

This brochure is designed as a quick reference to provide some basic information about the Missouri Adoption and Legal Guardianship subsidy program. Please contact your local Children's Division office for more information.

See Missouri children available for adoption on the Internet at:

<http://dss.mo.gov/cd/adopt.htm>



AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

Services provided on a nondiscriminatory basis

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MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Children's Division

P.O. Box 88

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# MISSOURI CHILDREN'S DIVISION

## Adoption and Legal Guardianship

### SUBSIDY PROGRAM



## MISSOURI SUBSIDY PROGRAM

### The Goal of Adoption and Guardianship Subsidy

In accordance with the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997, the Children's Division believes every child has the right to a stable and permanent family. Adoption or guardianship by a qualified relative of the child or a qualified close nonrelated person is the desired outcome for children who cannot be reunified with their families. Subsidy services are available to support families adopting or obtaining guardianship of these children.

Qualified relatives are any grandparent, aunt, uncle, adult sibling of the child or adult first cousin of the child, or any other person related to the child by blood or affinity. A close nonrelated person is any nonrelated person whose life is so intermingled with the child such that the relationship is similar to a family relationship.

### Successor Legal Guardian: Planning a Future for Your Guardian Child

As the legal guardian, you will be responsible for the care and wellbeing of the child. Naming a successor guardian at the time of guardianship planning is a critical step to ensuring the child will have someone to care for them if you are unable due to an illness or other life-threatening event.

## What is Subsidy?

Subsidy is a collaborative agreement between the Children's Division and the adoptive or guardianship family to meet the needs of the child. Financial, medical, childcare and nonrecurring expenses are available to the family through subsidy. All subsidy agreements may continue until the child is age 18. In the case of adoption youth with a documented physical, dental or mental need approval may be given for services to continue to age 21 using an 18+ agreement.

## Child Eligibility

Children must be under the age of 18 and in the custody of the Children's Division, Division of Youth Services, Department of Mental Health, or a licensed child placing agency. Children in the custody of the Children's Division are automatically eligible for subsidy services. In the case of children in the custody of agencies other than the Children's Division other special needs requirements also apply as indicated in 13 CSR 40-38.

## Basic Subsidy Services

If the family adopting or obtaining guardianship of a child requests assistance, the following basic services are available:

**Monthly maintenance:** Monthly payments, which cannot exceed the rate, which would have been paid if the child had remained in out of home care.

**MO HealthNet:** Payment for medical, dental or mental health care may be obtained through the MO HealthNet program as the primary payment or as a supplement to the families' private medical or dental insurance plan when available.

**Child Care Payments for Children to Age 13:** Child care may be approved at the state contracted rate to age 13 when there is a valid need. Payment may only be made to licensed/contracted or registered providers

**Nonrecurring expenses:** Legal fees and expenses related to the child's placement.

Additional services may be available based on the individual needs of the child such as:

- ◆ Respite;
- ◆ Treatment services;
- ◆ Crisis intervention; and
- ◆ Rehabilitative services.

The Division cannot make payment for services that are a duplication of services provided by another resource and available to the family.