

Legal Resources for Grandparents and Relative Caregivers

Online Resources

- **The Commission on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren**
Includes newsletters, events, articles, and resources: www.massgrg.com
- **MassLegalHelp.com**
The Children and Families section of this website includes information about child support, custody and visitation, paternity, guardianship, Care and Protection cases and DCF involvement, as well as information about Probate and Family Court. There is also information about forms, applications, and useful brochures and booklets. www.masslegalhelp.com
- **Lawyer Referral Services**
If you would like to hire an attorney, many bar associations provide a lawyer referral service. For a list of these services and their contact information, visit this site: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/finding-legal-help>
- **Health Law Advocates**
If you are having difficulty accessing mental health services or special education services for your grandchild, you can contact the Mental Health Advocacy for Kids Program at Health Law Advocates. Check the website to see if your community is covered by this program: <https://healthlawadvocates.org/initiatives/mhapforkids>
- **Massachusetts Law Reform Institute (MLRI)**
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute (MLRI) provides statewide advocacy and leadership in advancing laws, policies, and practices that secure economic, racial, and social justice for low-income people and communities. <https://www.mlri.org>
- **Contact your State Representative or State Senator**
If you have a question or concern about state laws concerning guardianship or other related issues, you can contact your state representative or state senator: www.malegislature.gov

In Person Legal Resources

- **Court Service Centers**

Court Service Centers can help people navigate the court system. Centers are available to all court users without lawyers, and there are no income or immigration status requirements. All of the services in the Court Service Centers are free, but there may be other fees associated with your case, such as filing fees. For more information: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/learn-about-court-service-centers>

- **Lawyer of the Day programs at Probate and Family Courts.**

The Lawyer of the Day provides:

- Consultation and assistance with completing court paperwork;
- Does not go into the courtroom to represent litigant;
- No lawyer-client relationship established;
- Cannot assist anyone who is represented by an attorney.
- To see a lawyer of the day on a specific date, you may check with the court that day or the day before to make sure a lawyer is scheduled to appear.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCE: Kinship Navigator is a program of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that assists all kinship caregivers (grandparents and other relatives) with accessing services for themselves and the children they are raising. For more information, please contact Jennifer.s.kitchenham@state.ma.us or 844-924-4546, or visit www.mass.gov/kinship-navigator

The Commission on the Status of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren was established in 2008 to serve as a resource to the Commonwealth on issues affecting grandparents raising grandchildren and other relative grandchildren. The Commission works to provide information, resources, and support to the thousands of Massachusetts grandparents and relative caregivers by hosting community workshops, trainings, an annual conference, and maintaining an up to date website full of resources for caregivers. To receive newsletters from the Commission, or for more information, contact the Commission at www.massgrg.com. You can also contact the Director of the Commission at 617-748-2454 or e-mail colleen.pritoni@state.ma.us.