

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

“Relative caregivers” are individuals that are providing physical care for minor children who are related to them — their nieces, nephews, grandchildren, or younger siblings. Free legal services are available to low-income caregivers (whose income is within 150% of the Federal poverty level). Caregivers over 55 years of age may be eligible for Project services regardless of income level. Please contact our office to inquire about other ways to be eligible for our services.



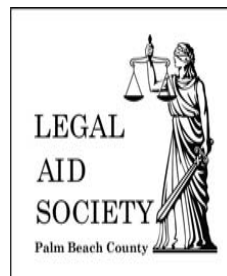
*The Legal Aid Society's Relative Caregivers Project is made possible by the generous contributions of the following agencies:*



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## RELATIVE CAREGIVERS PROJECT



**Are you providing care for  
the minor children of one  
of your relatives?**

*The Legal Aid Society's Relative  
Caregivers Project can help you  
obtain the resources you need.*



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The **RELATIVE CAREGIVERS PROJECT** ensures safety and stability of children by providing legal services to individuals who have relative children (a niece, nephew, grandchild, or sibling) in their physical care due to the absence of the child's parent. We also provide information and referrals for childcare, support services in the community, and links to funding resources to help eligible clients care for their loved ones.

#### SERVICES WE PROVIDE ...

- **TEMPORARY LEGAL CUSTODY**

We obtain temporary legal custody of children under age 18 who are living temporarily with extended family members. This enables the family member to consent to all necessary and reasonable medical and dental procedures, enroll children in school and obtain all medical, educational and other records necessary to care for the children without terminating the parents' rights. We assist the relatives in getting services and benefits they need for the children by referring them to the appropriate agencies. These benefits may include temporary cash assistance, Medicaid and Food Stamps. We also make referrals for daycare scholarships and community support groups.

- **GUARDIAN ADVOCACY**

We help families protect vulnerable developmentally disabled relatives by obtaining appointment of a Guardian Advocate for individuals turning 18 years old. It gives the Guardian Advocate specific powers, duties and responsibilities, with less expense and legal complications and allows families to continue caring for their loved ones.

- **PRE-NEED GUARDIANSHIP**

We prepare Pre-Need Guardianship documents for relative caregivers. This enables the caregiver to designate someone to continue caring for the child in case of the custodian's death. The designee then has time to file for guardianship of the minor child.



- **ADOPTION**

We help families considering adoption by discussing options available to them. Obtaining permanency for children living with relatives or stepparents is a serious decision. We provide legal services in adoption proceedings in certain cases.

- **OTHER SERVICES**

- \* **Limited Power of Attorney**

When a family member is taking care of a child for a short period of time (due to poverty, illness, incarceration, rehabilitation, etc.), we prepare Limited Power of Attorney documents without the necessity of Court involvement.

- \* **Advanced Directives**

We help our clients plan for the future by preparing Wills and other necessary documents.