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# Kinship Service & Kinship Care



BRUCE GREY  
CHILD &  
FAMILY  
SERVICES



## Our Vision

Engaged and caring communities where children thrive in strong families.

## Our Mission

We are dedicated to the quality of life, safety and well-being of vulnerable children and youth, honouring diversity, culture and heritage.

We will achieve our mission through:

- **Quality Services:** early intervention, child protection, support to families and care services that are responsive, timely, consistent and equitable
- **Partnerships and Collaboration:** working with our partners to provide for the best results for children, youth and families
- **Advocacy:** on behalf of and for children, youth and families
- **Continuous Improvement:** on-going efforts to strengthen our knowledge, expertise and practice

## Our Values

Caring  
Respect  
Integrity

Collaboration  
Accountability

## What is Kinship?

When children cannot live safely with their parents, we believe that a family or community member who understands the history, community and/or culture of the child should be considered to give comfort and safety to those children.

## The Benefits:

- Children are more comfortable living with people they know, trust and have some connection to.
- The family's cultural and ethnic identity is supported.
- Children may be able to remain in their own community.
- A child's sense of belonging to a family is often enhanced.

**Kinship Service** allows a child welfare agency to provide services that ensure safety for a child, in circumstances where the child is not in the care of a children's aid society and remains within his/her family or community. Staff thoroughly screen and assess prospective caregivers to evaluate the capacity of the family or community member to care for the child in a safe home environment. Whenever possible, the assessment takes place before the child moves into the kinship home. It includes:

- completing criminal record and child welfare record checks on any person over the age of 18 living in the home;
- a personal interview with the proposed caregiver;
- a private interview with the child (depending on the child's age and developmental capacity; and
- a thorough assessment of the home environment.

**Kinship Care** is provided for children who are in the care of a child welfare agency and are placed with a member of their extended family or community. The standard for assessing and preparing prospective kinship care families is the same as for evaluating all foster or adoptive caregiver applicants.

