

*Need Assistance... Want to Help?*

Many relatives are caring for children whose parents are unable to. There are also children who may not have a qualified relative to accept guardianship. These children are placed with extended family members or non-relatives with pre-existing relationship with the child. The Probate Court strives to keep these children in their familiar neighborhoods with people they know.

Probate Court Social Services can provide assistance. Please contact us to find out more information.

**If this is your first exposure to these programs and have an interest, please answer the following question:**

Have you completed a guardian report?

If your answer is "no," please fill in the following information.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
ZipCode \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of child(ren) for whom you are appointed legal guardian:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer guardian please complete #1 and check  yes

PLEASE MAIL REPLY FORM TO:

NEW HAVEN PROBATE COURT  
KINSHIP/ RESPITE FUND  
P.O. BOX 905  
NEW HAVEN, CT 06504

Or bring the reply form to:

KINSHIP/ RESPITE FUND & PILOT  
PROJECT COURT SERVICE CENTER  
Probate Court Service Center  
200 Orange Street Suite 100  
New Haven, CT 06510  
PHONE: 203-946-6492

Please note that the intended use of the funds must be specified in the application and is subject to review and approval by the Probate Court.

HONORABLE CLIFTON E. GRAVES, JR.  
JUDGE OF PROBATE

PROBATE COURT OF NEW HAVEN  
200 ORANGE ST.  
NEW HAVEN, CT 06510

**PROBATE COURT  
SOCIAL SERVICES  
PROGRAMS**

**KINSHIP FUND, RESPITE FUND,  
AND EXTENDED FAMILY**



*“Saving Our Future  
One Child at a Time”*

## Kinship Fund

**Mission:** Provide financial assistance grants to grandparents, relatives and others appointed by the court for legal guardianship.

**Fund:** In 1998, the New Haven Probate Court established the first Kinship Fund known in the country to provide grants to qualified court appointed guardians. The kinship fund makes yearly grants of \$500 per child, and up to a maximum of \$2,000 per qualifying family.

In 2005, this program expanded to provide grants to guardians appointed by the Regional Children's Probate Court. Funds are now available for guardians state-wide through the Probate Courts and the Office of the Probate Court Administrator. Money for the grants is appropriated from the General Assembly to the Probate Courts for distribution to guardians.

**Grant Criteria:** The applicant must meet these criteria's:

1. Guardian appointed by the Probate Court or Superior Court
2. Qualify for a Fee Waiver or determined by the court to be in need
3. Intended use of funds must be specific
4. Applicant does not receive benefits offered by DCF
5. Provide an updated decree and annual guardian report.

### Acceptable uses for grants are:

- Health (eyeglasses, dental care, etc.)
- Enrichment (club or sport fees, school field trips, music appreciation, etc.)
- Development (clothing, photos, memorabilia, etc.)

## Respite Fund

**Mission:** Provide grants to grandparents, relatives and others who have been appointed as a child's guardian in the Probate Court.

**Fund:** The Respite Fund was established to provide caregivers, grandparents, and relative guardians a yearly financial award of up to \$1,000 per family, and a maximum of \$2,000 per family in a 12 month period in case of an emergency. As is the case with kinship fund, grants are made available through the Probate Courts

**Grant Criteria:** To be eligible to receive a Respite Grant, the applicant must meet these criteria:

1. Guardian appointed by the Probate Court or Superior Court
2. Qualify for a Fee Waiver or determined by the court to be in need
3. Intended use of funds must be specific
4. Applicant does not receive benefits offered by DCF
5. A Guardianship Report is filed each year

### Acceptable uses for grants are:

- Relief to the guardian (respite)
- Immediate housing needs (such as loss of residence)
- Loss of job or income
- Severe medical problems
- Other unexpected emergencies

## Extended Family Guardianship and Assisted Care Pilot Project

**Mission:** The Probate Court wishes to improve and expand the current Kinship and Respite Project, and offer programs and services to guardians appointed by the Probate Court. The objective is to keep children in homes within the community.

Extended Family members may include step relationships or non-relatives found by the court to have an existing personal relationship with the child or other connection through the community. The program is designed to provide outreach for extended family members as guardians, as well as seek volunteer assisted care providers to assist guardians in caring for these children.

**Fund:** Each guardian appointed by the Probate Court under this pilot program shall be eligible to receive a maximum award grant annually of \$1000 per child.

**Grant Criteria:** a grant may be awarded to a guardian who, at the time of the grant:

1. Qualified for a Fee Waiver, or
2. Is determined by the Probate Court to be in need

An applicant must submit the request in writing and meet all relevant guidelines as set out in applicable State regulations.