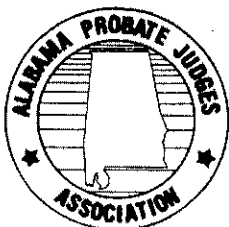


Kinship Guardian


Valencia Curry
Program Manager
Foster Care
DHR



Probate Training Conference
April 19-20, 2018
University of Alabama School of Law
Tuscaloosa, Alabama



Why Alabama Needs Kinship Guardianship



Probate Judges and Chief Clerks
Spring Conference
April 19, 2018

- Presented By: Valencia Curry, MS
- DHR Program Manager, Office of Foster Care

Kinship 101

Alabama and Tennessee were the only two Southern Region States that opted for Kinship Guardianship in 2008 when Congress passed the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act.

Alabama Legislature passed into law the "Alabama Kinship Guardianship Subsidy Act" effective Oct 1, 2010 Act No.2010-712

WHY WE DID IT

- > Address the placement needs of children in out of home care
- > Establish legal relationship for relatives and provide financial assistance for children who would otherwise remain in foster care
- > End DHR's legal custody status
- > Increase safety and stability with family
- > Ends responsibility for Court oversight

Why Kinship?

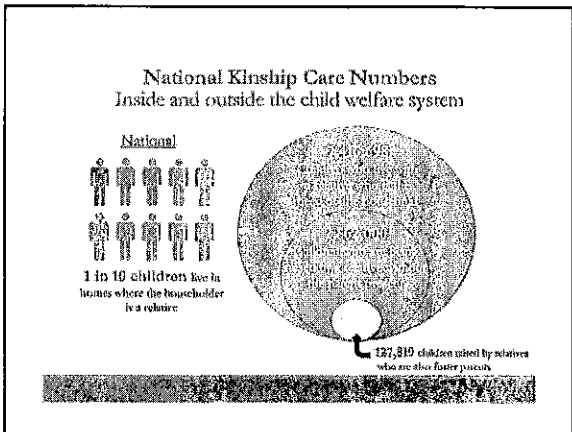
As of 3/31/18-- 6,280 Youth in Foster Care
Highest Board Payment ages 13-21 is \$561.30

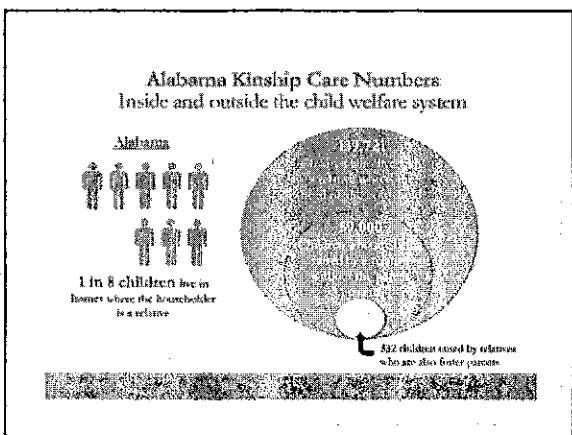
Foster Care and Group Care cost MORE!

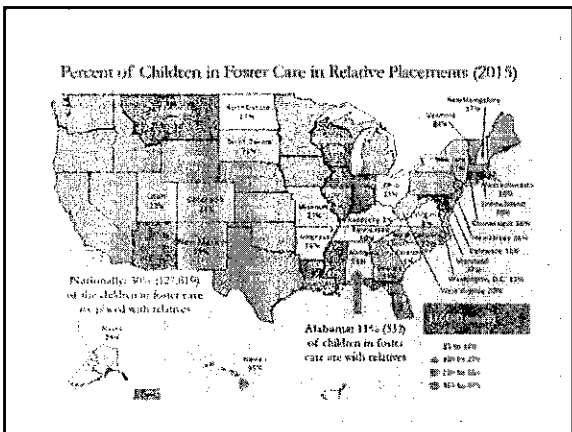
CHILDREN are safer and thrive in their own families and develop in the context of Relationships

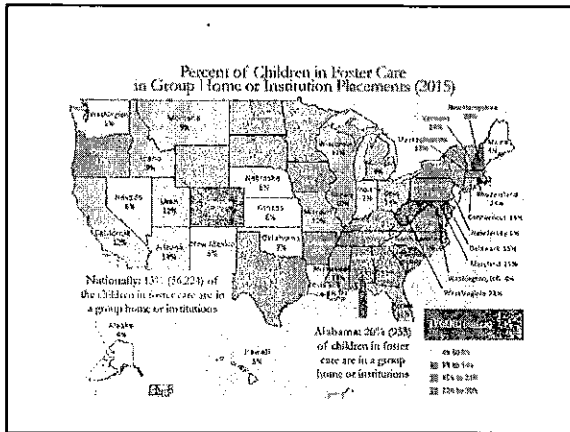
Relative care offers more stability

Children are able to maintain connections with their culture, heritage and family traditions









Must Haves for Kin

Appropriate degree of relationship-4th

ABI/Background Check-All family members 18 and older in Alabama and any other state they have resided past 5 years

C/AN Clearance

Complete Foster Parent Training (TIPS)
Trauma Informed Partnering For Safety and Permanence

Must meet foster home minimum standards

Placement & Permanency Plan must be Appropriate

DHR prerequisites for a Juvenile Court To Appoint a Kinship Guardian

- After the child has been placed in DHR's custody
- Children who are and are NOT IV-Eligible
- The ISP team finds (KG) is the most appropriate permanent plan and
- Kinship Guardianship subsidy Agreement is in place- County Director and Prospective KG only
- Court order permanency plan of (KG) is affirmed
- DHR files a written request for the appointment of a Kinship Guardian

New Legislation effective June 1, 2018. Eliminates the requirement that a KG may be appointed by a juvenile court only if a parent, legal guardian has consented in writing for custody or adoption.

How can Judges help? I'm glad you asked 😊

Make sure the reasonable efforts language is in the initial court order and all subsequent court orders.....

Contrary to Welfare/Best interest Must be in 1st Court Order
Make sure subsequent hearings are timely- without this (KG) is NOT an option

Require that relative resources forms be completed timely

Ask workers & Supervisors if Kinship is an appropriate option more than once

Other News You Can Use

Parents, Legal guardians or legal custodians retain the obligation to pay child support, and juvenile court judges may order this @

- Kinship Guardian Appointment does not limit or terminate a child's right to inheritance from a parent, legal guardian
- Kinship Guardian Appointment does not preclude a child from insurance derived from or between parent/legal guardian
- Juvenile Court appointment of Kinship Guardian ensures that the best interest of the child is being served
- Successor Legal Guardian preserves eligibility for Title IV-E subsidy payments in the event of the death or incapacity of the kinship guardian

Non- Recurring Expenses for (KG)

- Attorney Fees
- Court Cost
- Transportation Cost

DHR shall inform the prospective kinship guardian about reimbursement payment .

Expenses associated with obtaining (KG) will be paid by the Department to not exceed \$2,000

REIMBURSEMENT STEPS

- A written request made no later than 12 months from the date of the order
- Original paid receipts
- Itemized bill
- A copy of the Kinship Guardianship order

Homework Time!

- Ask 2 Social workers next week about possible Kinship Guardianship Cases that are in your court
- Ask 4 Social workers next week about possible relatives they have explored for a youth in your court.. GO BACK and ask that relative from 2 years ago...
- Ask 6 Youth in your court this month about relatives that could possibly be considered by DHR

No need for 8, doing all this YOU are GREAT!!!

