible for evaluation. Requests must be made to the school in writing.
What is an IEP?
IEP stands for Individualized Education Plan and is a written plan of special education for a child with disabilities that affect school performance or ability to learn. The Plan is developed by the School District, professionals, teachers, caregivers, and, when appropriate, the child. There are five main parts to an IEP: eligibility, performance levels, goals & objectives, placement and services. You must have “educational rights” to request an IEP for your grandchild.

What services does the school provide?
There are a variety of services that may be offered in your schools. These services vary from District to District, often because of funding issues. Some of the typical services you may want to explore include:
- Special Education
- Transportation
- Lunch/nutrition programs
- After School Programs
- Tutoring
- Head Start and Early Head Start

What are my responsibilities as a guardian regarding school attendance?
You must send the child to school. It is unlawful to neglect or refuse to compel a child between the ages of 6 and 18 to attend school.

What should I do if my grandchild cannot attend school?
You should inform the school and the teacher when your grandchild is absent due to illness or an emergency. Check with your school about requirements for notification. If a student is absent without a valid excuse more than three days, the student is considered truant and will be reported to the attendance supervisor of the school district. If your grandchild is receiving some forms of public financial assistance, those benefits may be terminated for poor school attendance.

What is Head Start or Early Head Start?
Head Start and Early Head Start (EHS) are child development programs serving children and their families in Riverside. The programs are funded through a Department of Health and Human Services’ Head Start Office federal grant. Both programs promote school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children of low income families through the provision of health, educational, transportation, nutritional, social and other services based on family needs assessments. Recruitment and enrollment of children with disabilities is a major priority of these two programs.

Who Is Served?
- In Head Start – Children 3 to 4 years of age with priority given to 4 year olds.
Services
The Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE) provides Head Start and Early Head Start either throughout the county through sites it operates directly or through delegate agencies that contract with RCOE. There are three types of program options:

- **Part Day** – Children are in a center based class either in the morning or afternoon for 3.5 hours per day.
- **Full Day** – Children are in a center based class for 6 hours per day. Parents must be working or attending school full time in order to qualify for this program option.
- **Home Based** – A teacher visits the home each week and works with the parent and child. Two socializations are also held each month with all the children and their parents.

Program Information
If you would like more information on the Head Start or Early Head Start program, please call our toll free number (800) 600-1800 or go on-line at [www.rcoe.k12.ca.us/ChildFamily/headstart](http://www.rcoe.k12.ca.us/ChildFamily/headstart).
BASIC CHECKLIST FOR ENROLLMENT/REGISTRATION

- Proof of student's birth (provide ONE from the list below):
  - Birth Certificate (County Record)
  - Current Passport
  - Hospital Record
  - Baptismal Record
- Current Immunization Record
  (must have ALL of the immunizations, listed below documented on the doctor's record):
  - Polio
  - DTaP—Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (Whooping Cough)
  - MMR—Measles, Mumps and Rubella
  - Hep B—Hepatitis
  - Varicella—Chickenpox
- TWO recent* documents verifying your residence address
  (All must be in parent/guardian name. An affidavit may be filed if the child is residing with someone other than the parent/guardian. We prefer utility bills, but can be any TWO from the list below):
  - Current electric, water, or gas bills
  - Current bank statement (not checks, actual statement)
  - Government document (DPSS, Medi-Cal, CalWorks, Child Custody Checks)
  - Lease/rental agreement with cancelled check, or deposit/rent receipt from landlord
  - Escrow papers with closing date within the past/future 30 days forwarded mail
  (*ALL Documentation above must have a date of the past 30 days)
- Verification of Physical Examination
  - Screening (Kindergarten or First Grade Only)
- Copy of IEP (Special Education students only)
- Completed RUSD Registration Packet
- Parent/Guardian Photo ID
  If you do not have guardianship a Caregiver Affidavit is generally required to enroll a grandchild.
### SAMPLE - Caregiver’s Affidavit

Use of this affidavit is authorized by Part 1.5 (commencing with Section 6550) of Division 11 of the California Family Code. **Please read information on reverse side.** Legal guardians are only appointed by a Court of Law.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#1</th>
<th>Student’s Last Name</th>
<th>Student’s First Name</th>
<th>2010-11 Grade</th>
<th>Date of Birth</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>M/F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parent’s Last Name</th>
<th>Parent’s First Name</th>
<th>Previous School Attended</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#2</th>
<th>Parent’s Current Street Address</th>
<th>Apt.</th>
<th>Home Phone (No Cell #)</th>
<th>Was the student in a Special Education program?</th>
<th>Was the student already tested by MVHS’s ELD?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent’s Current City</td>
<td>State</td>
<td>Zip</td>
<td>Country</td>
<td>YES or NO</td>
<td>YES or NO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#3</th>
<th>Caregiver’s Last Name</th>
<th>Caregiver’s First Name</th>
<th>Relationship to Student</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#4</th>
<th>Caregiver’s Street Address</th>
<th>Apt.</th>
<th>Home Phone (No Cell #)</th>
<th>School of Residence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Caregiver’s City</td>
<td>Zip</td>
<td>#5</td>
<td>Caregiver’s Date of Birth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Completion of items 1–4 and the signing of the affidavit are sufficient to authorize enrollment of a minor in school and authorize school-related medical care. Completion of items 5–8 are required to authorize any other medical care. Section 6552 of the Family code grants the school district permission to require additional reasonable evidence that the caregiver lives at the address provided in item 4.

- **#6** ☐ I am a grandparent, aunt, uncle, or other qualified relative of the minor.
- **#7** Check one or both (for example, if one parent was advised and the other cannot be located):
  - ☐ I have advised the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the minor of my intent to authorize medical care and have received no objection.
  - ☐ I am unable to contact the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the minor at this time to notify them of my intended authorization.

- **#8** My California State Driver’s License or California State ID Card number is ____________

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I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct and that the minor named above lives in my home full-time, and I am 18 years of age or older. I understand that home visitation is a part of a periodic process of verification when residency is established by a Caregiver’s Authorization Affidavit.

_________________________  __________________________
Signature of Caregiver        Date

June 2011

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CAREGIVER’S AFFIDAVIT PROCEDURES

I. Purpose and Eligibility for the Caregiver’s Affidavit
   • Students shall qualify as district residents if they reside full-time, 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, including periods of school recess and vacation, in the home of a caregiving adult within district boundaries. Proof of district residency shall be required as part of the enrollment process as noted below.
   • **Students must be currently living with the caregiver full-time to be eligible for enrollment under this procedure.**
   • Upon enrollment, the caregiving adult shall execute, under penalty of perjury, a Caregiver’s Affidavit.
   • The law may require the caregiver, if not a relative or a currently licensed foster parent, to obtain a foster home license in order to care for a minor. Caregivers may contact their local Department of Social Services.
   • If the Superintendent or designee, on investigation, determines from actual facts that the student is not living with the caregiver, the student affected shall either be denied enrollment, or, if already enrolled, shall be disenrolled effective five school days from the date that the parent/legal guardian and caregiver were notified (at last known address) of the residency determination.

II. Procedures for Obtaining a Caregiver’s Affidavit
   • Contact local school or district office for access to the Caregiver Affidavit form if available at.
   • Additional documents may be REQUIRED to establish residency. Post Office boxes do not meet residency requirements. Only street addresses are accepted.

III. Conditions for Students Enrolled on a Caregiver’s Affidavit
   1. This declaration does not affect the rights of the minor’s parents or legal guardian regarding the care, custody, and control of the minor, and does not mean that the caregiver has legal custody of the minor.
   2. A person who relies on this affidavit has no obligation to make any further inquiry or investigation.
   3. This affidavit is not valid for more than one year after the date on which it is executed.

TO CAREGIVERS:
   1. “Qualified relative,” means a spouse, parent, stepparent, brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister, half-brother, half-sister, uncle, aunt, niece, nephew, first cousin, or any person denoted by the prefix “grand” or “great,” or the spouse of any of the persons specified in this definition, even after the marriage has been terminated by death or dissolution.
   2. The law may require you, if you are not a relative or a currently licensed foster parent, to obtain a foster home license in order to care for a minor. If you have any questions, please contact your local department of social services.
   3. If the minor stops living with you, you are required to notify any school, health care provider, or health care service plan to which you have given this affidavit.
   4. If you do not have the (California driver’s license of I.D.), provide another form of identification such as your social security number or Medi-Cal number.

TO SCHOOL OFFICIALS:
   1. Section 48204 of the Education Code provides that this affidavit constitutes a sufficient basis for a determination of residency of the minor, without the requirement of a guardianship or other custody order, unless the school district determines from actual facts that the minor is not living with the caregiver.
   2. The school district may require additional reasonable evidence that the caregiver lives at the address

**PLEASE NOTE:** Use of Caregiver’s Affidavits to establish residency must be substantiated by truthful, accurate and complete documentation. The District may initiate legal action against any caregiver, resident, and/or parent who provides false information or makes false assertions or may report such person to law enforcement.
HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Medi-Cal
Medi-Cal provides health care coverage for qualifying persons who live in California, who are income qualified. You can apply for the children only or you may also qualify if you are over 65 years old and income qualified. For children who are dependents of the court, DPSS will likely process the application on the child’s behalf. Independent guardians can obtain an application from your local DPSS office. See page 46 for listings.

Healthy Families
Healthy Families is a low-cost health insurance that provides health care coverage to children up to their 19th birthday, who do not have health insurance and do not qualify for Medi-Cal. The program is funded by the federal and state governments. Get more information and download an application www.healthyfamilies.ca.gov or contact IEHP at 1-866-294-4347.

Family Care Centers
Riverside County Department of Public Health operates Family Care Centers around the County to offer medical care for County residents. Treatment is covered by a variety of insurance and social service programs and they will accept Medi-Cal, Healthy Families, Medicare and cash payments on a sliding scale fee for uninsured clients.

Services offered include:
Primary Care
Prescriptions & Refills
WIC Programs & Food Vouchers
Nutrition
Referrals to Specialists
Child Care Services
- Treatment
- History and physical examinations
- Dental Assessment
- Immunizations
- Nutritional assessment
- Vision screening
- Blood & urine testing
- TB testing
- Lead screening
- Health education
Senior Services
- Cancer Screening
- Diabetes management
- Nutrition management
- Pain management
- Osteoporosis prevention and management
• Screenings
• Flu shots

Dental Care is currently available only at the Rubidoux Center. Services include:
• Exams
• X-Rays
• Protective fluoride for children
• Protective light scale for adults
• Fillings
• Simple extractions
• Pediatric dentistry

www.rivco-familycarecenters.org

Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care
Public Health Nurses (PHNs) with the Health Care Programs for Children in Foster Care assist in the case coordination of children placed out of the home or in foster care. The PHNs collaborate with the child’s social worker or probation officer to plan and coordinate health services. In addition, the PHNs serve as health consultants to social workers, probation officers, biological parents, and substitute care providers, such as grandparents.

The PHNs use the Child Welfare Services Case Management System to document all available health information and create a document known as the Health and Education Passport (HEP). The HEP is updated as new information is obtained and is designed to provide the foster parents or relative caregiver with a chronological health history of the child’s growth and development.

Public Health Nurses are located at various DPSS sites throughout Riverside County and work closely with social workers to obtain health information, document follow-up care and obtain specialized health services for children as needed.

Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
The WIC Program is designed to assure that infants will receive a healthy start. Participants receive:
• Financial assistance in the form of special checks that can be used to buy healthy foods such as milk, juice, eggs, cheese, cereal, dry beans and peanut butter.
• Information about nutrition and health to help you and your family eat well and be healthy.
• Help in finding health care and other community services.
To participate, your grandchild must be between the ages 0 to 5 years old and your household must meet the income requirements.

For more information and to make an appointment to apply, call 1-800-455-4942.
**CalFresh/SNAP Assistance Program**

Formerly known as “Food Stamps Program,” CalFresh provides low-income households with electronic debit cards that can be used at most grocery stores to purchase foods to ensure that the users are able to provide a healthy diet for themselves and their family.

The amount of assistance you receive depends on your income and expenses. To find out if you are eligible, go to www.fns.usda.gov/fsp or www.C4Yourself.com or call your local DPSS office listed in the Resource section of this Guide.

Riverside residents can apply for assistance at your local DPSS office. See page 46 for locations.

**Nutrition**

Over the past three decades, childhood obesity rates in America have tripled, and today, nearly one in three children in America are overweight or obese. One third of all children born in 2000 or later will suffer from diabetes at some point in their lives; many others will face chronic obesity-related health problems like heart disease, high blood pressure, cancer and asthma.

It is important to promote a healthy diet and exercise for your grandchildren. There are many resources available with nutrition information and suggestions for improving healthy habits for people of all ages.

Programs are available for low-income households to assure that nutrition is not overlooked in the family. Check with your grandchildren’s School District about meal programs in the school for your grandchildren. See the listing of contact information for the School Districts starting on page 73. If you are a senior, you may also benefit from a nutrition program through the Riverside County Office on Aging 1-800-510-2020. For additional information on food pantries and other nutrition programs in your area, contact the WarmLine 1-800-303-0001.

For additional information on all programs in Nutrition Services, please call (951) 358-5311.

Good nutrition web sites for a start:

- www.mypyramid.gov
- www.rivco-nutrition.org
- www.nutrition.gov
- www.cnpp-usda.gov/dietaryguidelines.htm
LEARNING DISABILITIES/DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES/MENTAL HEALTH

If your grandchild is acting out with abnormal behavior, having difficulty with socialization, and performing poorly in school, there may be a serious problem. It is often difficult with children to distinguish among learning disabilities, developmental disabilities, mental health, and substance abuse issues without professional help. It is important to have your child evaluated to determine if there is a problem and the nature of the problem so appropriate treatment and response can be offered.

Learning Disabilities
A child with a learning disability cannot try harder, pay closer attention, or improve motivation on their own; they need help to learn how to do those things. A learning disability, or learning disorder, is not a problem with intelligence. Learning disorders are caused by a difference in the brain that affects how information is received, processed, or communicated. Children and adults with learning disabilities have trouble processing sensory information because they see, hear, and understand things differently.

Types of learning disabilities are often grouped by school-area skill set or cognitive weakness. If your grandchild is in school, it will probably be apparent if he or she is struggling with reading, writing, or math, and narrowing down the type will be easier. Types of difficulties include motor, math, language, reading, writing and auditory/visual processing.

The process of diagnosing a learning disability can be confusing. It involves testing, history taking and observation by a trained specialist. Finding a reputable referral is important. Start with your grandchild’s school, and if they are unable to help you, ask your doctor, insurance provider or call the WarmLine 1-800-3030-0001. See the section on “Education” for information about working with the school to get an assessment for your grandchild.

www.helpguide.org/mental/learning_disabilities

Developmental Disabilities
The term developmental disability refers to a severe and chronic disability that is attributable to a mental or physical impairment that begins before an individual reaches adulthood. These disabilities include mental retardation, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism, and disabling conditions closely related to mental retardation or requiring similar treatment.

The Inland Regional Center is the primary resource for assessment and services for people with developmental disabilities and their families. Regional centers are nonprofit private corporations that contract with the Department of Developmental Services to provide or coordinate services and supports for individuals with developmental disabilities.

The disabled individual is paired with a Consumer Services Coordinator who becomes their primary contact. They will meet on an ongoing basis to develop an annual Individual Program Plan (IPP) that lists specific, agreed upon goals and objectives that will enhance opportunities to
live more closely in line with the core values of the agency—Independence, Inclusion, and Empowerment.

Inland Regional Center (909) 890-3000
www.inlandrc.org
www.dds.ca.gov/RC

Mental Health Disorders
There are many different conditions that are recognized as mental illnesses. The more common types include:

- Anxiety disorders—stress, social anxiety, phobias
- Mood disorders—depression, mania, bipolar
- Psychotic disorders—schizophrenia
- Eating disorders—anorexia, bulimia
- Impulse control and addiction disorders—pyromania, kleptomania, gambling, drugs, alcohol
- Personality disorders—antisocial personality disorder, obsessive-compulsive, paranoia

Other, less common types of mental illnesses include:

- Adjustment disorders—occurs when a person develops emotional or behavioral symptoms in response to a stressful event or situation.
- Dissociative disorders—formerly known as “split personality” include severe disturbances or changes in memory, consciousness, identity, and general awareness of themselves and their surroundings.
- Factitious disorders—physical and/or emotional symptoms are created in order to place the individual in the role of a patient or person in need of help.
- Somatoform disorders—formerly known as “psychosomatic disorder;” person experiences physical symptoms of an illness even though a doctor can find no medical cause.
- Tic disorders—like Tourett’s syndrome

Diagnosis and treatment are critical in every case of mental health disorder. See your primary physician, consult your grandchild’s school for referral, or contact the Department of Mental Health.

Riverside County Department of Mental Health
The Department of Mental Health provides a variety of clinical and support services in sites throughout the County. Their programs include:

- Adult Mental Health and Older Adult Mental Health Services: mental health promotion wellness activities, access, services that support recovery, community based support, and transition services.
- Children’s Services: individual/group/family therapy, medication support, crisis intervention, residential care, hospitalization, support counseling, education and information for parents and families, case management, referrals.
- Substance Abuse: Individual Prevention Service for individuals aged 12 to seniors who are starting to see negative consequences of drug or alcohol use. There is no charge for the services.
- Family Advocate Program: provides support for families of an individual with severe and persistent mental illness.

For referral to available services, call Riverside County Department of Mental Health: CARES line (Community Access, Referral, Evaluation, and Support) – 800-706-7500. The CARES line is intended for community members, family members, and mentally ill individuals seeking mental health services in Riverside County. www.rcdmh.org

**Warning Signs for Problem Conditions**
You may see behaviors in your grandchildren that cause you some alarm. It is important to explore your concerns with your grandchild as these behaviors may be warning signs of trouble in the child’s life. The following are a few examples of issues facing our youths.

**Trauma**
In most cases, you have had to take your grandchild into your home as a result of a dramatic circumstance or event, perhaps death of the parent, incarceration, abuse, neglect or domestic violence. The circumstances resulting in separation from the parent may have a lasting impact on your child and may need to be treated through counseling or behavioral therapy. Some warning signs of trauma:

**Infants, Toddlers & Preschoolers**
- Excessive fears
- Avoidance of people, places, situations
- Irritability
- Sleep disturbances
- Physical symptoms--tummy aches, headaches
- Dissociation--blank, staring, no facial expression

**School Age**
- Re-living event over and over
- Inability to sleep, nightmares
- Excessive worrying about everyday situations
- Physical symptoms--tummy aches, headaches
- Symptoms may be more pronounced at school--phobias, depression, behavior issues
- Fear--disorganized behavior, agitation
- Fear of safety--unwilling to take part in typical activities, sad expressions, revenge
- Hoarding food

**Adolescents**
- Flashbacks
- Desire to ‘numb out’--drugs, alcohol, thrill seeking, early sexual activity
• Self-injury
• Rage and/or depression

Depression
Most kids and teens are moody at times, so it can be hard to distinguish between normal behavior and cause for concern. Short term (less than two weeks) sadness is usually not thought to be alarming, but when feelings of sadness or hopelessness persist, a larger problem may exist and should be evaluated.

Symptoms may include:
• Sadness or hopelessness
• Irritability, anger or hostility
• Tearfulness or frequent crying
• Unexplained aches and pains
• Withdrawal from some friends and family
• Loss of interest in activities
• Changes in eating and sleeping habits
• Restlessness and agitation
• Feelings of worthlessness and guilt
• Extreme sensitivity to criticism
• Lack of enthusiasm and motivation
• Fatigue or lack of energy
• Difficulty concentrating
• Thoughts of death of suicide

Untreated depression can lead to:
• Problems at school—poor attendance, drop in grades, frustration with schoolwork in a formerly good student
• Running away—attempting or talking about it
• Substance Abuse
• Eating disorders
• Internet addiction
• Self-injury
• Reckless behavior—dangerous or high-risk behaviors, such as reckless driving, out-of-control drinking and unsafe sex
• Violence
• Suicide
Suicide
In addition to signs of depression:

- Major changes in appearance and hygiene
- Talk about feeling hopeless or feeling guilty
- Talking or joking about suicide
- Saying things like, “I’d be better off dead,” “I wish I could disappear forever,” or “There’s no way out”
- Speaking positively about death or romanticizing dying
- Writing stories and poems about death
- Engaging in reckless behavior
- Giving away prized possessions
- Saying goodbye to friends and family as if for good
- Seeking out weapons, pills or other ways to kill themselves

Substance Abuse
Even though some of the warning signs of substance abuse may be present in your grandchild, it does not mean that they are definitely abusing drugs. There are other causes for some of these behaviors. Even life stages of adolescence are valid reasons for many of them. However, do not ignore the warning signs. If six or more are present for a period of time, talk to your grandchild and/or seek the help of a professional.

Signs in the Home

- Loss of interest in family activities
- Disrespect for family rules
- Withdrawal from responsibilities
- Verbally or physically abusive
- Disappearance of valuable items or money
- Not coming home on time
- Not telling you where they are going
- Constant excuses for behavior
- Spending a lot time in their room
- Lies about activities
- Finding cigarette rolling papers, pipes, roach clips, small glass vials, plastic baggies

Signs at School

- Sudden drop in grades
- Poor attendance
- Loss of interest in learning
- Sleeping in class
- Not doing assignments
- Defiant of authority
- Poor attitude toward sports or other extracurricular activities
- Reduced memory and attention span
- Not informing you of teacher meetings, open houses, etc.
Physical and Emotional Signs
- Changes friends
- Smell of alcohol or marijuana on breath or body, or attempts to cover odors
- Unexplainable mood swings and behavior
- Negative, argumentative, paranoid or confused, destructive
- Sharing few if any personal problems
- Overly tired or hyperactive
- Drastic weight loss or gain
- Cheats and steals
- Always needs money, or has excessive amounts of money

Self-Injury
Some youths deliberately inflict injury to their body, without the intent to commit suicide. It is sometimes called self-mutilation, self-harm, cutting, or self-inflicted violence. If you observe or suspect this behavior, contact a mental health professional.

Types of behaviors:
- Cutting
- Scratching
- Burning
- Carving
- Branding
- Pulling Hair
- Picking skin
- Hitting oneself
- Head banging
- Breaking bones

Reasons for Self-Injury:
- To soothe or calm oneself
- To regain emotional balance
- To release tension
- To cope with intense emotions
- To escape from feeling numb and empty

Myths:
- Self-injury is a failed suicide
- It is done for attention or to manipulate others
- People who self-injure are “crazy”
- It is not a serious problem if the injuries are child
- Self-injury cannot be treated
Panic Attacks
Panic attacks are sudden feelings of extreme fear typically lasting no more than ten minutes. Symptoms include:
- Nausea
- Sweating
- Dizziness
- Heart palpitations
- Shortness of breath
- Feeling of impending doom

*Shield Program for Adolescent Self-Injury* at Loma Linda University Behavioral Medicine Center
1710 Barton Road, Redlands CA 92373 – 909-558-9288
[http://helpguide.org/mental/depression_teen.htm](http://helpguide.org/mental/depression_teen.htm)
[www.healthyplace.com/depression/suicide](http://www.healthyplace.com/depression/suicide)
[www.kidsdevelopment.co.uk/anxiety-depression.html](http://www.kidsdevelopment.co.uk/anxiety-depression.html)
[http://parentingteens.about.com/od/teendruguse/Teen_Drug_USE_and_Abuse.htm](http://parentingteens.about.com/od/teendruguse/Teen_Drug_USE_and_Abuse.htm)

Reactive Attachment Disorder
Reactive attachment disorder is a rare but serious condition in which infants and young children don’t establish healthy bonds with parents or caregivers.

A child with reactive attachment disorder is typically neglected, abused, or moved multiple times from one caregiver to another. Because the child's basic needs for comfort, affection and nurturing aren't met, he or she never establishes loving and caring attachments with others. This may permanently alter the child’s growing brain and hurt their ability to establish future relationships.

Reactive attachment disorder is a lifelong condition, but with treatment children can develop more stable and healthy relationships with caregivers and others. Safe and proven treatments for reactive attachment disorder include psychological counseling and parent or caregiver education.

[www.mayoclinic.com](http://www.mayoclinic.com)
[www.RadKid.org](http://www.RadKid.org)
Mentoring Programs
Depending on the circumstances and history of your grandchild, he or she may benefit from participation in a mentoring program. Many grandchildren placed in their grandparent’s home need a positive role model from a young adult of their same gender.

A mentor-mentee partnership is a caring, encouraging, respectful, friendship between an older individual and a youth or child. A mentor:
- Serves as a role model
- Gives quality time
- Gives guidance
- Shares a hobby or interest
- Encourages a child (in sports, the arts, academics or community service)
- Simply listens

There are a variety of types of programs that provide mentoring. There are clubs, like Boys & Girls Club, YMCA, YWCA, Boy and Girl Scouts, and church groups, that offer group activities supervised by young adults. These clubs provide structured activity and safe environments for youth to develop valuable friendships. Other programs, like Big Brother/Big Sisters and various private mentoring agencies, offer a one-to-one match between a youth and an appropriate mentor for individualized attention. Some of these individualized programs may serve youth with special needs and situations.

All mentor programs should require mentors to submit to a fingerprint and background check.

If you are not aware of mentor programs in your area, call the Kinship WarmLine 1-800-303-0001 or check the Riverside County Mentor Collaborative www.rcmentor.org or 1-888-636-8676.
SAFETY/LAW ENFORCEMENT

C.A.R.E. (Curtailing Abuse Related to the Elderly)
The C.A.R.E. Program, a division of Riverside County Adult Protective Services, is an elder and dependent adult abuse prevention and education program working in partnership with law enforcement and other human service providers to raise public awareness and provide a coordinated response to abuse. The C.A.R.E. Program Coordinator and trained volunteers provide support and assistance to victims of consumer fraud. The goal of this advocacy is to guard or regain their assets, preserve their dignity and protect their privacy.

If you or someone you know is a victim of financial fraud, contact C.A.R.E. 1-800-476-7506.

Welfare and Institutional Codes 5150/5250
When a person is a danger to others or to their self as a result of a mental disorder, a police officer, designated member of a mobile crisis team or other professional designated by the County may take the person into custody and placed in a mental health facility designated by the County for 72-hour treatment and evaluation.

On or previous to the expiration of the 72 hours, the psychiatrist must assess the person to see if they still meet criteria for hospitalization. If so, the person may be offered a voluntary hospital admission for further treatment. If it is refused, then the 5250 (WIC-5250) must be written to continue the involuntary confinement of the person for up to 14 days.

Persons who have been detained for evaluation and treatment will be released, referred for further care and treatment on a voluntary basis, certified for intensive treatment, or a conservator or temporary conservator will be appointed.

Child Protective Services
The Riverside County Department of Public Services (DPSS) Children’s Services Division serves as the public Child Protective Service (CPS) agency mandated to investigate allegations of child abuse and neglect. They operate a 24-hour child abuse hotline (1-800-442-4918) to receive reports of abuse and neglect of children under the age of 18 years old.

Child abuse and neglect comes in many forms and can be an act or a failure to protect that results in harm to a child.

- Physical abuse is defined as non-accidental physical trauma or injury by a parent or guardian on a child. It also includes a parent’s or guardian’s failure to protect a child from another person who physically abuses a child.

- Sexual abuse includes sexual contact with a child, indecent exposure, using a child for prostitution or pornography, or any sexual act performed in a child’s presence for sexual gratification. Abuse also includes the willful failure of a parent or guardian to make no reasonable efforts to stop abuse by another person.
• Emotional abuse includes, but is not limited to, verbal assaults, ignoring and indifference or constant family conflict.

• Neglect includes any situation where a child does not receive proper care and/or is exposed to hazardous conditions such as drugs, domestic violence, or other issues which threaten the safety and well-being of the child.

If you suspect that a child has been abused or neglected, call 1-800-442-4918.

Bullying
Most of us have encountered a bully at some point in our lives and have had to find ways to cope or solve the situation. If your grandchild goes up against a bully frequently, or cannot manage the problems alone, they may show signs of being bullied:

• Withdrawing from favorite activities
• Declining interest in school or after school activities
• Withdrawing from friends or social circle
• Wanting to run away
• Anger
• Increased stress
• Consistently missing the bus
• Torn clothes, backpack or other personal items
• Missing school items, such as books, homework, lunch box, or band instrument
• Wanting to take protection to school, such as a knife or a gun
• Bruises or scrapes

If you become aware of several signs in your grandchild, talk with them about their day and daily experiences. If you believe your grandchild is being bullied, talk with their school or law enforcement.

Cyberbullying is a new way to bully brought about by your grandchild’s ability to connect with others through internet social websites, email and cell phones.

• Set the rules. Ask that your child show you any threats or hateful comments made toward them. Also insist that you will not tolerate them saying hurtful things to others.
• Teach them to be careful about social networking and the type of information they disclose and people they connect with.
• Don’t ignore cyberbullying.
• Assure your grandchild that it is not their fault they were targeted by a bully.
• Don’t get involved with the cyberbully or let your grandchild prolong the contact with responses.
• Report it to your internet service.
• If the cyberbullying includes threats of physical violence, report it to the police.

www.parentingteens.about.com/od/bullying
www.cybersmartcurriculum.org
www.familyinternet.about.com
Gang involvement
According to the Riverside County Gang Task Force, the number of gangs has grown from 266 to 391 since 1997. The total gang membership has grown to an astounding 10,620 members countywide.

Why do kids join gangs? Each child is individual, but some common reasons include:
- Security, protection and a sense of belonging
- Lack of family, community, or youth support systems (too much unsupervised time)
- Sense of status or respect
- Living in a gang infested community or having family members in a gang
- Low self-esteem
- Financial opportunities (i.e. profits from drug distribution and other illegal activities)
- Peer pressure
- Thrill seeking
- Media glorifying violence

General warning signs
- Change of behavior or defiant behavior
- Grades drop and poor school attendance
- Change in types of friends
- Calls from unknown people
- Unexplained money and jewelry
- Slang or code language
- Using hand signals to communicate with others
- Obsession with certain colors and sports teams apparel
- Graffiti and gang symbols on books, clothing, walls and tattoos
- Carrying a weapon
- Evidence of drug use

Steps to take to prevent gang involvement:
- Develop open and frequent communication with your grandchildren
- Encourage them to become involved in athletics and other health-oriented activities for a sense of belonging
- Monitor and limit exposure to violence in television, music and video games
- Cultivate respect of others’ property and pride in your community
- Know with whom and where they are spending time
- Don’t let children stay out late or spend a lot of unsupervised time on the street
- Become involved in your grandchild’s education
- Be aware of what is happening in your community
- Report gang activity—reports can be made anonymously:
  951-922-7601 or www.riversidecountygtf.org
Tagging
The difference between graffiti being art or a crime is permission. Tagging is vandalism and the destruction of private and public property. It is any unauthorized marking, etching, scratching, drawing, painting or defacing of any surface of public, private, real or personal property. Some indicators that your grandchild may be a tagger:

- Tagging written on their clothing such as their shoes or inside their baseball cap, schoolbooks, notebooks, backpacks, cd covers and on their bedroom furniture and walls
- Frequently wearing baggy pants or carrying a large backpack that can accommodate tagging supplies and cameras to take photos of their taggings
- Quantities of cans of spray-paint, various colors and types of markers, etching tools, or shoe polish containers
- Quantities of adhesive name tags, priority mail stickers or mailing labels. These may have drawings or tagging moniker written on them to be used as “slap tags”
- Repeated symbols or set of letters on tags or sketches—this may be their moniker for signing tags
- Carries a black artist notebook that contains tagging designs
- Stays out late at night or is sneaking out of the house

Juvenile Probation
Unfortunately, some grandchildren will break the law and become involved in the Juvenile Delinquency Court of the County. There are a number of ways the legal system will treat juveniles who commit an offense.

654 WIC, Informal Probation
Informal Probation under 654 WIC, can be given “informally” through the probation department or a child can be referred to court for the granting of such.

If offered through the probation department, it is a six month diversion program, which automatically expires at the end of the six months. If a child violates the conditions of his Informal agreement, he/she can be brought before the court for the initial crime or the probation department can choose to close the case as “unsuccessful.”

If granted by the court, it is a six-month “informal” contract that expires at the Review Hearing. If, however, the child violates the conditions of this Informal contract with the court, 654 WIC can be revoked and the matter returned to court for further proceedings. In these cases, the child does not “admit” any charges when granted 654 WIC Informal Probation, and if a violation occurs the child must go through the entire court process.
If the child is successful on Informal Probation, the entire matter is closed successfully, and the child does not have a record. However, a record seal application needs to be submitted for the record to be ordered sealed.

**Deferred Entry of Judgment (DEJ)**
This is a type of limited, Formal Probation. The district attorney determines if a child is eligible for such a grant, by reviewing the child’s age, past delinquent history, and nature of the offense. **Suitability** is determined by the Probation Officer who assesses the child’s age, maturity, educational background, family, treatment history, motivation and the offense.

If the child is found eligible and suitable, he/she will have to “admit” each of the allegations alleged in the petition. He/she is then granted DEJ, for a term of one year, with a Review Hearing to be set at one year’s time. Should the child fail to comply with his conditions of DEJ, the grant can be extended for a period not to exceed three years, or DEJ can be revoked and Wardship ordered.

If, however, the child is successful in completing DEJ, the entire matter is ordered sealed, and he/she does not have a record.

**725(a) WIC, Court Probation for Six Months**
725(a) WIC is considered when a child is facing charges to which he/she admits; but, the level of supervision does not rise to that of Wardship. This is a type of “informal” probation through the court, which automatically expires at the end of six months. However, the difference between it, and the DEJ and 654 WIC, is that the child has a record.

**Wardship**
The court orders wardship and depending on the type of crime found true or admitted, can last until the age of 21 years. If the child were committed to the Division of Juvenile Justice, he/she is subjected to the court’s jurisdiction until the age of 25.

Childs’ adjudged wards of the court are given specific conditions to follow, and again, those depend on the crime admitted or found true. If they violate probation, consequences are imposed, including community service, juvenile work program (weekend work), custody time in juvenile hall, and if all those have been exhausted, placement in a county or private facility.

Probation attempts to exhaust all resources at the local level, if possible, before considering placement. This is based on a risk/needs assessment, and the potential for injury to others, self, and the community, if the child remains out of custody. If there is too great of risk, and the needs are low, placement can be considered; if the risk is low, but the needs are high, placement can be considered. If there is little risk and little needs, it is likely this child can remain in the community as a ward, with probation supervision.

The probation officer assigned to supervise a ward of the court will submit a request for the termination of Wardship upon the child’s successful completion of any court ordered programs full payment of any fines or restitution, and overall compliance with the conditions of probation.

June 2011
RESOURCE LISTINGS

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL

Kinship WARMLINE (800) 303-0001
Office on Aging (800) 510-2020
211 Community Connection Dial 211 or www.211.org

RIVERSIDE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1st District-Supervisor Bob Buster
Riverside................................................. (951) 955-1010
Wildomar .................................................. (951) 609-1326
EMAIL: District1@rcbos.org

2nd District-Supervisor John Tavaglione
Riverside.................................................. (951) 955-1020
EMAIL: District2@co.riverside.ca.us

3rd District-Supervisor Jeff Stone
Riverside .................................................. (951) 955-1030
French Valley ........................................... (951) 301-5414
Hemet ....................................................... (951) 791-3490
EMAIL: District3@rcbos.org

4th District-Supervisor John Benoit
Riverside .................................................. (951) 955-1040
Palm Desert ............................................. (760) 863-8211
Blythe ...................................................... (760) 921-5070
EMAIL: District4@rcbos.org

5th District-Supervisor Marion Ashley
Riverside .................................................. (951) 955-1050
Moreno Valley ......................................... (951) 486-5810
Perris ...................................................... (951) 210-1300
EMAIL: District5@rcbos.org

STATE LEGISLATORS

Legislative offices can often provide assistance and information on State-funded programs. As the legislators change by term, please refer to Legislative Directories for current contact information call State Net 1-800-726-4566 or check on-line:
www.leginfo.ca.gov/yourleg
www.statenet.com/roster
SOCIAL SERVICE OFFICES

Riverside County Office on Aging, ADRC
6296 River Crest Drive, Suite K, Riverside CA 92507
(800) 510-2020
TDD: (951) 697-4699
www.rcaging.org

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program (GRG)
1075 N. State Street, Hemet CA 92543
(951) 791-3573

Department of Public Social Services

Kinship WarmLine
(800) 303-0001

Child Protective Services (CPS)
Hotline
(800) 442-4918

CalWORKs/ Medi-Cal
Banning
63 South 4th Street, Banning CA 92220
(951) 922-7500

Blythe
1225 W. Hobson Way, Blythe CA 92225
(760) 921-5700

Cathedral City
68-615-A Perez Road, Suite #9, Cathedral City CA 92234
(760) 770-2300

Corona (Medi-Cal only)
1373 Old Temescal Road, Corona CA 91720
(951) 739-6380

Hemet
541 No. San Jacinto Ave, Hemet CA 92543
(951) 791-3000
Indio
44-199 Monroe St, Suite D, Indio CA 92201
(760) 863-2700

Jurupa
5961 Mission Blvd, Suite 100, Riverside CA 92509
(951) 509-8000

Lake Elsinore
1400 Minthorn Street, Lake Elsinore CA 92530
(951) 245-3150

Moreno Valley
23119 Cottonwood Ave, Bldgs A & C, Moreno Valley CA 92553
(951) 413-5200

Norco
3178 Hamner Ave, Norco CA 92860
(951) 272-5550

Perris
2055 N. Perris Blvd, Suite B, Perris CA 92571
(951) 940-6600

Riverside
11060 Magnolia Ave, Riverside CA 92505
(951) 358-3400

Temecula
43264 Business Park Dr, Suite B1, Temecula CA 92590
(951) 600-6500

Foster Care
Desert Foster Care
48-113 Jackson St, Indio CA 92201
(760) 863-7210

Metro Foster Care
3610 Central Ave, 5th Floor, Riverside CA 92506
(951) 358-4000

Mid-County Foster Care
901 East Ramsey St, Banning CA 92220
(951) 922-7550
Southwest Foster Care
547 N. San Jacinto St, Hemet CA 92543
(951) 791-3200

Valley Foster Care
23119 Cottonwood, Suite A100, Moreno Valley CA 92553
(951) 413-5000

West Corridor Foster Care
11070 Magnolia Ave, Suite A, Riverside CA 92505
(951) 358-3700

Permanency & Guardianship
11070 Magnolia Ave, Suite A, Riverside CA 92505
(951) 358-3894

Adoption Assistance Program
11070 Magnolia Ave, Suite B, Riverside CA 92505
(951) 358-3886 or (951) 328-3555

Youth and Family Resources/Kin-GAP
11070 Magnolia Ave, Suite B, Riverside CA 92505
(951) 358-7778
www.rivcofoster.com

Welfare Fraud
Hotline: 800-344-8477
Hotline Fax: 951-358-6505
Mail: Riverside County DPSS
3021 Franklin Ave,
Riverside, CA 92507
Attention: Inspections Branch
E-mail: Inspections_Helpdesk@RiversideDPSS.org
Contact We Tip at www.wetip.com
Welfare fraud in other states: www.ucowf.org/fraud_contacts.htm
COURT SERVICES

Family Law (Adoptions)
Riverside Family Law Court
4175 Main Street, Riverside CA 92501
(951) 955-4600

Hemet Family Law
880 N. State Street, Hemet CA 92543
(951) 766-2310

Indio
46-200 Oasis Street, Indio CA 92201
(760) 863-8209

Blythe
265 N. Broadway, Blythe CA 92225
(760) 921-5904

Probate Court (Guardianship)
Riverside Superior Court
4050 Main Street, Riverside CA 92501
(951) 955-1970

Palm Springs Courthouse
3255 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs CA 92262
(760) 788-2207

Juvenile Court (Dependency Court)
Riverside Juvenile Court
9991 County Farm Road, Riverside CA 92503
(951) 358-4137

Southwest Juvenile Court
30755-D Auld Road, Murrieta CA 92563
(951) 304-5000

Indio Juvenile Court
47-671 Oasis Street, Indio CA 92201
(760) 863-8992
Access to Court forms
www.riverside.courts.ca.gov/localfrms/localfrms.shtml
or call the Court Clerk at your local courthouse

Riverside/San Bernardino Inland Counties Legal Services
1040 Iowa Avenue Suite 109, Riverside CA 92507
(951) 368-2555
(888) 245-4257

82632C US Highway 111, Indio CA 92201
(760) 342-1591
(800) 226-4257

EDUCATION

Riverside County Office of Education
3939 Thirteenth Street, Riverside CA 92501
Phone: (951) 826-6530
Fax: (951) 826-6199

Mailing address:
P.O. Box 868
Riverside, California 92502-0868

Indio Office
47-336 Oasis Street, Indio CA 92201-6998
Phone: (760) 863-3000
Fax: (760) 775-3353

Murrieta Office
24980 Las Brisas Road, Murrieta CA 92562
Phone: (951) 600-5600

Riverside County School District Contact List
Alvord Unified School District
10365 Keller Avenue, Riverside CA 92505
(951) 509-5000
www.alvord.k12.ca.us

Banning Unified School District
161 W Williams Street, Banning CA 92220
(951) 922-0201
www.banning.k12.ca.us
Beaumont Unified School District  
500 Grace Avenue, Beaumont CA 92223  
(951) 845-1631  
www.beaumont-ca.schoolloop.com

Coachella Valley Unified School District  
87225 Church Street, Thermal CA 92274  
(760) 399-5137  
www.coachella.k12.ca.us

Corona-Norco Unified School District  
2820 Clark Avenue, Norco CA 92860  
(951) 736-5000  
www.cnusd.k12.ca.us

Desert Center Unified School District  
1434 Kaiser Road  
PO Box 6, Desert Center CA 92239  
(760) 392-4227

Desert Sands Unified School District  
47-950 Dune Palms Road, La Quinta CA 92253  
(760) 777-4200  
www.dsusd.k12.ca.us

Hemet Unified School District  
1791 W Acacia Avenue, Hemet CA 92545  
(951) 765-5100  
www.hemetusd.k12.ca.us

Jurupa Unified School District  
4850 Pedley Road, Riverside CA 92509  
(951) 360-4100  
www.jusd.k12.ca.us

Lake Elsinore Unified School District  
545 Chaney Street, Lake Elsinore CA 92530  
(951) 253-7000  
www.leusd.k12.ca.us

Menifee Union School District  
30205 Menifee Road, Menifee CA 92584  
(951) 672-1851  
www.menifieeusd.k12.ca.us
Moreno Valley Unified School District
25634 Alessandro Blvd, Moreno Valley CA 92553
(951) 571-7500
www.mvusd.k12.ca.us

Murrieta Valley Unified School District
41870 McAlby Court, Murrieta CA 92562
(951) 696-1600 ext. 1002
www.murrieta.k12.ca.us

Nuview Union School District
29780 Lakeview Avenue, Nuevo CA 92567
(951) 928-0066
www.nuview.k12.ca.us

Palm Springs Unified School District
980 E Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs CA 92262
(760) 416-6000
www.psusd.k12.ca.us

Palo Verde Unified School District
295 N 1st Street, Blythe CA 92225
(760) 922-4164
www.pvusd-bly.k12.ca.us

Perris Elementary School District
143 E 1st Street, Perris CA 92570
(951) 657-3118
www.perris.k12.ca.us

Perris Union High School District
155 E 4th Street, Perris CA 92570
(951) 943-6369, ext. 126 or 125
www.puhsd.org

Riverside Unified School District
3380 14th Street, Riverside CA 92501
(951) 788-7134
www.rusdlk.org
Romoland School District  
25900 Leon Road, Homeland CA 92548  
(951) 926-9244  
www.romoland.k12.ca.us

San Jacinto Unified School District  
2045 S San Jacinto Avenue, San Jacinto CA 92583  
(951) 929-7700  
www.sanjacinto.k12.ca.us

Temecula Valley Unified School District 
31350 Rancho Vista Road, Temecula CA 92592  
(951) 676-2661  
www.tvusd.k12.ca.us

Val Verde Unified School District  
975 W Morgan Street, Perris CA 92571  
(951) 940-6100  
www.valverde.edu
HEALTH/NUTRITION

Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
1-800-455-4942
http://www.rivco-nutrition.org/wic.htm

CalFresh (Food Stamps)
Same offices as CalWORKs/Medi-Cal

Immunizations
Information and appointments: 1-800-720-9553
http://www.rivco-familycarecenters.org/clinics.htm

Department of Public Health Family Care Centers
Appointments for all clinics: 1-800-720-9553
http://www.rivco-familycarecenters.org/clinics.htm

Banning Family Care Center
3055 W. Ramsey, Banning CA 92220
Clinic: (951) 849-6794

Blythe Family Health Clinic
321 W. Hobsonway, Blythe CA 92225
Appointments and Clinic: (760) 922-4981

Corona Family Care Center
505 S. Buena Vista Ave, Suite #101, Corona CA 92882
Clinic: (951) 272-5445

Hemet Family Care Center
880 N. State St, Hemet CA 92543
Clinic: (951) 766-2450

Indio Family Care Center
47-923 Oasis St, Indio CA 92201
Clinic: (760) 863-8283

Jurupa Family Care Center
9415 Mission Blvd, Riverside CA 92509
Clinic: (951)360-8795

Lake Elsinore Family Care Center
2499 E. Lakeshore Drive, Lake Elsinore CA 92530
Clinic: (951) 471-4200
Mecca Family Health Clinic  
91275 66th Avenue Suite 500, Mecca CA 92254  
Appointments and Clinic: (760) 396-1249  

Palm Springs Family Care Center  
1515 North Sunrise Way, Palm Springs CA 92262  
Clinic: (760) 778-2210  

Perris Family Care Center  
Dr. Robert Bruce Reid Health Clinic  
308 E. San Jacinto Ave, Perris CA 92570  
Clinic: (951) 940-6700  

Riverside Neighborhood Health Center  
7140 Indiana Ave, Riverside CA 92504  
Clinic: (951) 358-6000  

Rubidoux Family Care Center/Don Schroeder Family Care Center  
5256 Mission Blvd, Riverside CA 92509  
Clinic: (951) 955-0840  

Temecula Neighborhood Healthcare  
41715 Winchester Road, Temecula CA 92591  
Clinic: 951-694-9449  

Dental Services  
Rubidoux Dental Office  
Don Schroeder Family Care Center  
5256 Mission Blvd, Riverside CA 92509  
Appointments and Dental Clinic: (951) 955-5360  

MENTAL HEALTH  
Riverside County Mental Health  
CARES Line 1-800-706-7500  
http://rcdmh.org/opencms  

Suicide Helplines  
Helpline, Suicide Crisis: 686-HELP  
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK  

Kin Care-California Family Life Center  
Family & Child Counseling  
(951) 791-3557
Alateen
Southwest Riverside County - District 40
25060 Hancock Ave, Suite 103-174, Murrieta CA 92562
(951) 848-0941
http://www.al-anon.alateen.org/alateen.html
www.alanonriverside.org

SAFETY/LAW ENFORCEMENT

Child Abuse Hotline: (800) 442-4918
Adult Protective Services Hotline: (800) 491-7123
CARE Program: (800) 476-7506
Poison Control: (800) 222-1222
Helpline, Suicide Crisis: 686-HELP

FAMILY SERVICES

Riverside County Family Resource Centers (“FRC”)
Services: parenting skills, life skills, education & literacy, information and referral, child abuse prevention

Desert Hot Springs FRC
14201 Palm Drive, Desert Hot Springs CA 92240
(760) 288-3313

Mecca Family and Farm Workers Service Center
91-275 66th Ave, Suite 100, Mecca CA 92254
(760) 863-7860

Perris Valley FRC
371 Wilkerson Ave, Suite L, Perris CA 92570
(951) 443-1158

Rubidoux Community Resource Center
5473 Mission Blvd, Rubidoux CA 92509
(951) 328-1575

California Family Life Center/Kin Care
1075 N State Street, Hemet CA 92543
(951) 791-3557
www.cflckids.org

Family Service Association
21250 Box Springs Rd, Ste 212, Moreno Valley CA 92557
(951) 686-1096
www.fsaca.org
PARENTING SKILLS

Available at all Family Resource Centers listed above.

The Wylie Center
Riverside (951) 784-0021

Esperanza Youth and Family Center
Coachella (760) 398-0711

Family Service Association
Moreno Valley (951) 369-8036
Cabazon (951) 922-1097
Riverside (951) 509-8733

MFI Recovery Center “Parent Project”
San Jacinto (951) 654-2026

National Parenting Institute
Temecula (951) 694-8910

Riverside City College
County-wide (951) 222-8937

YOUTH SERVICES

California Family Life Center
Services: work readiness skills, work experience & career exploration, leadership development, education

Hemet Empower Youth Opportunity Center
930 N. State Street, Hemet CA 92543
(951) 765-0917

Planet Youth Opportunity Center
400 W Graham Ave, Lake Elsinore CA 92530
(951) 471-8415

Rubidoux Youth Opportunity Center
5656 Mission Blvd, Riverside CA 92509
(951) 683-9622