

Kinship Care: Parenting Your Children's Children in an Unsupportive System

1. Kinship care refers to_____.
2. The assessment described in this article was conducted by The Grand Boulevard Federation. What experience does The Grand Boulevard Federation have in offering services related to kinship care?
 - a) true
 - b) false
3. The number of participants included in The Grand Boulevard Federation's assessment was_____, and they were selected by_____.
4. A common belief among kinship caregivers is that you are often told to lie to get aid, but that in reality it's better not to lie, because you are able to get aid without lying.
 - a) true
 - b) false
5. One problem identified by participants in the assessment is:
 - a) it is not difficult to access available services through DHS or DCFS, but not enough services are available
 - b) kinship caregivers do not have any access to DHS or DCFS benefits and services
 - c) DHS and DCFS offer some services to kinship caregivers, but these are insufficient and difficult to access
 - d) making the process of obtaining legal guardianship easier
6. According to the authors, many argue that in kinship care siblings are:
 - a) more likely to be raised together
 - b) less likely to be raised together
 - c) often jealous of children who, in foster care, receive state benefits
 - d) likely to be neglected
7. A large number of children live in kinship care. According to one study cited in this article, in 2002 the number of children in the United States living in households headed by relatives other than their parents was:
 - a) 1 in 20
 - b) 2 in 7
 - c) 1 in 7
 - d) 1 in 12
8. The authors state that the overwhelming majority of children in kinship care are the victims of abuse or neglect.
 - a) true
 - b) false
9. The majority of children living in kinship care are not officially part of the foster care system, and live in households with inadequate financial resources.
 - a) true
 - b) false
10. Discuss the advantages of kinship care over the foster care system for children whose parents are unable to care for them (your answer should indicate at least three advantages):
11. In the interview with Mr. Reed, what were the two main suggestions he gave for improvement of services for kinship caregivers?
12. The assessment conducted by The Grand Boulevard Federation indicated that kinship caregivers think it is unjust that they receive any less aid than non-kinship foster parents receive to care for children involved in DCFS.
 - a) true
 - b) false

13. The kinship caregivers interviewed in this study struggle with many of the same issues, including remembering how to raise a child late in life, and relating to children and especially teenagers. The authors argue that facilitated support groups might aid with these issues by:
- allowing caregivers to support each other with pragmatic advice
 - allowing caregivers to draw strength from each other's struggles and victories
 - allowing service providers to bring in outside professionals to address certain parenting needs
 - a & b
 - all of the above
14. The authors suggest that these issues reflect principles underlying services provided by the State and that the State of Illinois has a choice. This choice is either to provide aid to children in great need, or to _____.
15. One of the suggestions given by the authors is to create a "fast track" application process for kinship caregivers to access DHS aid. Describe the provisions the authors include in the proposed "fast track" process. Include how the provisions will be enforced:
16. The length of time that the DHS application process takes is not an experience unique to kinship caregivers. Long waits are common for all applicants, as cuts in staffing have left some DHS caseworkers with caseloads of over 1,200.
- true
 - false
17. The financial burdens of kinship caregivers include:
- sometimes being excluded from DHS benefits by virtue of having an income, even if their income is very low
 - being forced to sell their homes and use retirement savings to unexpectedly support children of relatives
 - having to pay more money for larger housing/apartments to accommodate the children, as demanded by DCFS, even though they receive no aid to help them do this
 - all of the above
 - a & b
18. Many of the children in kinship care would otherwise be involved in the DCFS foster care system. A second suggestion given by the authors is that DCFS provide a monetary supplement to kinship caregivers. How do the authors propose to prevent families from abusing such a supplement? Why would this be effective in preventing abuse?
19. The authors suggest that the behavior problems experienced by many of the children in their assessment, including the children of Mr. Reed and Mrs. Taylor, are related to _____.
20. The third policy suggestion given by the authors, which is related to these children's behavior problems, is _____.