

## FINDING INFORMATION AND SUPPORT

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**NH Family Voices** - (800) 852-3345  
X 4525 or (603) 271-4525

Resources, information, referral to  
support groups, books and personal  
assistance understanding services.

### **Caregiver Program**

NH DHHS, Adult & Elderly Services  
(800) 352-1888 X 5554  
or (603) 271-5554

Information, referrals and programs  
to assist caregivers.

### **Service Link**

(866) 634-9412

Community resources and assistance  
with public services programs.

Having fun with your grandchild is  
important in lessening the stress and  
softening the burden everyone in the  
household may be experiencing.  
Playing and laughter on a child's or  
teenager's level can help us  
to remember what's important.



Humor is good for the soul,  
everybody's soul.



### **NH Family Voices**

A Family to Family Health  
Information and Education Center

29 Hazen Drive  
Concord, NH 03301  
Phone: (800) 852-3345 X 4525  
or (603) 271-4525

E-mail: [nhfv@yahoo.com](mailto:nhfv@yahoo.com)  
Web: [www.nhfv.org](http://www.nhfv.org)

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# Grandparents Raising Grandchildren with Special Needs



NH Family Voices  
1-800-852-3345 X 4525  
[www.nhfv.org](http://www.nhfv.org)

# Grandparents Raising Grandchildren with Special Needs

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**W**hen grandparents raise grandchildren, often called kinship care, it is for various reasons. As grandparents, we may not have the emotional or financial preparation to begin parenting again.

When a child has a special needs, be it developmental, emotional, physical, or medical, the challenge of finding and getting services to support you can be overwhelming.

This brochure is designed to help guide grandparents in their efforts to raise and care for their grandchild and to find the needed resources for the child as well as themselves.

## Places to Ask Questions

**Social Services:** Social workers, family resource centers, and Helplines can be very helpful in finding needed services in your area.

**Schools:** The school can be a great resource for determining needs and either providing services or referrals. Check with the school nurse and guidance professionals for community resources.

**Pediatrician/Family Doctor & Community Health Center:** Finding a good doctor for your grandchild who you have confidence in and can rely on for support is worth the search. Many Community Health Centers offer education and nutritional assistance.

## Programs to Check Out

**TANF:** Temporary Assistance for Needy Families - This program is available to low income families and may include cash assistance, daycare and NH Healthy Kids Medicaid for the child. If the household income is too high, the grandparent can still apply on behalf of the child. It is then based on the child's income. When applying, a grandparent must prove the grandparent/grandchild relationship through birth certificates.

**NH Healthy Kids Medicaid:** When children are not living with their parent/s, the caregiver can apply on behalf of the child and is based on the child's income.

**Social Security Benefits:** If the parent of your grandchild has died, you can submit an application for your grandchild to receive Social Security Benefits. "Survivor Benefits" are available to family members of certain deceased workers.

**Social Security Income:** SSI is a form of Social Security that allows certain children with disabilities to receive monthly payments.

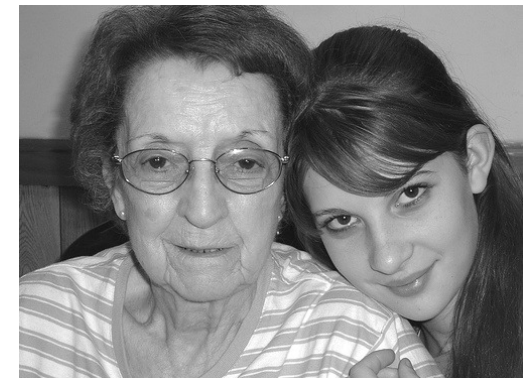
**Developmental Disability:** NH has a system of assistance and supports referred to as Area Agencies. To find the agency that serves your area of the state call: (800) 852-3345 X 5034 or (603) 271-5034.

**Mental Health:** Behavioral/mental health services are delivered through Community Mental Health Centers. For more information contact: Division of Behavioral Health Children's Administration at (800) 852-3345 X 5000 or (603) 271-5000.

## Legal Advice

Many grandparents find themselves in need of legal advice and assistance when it comes to decisions concerning their grandchild. Things like Power of Attorney, Medical Consent, Legal Custody, Guardianship, Adoption and Grandparents Rights come to mind. Below are a couple of places to start....

- NH Legal Assistance (603) 644-5393 (This is the Administration office, ask for the satellite office nearest you.)
- Legal Advice & Referral Center (LARC) (800) 639-5290 or (603) 224-3333
- Disability Rights Center (800) 834-1721 or (603) 228-0432



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