

A Relative's Guide to Services Post-Custody Transfer

This guide is designed for relatives who are pursuing custody transfer without kinship guardianship assistance. For services and support available through kinship guardianship assistance, please see the Assistance Information Sheet.

All resources are provided electronically, including brochures. If you need a physical copy of the brochure mentioned, please let your caseworker know to provide a hard copy.

Private health insurance coverage

- Relatives caregivers should contact their private health insurance provider to see what options there may be to have the child or youth be added to their existing policy. For example, health insurance coverage may include:
 - Employer-based health plan.
 - Self-employed health plan.
 - TRICARE (<http://www.tricare.mil/> 1-800-444-5445) for families of Uniformed Service members and retirees.
 - Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA) (http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book/benefits_chap11.asp or 1-800-733-8387) for certain dependents and survivors of Veterans and eligible Reservists and National Guard members.

Child support

(<http://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/dcse/index.cgi> or 1-800-468-8894)

- Unless the court terminates parental rights, the child's birth parents remain financially responsible for their child or youth. The contact information for your local child support enforcement office (<http://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/dcseoffices.cgi>) is _____ and _____.

You may pursue obtaining child support for the child or youth in the home after custody has been transferred. The amount of support is based on the needs of the child or youth and on the resources and the abilities of the birth parents to pay. When you are receiving TANF, Medicaid, or kinship guardianship assistance, the child support enforcement office will pursue child support on both birth parents to recoup the state's cost of providing services and child support payments would go to the local department of social services.

Social Security benefits

(<http://www.socialsecurity.gov/> or 1 (800) 772-1213)

- The child may be eligible for benefits due to the retirement, death, or disability of a birth parent through the Social Security Administration (SSA). Relative caregivers may apply for benefits on behalf of the child or youth based on the work record of the child's or youth's parents. If the child or youth is not receiving benefits from the parent record and is being raised by a grandparent, the child or youth may qualify for

benefits from the grandparent's record. There are eligibility requirements that must be met and the grandparent will need to contact the SSA for additional information. The child or youth raised by relatives other than a grandparent may qualify for dependent benefits, but only if the child is legally adopted by the relative.

- The [Supplemental Security Income](#) (SSI) program administered by the SSA. SSI provides cash benefits for individuals who are blind or have certain disabilities. To qualify for benefits the child or youth must be under 18 years old and meet the SSI disability, income, and resources criteria.
- Other retirement or disability benefits (e.g. *Veterans benefits* - <https://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/virginia-state-veterans-benefits.html>, *Railroad Retirement benefits* <https://rrb.gov/Benefits> or 1 877 772-5772), life insurance benefits, and/or trust fund payments related to a birth parent.

Tax Credits

- If you are working, then you may qualify for several tax credits through the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) (<http://www.irs.gov/> or 800-829-1040). These include the Earned Income Tax Credit, the Child Tax Credit, and the Child and Dependent Tax Credit. You may contact the IRS or their tax preparer for more information.

Women, Infant and Children Program (WIC).

<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/wic/> or 877-835-5942

- WIC provides supplemental food and nutrition education. WIC accepts children who are under the age of five (5) years, income eligible, and have a nutritional risk.

School nutrition programs

<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/nutrition/programs/index.shtml> or contact your local school

- There are school nutrition programs available for eligible children (e.g., Free and Reduced Price Lunches through the National School Lunch Program; School Breakfast Program). Application information may be obtained at the local school where the child or youth attends.

VDSS Benefit programs

- A copy of the Benefits Program Brochure is available electronically (https://www.dss.virginia.gov/files/division/bp/fs/intro_page/forms/b032-01-0002-21-eng.pdf). to inform the relatives of eligibility and the application process for TANF, Medicaid, and SNAP in Virginia.
- To apply for assistance, access the CommonHelp portal: https://commonhelp.virginia.gov/access/media/en/VA_CommonHelp_QuickReferenceGuide.pdf or call 1-855-635-4370.
- Types of assistance:
 - *Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program* (<http://www.dss.virginia.gov/benefit/tanf/index.cgi>). It is possible for the relative to apply for a Child Only TANF payment where only the child's or youth's income and

- resources are considered for eligibility. These benefits may be available until the child's or youth's 18th birthday. In addition, relatives who prevent foster care placements may be eligible for increased TANF assistance.
- Medical assistance through the Medicaid (http://dmasva.dmas.virginia.gov/Content_pgs/rcp-home.aspx) or FAMIS program for the eligible child or youth to receive support for medical, dental, and behavioral health expenses.
 - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
<https://www.dss.virginia.gov/benefit/snap.cgi> This program provides benefits to purchase food.

Early Intervention Services.

<http://www.infantva.org/documents/pr-ReferralGuide.pdf> or (800) 234-1448

- The Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia (<http://www.infantva.org/fam-SupportServices.htm>) provides early intervention supports and services to infants and toddlers from birth through age two who are not developing as expected or who have a medical condition that can delay normal development. Early intervention supports and services focus on increasing the child's or youth's participation in family and community activities that are important to the family. In addition, supports and services focus on helping you find ways to help the child or youth learn during everyday activities. These supports and services are available for all eligible children or youth and their families regardless of the family's ability to pay. To determine eligibility, the child's or youth's development is evaluated by at least two professionals from different professions or areas of development. When eligible, the family and professionals develop an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).

Community Services Boards (CSBs)

<https://vacsb.org/> or call 2-1-1 to locate your local CSB

- CSBs provide the point of entry for the publicly-funded mental health, intellectual disability and substance abuse services for the state. The CSB in your locality provides 24 hour screening and emergency services and referrals for follow-up care.

Children's Services Act (CSA)

<http://www.csa.virginia.gov/> or ask your service worker for your local CSA contact.

- This is a system of services and funding that is community based and family focused to assist in providing services to at risk children, youth, and their families. The FAPT is the local team established through the CSA that identifies the complement of services to meet the needs of the child or youth in their local community. If you have a need for additional services, let your LDSS service worker know. They can refer the child or youth to the FAPT.

Virginia Department of Rehabilitation Services.

(<https://www.vadars.org/>) or 800-552-5019

- This agency provides services for children and youth with significant disabilities to maximize their independence and inclusion in society. Services include vocational

rehabilitation, brain injury service coordination, community rehabilitation, case management services, independent living services, personal assistance services and procurement of assistive technology services, devices and equipment.