

*Grandparents  
Raising  
And  
Nurturing  
Dependent children*



Delaware's  
Resource Book for  
Grandparents and  
Relative Caregivers  
Raising Children



**DELAWARE HEALTH  
AND SOCIAL SERVICES**  
DIVISION OF SERVICES FOR AGING AND  
ADULTS WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES

# WITH GRATEFUL APPRECIATION

A special thank you to the Delaware Department of Public Instruction (DPI) for its financial contribution to the publication of **GRAND**, and also for its technical support. The collaboration of DPI in this project demonstrates its conviction to empower Delawareans with the information second-time-around parents need to provide for the future of the children in their care. **GRAND** would not have been possible without the assistance and cooperation of the Department of Public Instruction and the following:

American Association of Retired Persons

CHILD, Inc.

Children and Families First

Creative Grandparenting

Delaware Health & Social Services

Division of Public Health

Division of Social Services

Delaware Department of Public Instruction —

Student, Family and School Support

Improvement and Assistance Branch

New Castle County Head Start

Department of Services for Children, Youth, and their Families

Division of Family Services

Office of Child Care Licensing

The Family & Workplace Connection

Family Court of the State of Delaware

Grandparents and Relative Caregivers

Peoples' Place II



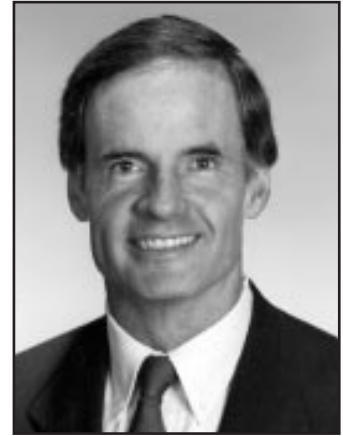
STATE OF DELAWARE  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

THOMAS R. CARPER  
GOVERNOR

May, 1997

Dear Friends:

As Governor, I have made strengthening Delaware's families one of my top priorities. Over the past few decades, the term "family" itself has grown to include a variety of definitions. One type of family that has grown at a rapid rate are those headed by grandparents or other relatives caring for children.



This new publication, **Grandparents Raising And Nurturing Dependent Children: Delaware's Resource Book for Grandparents and Relative Caregivers Raising Children** - will provide these caring adults with much-needed information on the resources and services available for the children. GRAND will also provide vital information concerning issues like child care, school registration requirements, and immunizations.

Delaware Health and Social Services' Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities and other state and private agencies have collaborated in creating this resource book. Grandparents and relative caregivers have also reviewed the information.

I am confident that you will find GRAND to be a useful tool as you face the unique and rewarding challenges of raising children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Carper".

Thomas R. Carper  
Governor

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# INTRODUCTION

The practice of grandparents and relatives caring for children is not new: Throughout our history, when adult parents died, grandparents and relatives stepped forward to raise the children. However, a new picture of this familiar arrangement is emerging. In the last decade the number of children living with grandparents and relatives has increased by 40%.<sup>1</sup>

Their numbers are dramatically rising because of substance abuse, incarceration, HIV/AIDS, mental illness, child abuse or neglect, or joblessness. Grandparents and relatives continue to take in these children, despite the considerable hardship it creates for some.

These second-time-around parents range in ages from 35 to in their 70s. Their average age across the United States is 55.<sup>2</sup> Who are they? Where do they come from? Sylvie Toledo, author of *Grandparents as Parents*, tells us “Grandparenting [raising children] is color-blind. It is also class-blind.” The tragedies devastating families respect no boundaries.

This resource book is intended to give these caregivers a starting point for identifying resources and how to access them. It is also meant to provide information useful for raising children that the caregiver may not have experienced for a long time, such as registering a child for school or keeping him up-to-date with his immunizations.

The contents page of GRAND lists where to find the general topics, emergency phone numbers, and definitions. Each section has a quick reference at the beginning to let you know which question addresses a particular concern. The index in the back of the book will allow you to find information on the same topic in the different sections, or to locate a particular agency or service.

For ease of reading we have used the term grandparents to include all relative caregivers. To be all-inclusive we have also alternated the use of he and she, child and children throughout.

Delaware Health and Social Services’ Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities’ intergenerational program, *Joining Generations*, coordinated the many agencies and services that contributed to GRAND. *Joining Generations*, the inspiration of Senator Myrna Bair and former Senator Margo Ewing Bane, works across service boundaries to bring various service providers together for the benefit of all ages.

1. *Grandparent Information Center: (handout)* Washington, DC: American Association of Retired Persons Grandparent Information Center.

2. Sylvie de Toledo, Deborah Edler Brown. “Grandparents as Parents: A Survival Guide for Raising a Second Family.” The Guilford Press. NY: 1995.

# EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

Call **911** for life-threatening emergencies

## 24 HOUR MOBILE CRISIS SERVICES

<b>New Castle County</b> (North of the C&D Canal)	<b>633-5128</b>	
<b>New Castle County</b> (South of the C&D Canal)	<b>1-800-969-4357</b>	<b>TTY 424-2033</b>
<b>Kent County and Sussex County</b>	<b>424-4357</b> <b>1-800-969-4357</b>	<b>TTY 424-2033</b>

If a **child or adolescent** is experiencing an emotional problem and is showing behavior which put him at serious and immediate risk of injury to self or others, the Division of Child Mental Health Services Crisis Service Team can provide assistance.

In physically violent, potentially dangerous situations, call the police first. The Crisis Service Team will work with the client, family and police once the situation has been secured.

If the child/adolescent is injured, deal with it as you would any other medical emergency. The Crisis Service Team will meet the client and family at the hospital emergency room if requested.

The Crisis Service Team may authorize emergency psychiatric hospitalization after regular working hours.

\*\*\*\*\*

## CRISIS INTERVENTION SERVICE

New Castle County	<b>577-2484</b> <b>1-800-652-2929</b>
Kent/Sussex Counties	<b>1-800-345-6785</b>

**Deals mainly with people 18 and older.** Call here if someone is **suicidal** or needs help. They can arrange psychiatric assessment in the community or in their offices. There is a very small residential program for cases in which the person is able to agree not to harm himself. He can stay at the facility for 3 to 5 days until outpatient treatment is arranged and his condition is stable.

## CONTACT - Delaware

New Castle County **761-9100**  
Kent County and Sussex County **1-800-652-2929**  
Statewide **TTY (302) 761-9700**

A 24 hour help line for information and referral, crisis intervention, and to listen. Handles **rape crisis, sexual assault, and sexual harassment**. Can also provide in-school counseling on rape and sexual assault and harassment throughout the state.

\*\*\*\*\*

## CRISIS HELPLINE

New Castle County **996-5444**  
Kent County **674-1112**  
Sussex County **856-1737**

Delawareans United to Prevent Child Abuse - a 24 hour help line for people needing assistance dealing with **children**. Will also offer referral information.

\*\*\*\*\*

## POISON INFORMATION CENTER

**1-800-722-7112**

This hotline is available 24 hours a day. Health care professionals will recommend what you should do or tell you where you can go to get help. Be ready to supply the **age** and **weight** of the child, **time** the poison was taken, and the name of the **product or medicine**. Have the product at the phone with you when you call.

\*\*\*\*\*

## RUNAWAY HOTLINE FOR CHILDREN

**(302) 654-0808**

**24 Hour Hotline 1-800-621-4000**

Call the Runaway Hotline when your grandchild is missing. You will be asked questions that may help you to locate the child. The Hotline can also be used by missing children to contact you to let you know they are safe.

\*\*\*\*\*

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT REPORT LINE

**24 Hour Hotline Statewide 1-800-292-9582**

Call this number to report suspected physical or mental abuse or neglect. You will receive information and referral information. If the suspected abuse or neglect is severe, the Division of Family Services will investigate.

# OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS

DELAWARE HelpLine

**1-800-464-4357 (8 AM - 5 PM)**  
**TTY 1-800-464-4357**

HelpLine can give you information about which state agency to call for a particular service. Their database has information about human service agencies in Delaware.

\*\*\*\*\*

HIV/AIDS HOTLINE

**1-800-422-0429 (9 AM - 9 PM)**

An information and referral service for people who are HIV positive and their families.

\*\*\*\*\*

COCAINE HOTLINE

**1-800-262-2463 24 Hour Service**

A national substance abuse information and referral service, handling drug abuse calls for **all drugs**. Callers will receive information and referral phone numbers for treatment centers, support groups, and crisis centers nationwide.

\*\*\*\*\*

YMCA RESOURCE CENTERS OF DELAWARE

<b>New Castle County</b>	<b>571-6975</b>
<b>Kent County</b>	<b>739-3698</b>
<b>Sussex County</b>	<b>856-4105</b>

Call the Resource Center in your county for information and referral on **drug and alcohol abuse** problems.

\*\*\*\*\*

WARM LINE — CHILD, INC.

<b>New Castle County</b>	<b>762-8938</b>
<b>Kent and Sussex Counties</b>	<b>1-800-874-2070</b>

Confidential telephone support, information and referral on non-medical issues concerning children.



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# CHILD CARE

In today's world, many grandparents are still in the work force. When a grandchild comes to live with them, one of the first concerns is who will take care of the child.

Fortunately there are a wide variety of child care options available, but finding the right care for your grandchild is not always easy.

- Allow plenty of time to make phone calls, check vacancies and visit with prospective providers. (One week minimum)
- Interview at least three different providers, if at all possible, so you can make an informed decision.
- Look for programs where the groups of children are kept small.
- Look for providers who have had child care training, seem knowledgeable about what they are doing, and who display warmth and caring towards children.
- Look for providers who seem responsive to your needs as a grandparent.
- Look for programs that are based on play rather than academics and ones where children have choices. Toys should encourage make-believe play and creativity.
- Look for environments that are safe and healthy and where nutritious food is served.

Keep in mind that you are the one who is in the best position to judge what is best for your grandchild and where your grandchild will feel most comfortable and secure. If you like, you can call the Office of Child Care Licensing to verify that a particular center or family provider is licensed. Call 1-800-822-2236.

## 1. What different types of child care programs are there?

There are a variety of options available in child care. All child care centers in Delaware must meet certain regulations as required by the Office of Child Care Licensing, which operates in the Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth, and their Families.

### **Child Care Providers can be:**

**Day Care Centers** which provide care, education, protection, supervision and guidance for twelve or more children. They must be licensed.

**Family Child Care Homes** which provide care, education, protection, supervision and guidance in private homes for one to six children. Their own children, grandchildren, nieces or nephews are included in those six. Like Centers, they are required by law to obtain a license, even if they only care for one non-related child. If they are only caring for their own children, grandchildren, nieces or nephews, they are not required to become licensed.

**Large Family Child Care Homes** are similar to Day Care Centers and must be licensed. They may be licensed to care for up to twelve children as long as two qualified adult caregivers are in attendance.

**In-Home Care** involves hiring someone to come into your home to care for your children. It is very convenient, but is one of the most expensive forms of child care. There are no state licensing regulations that apply here. You can locate “Nanny Services” in the yellow pages of your phone book.

2. How can I find out which child care centers and family child care providers are in my area?

To obtain names and phone numbers of child care centers and family child care providers in your area call The Family & Workplace Connection:

New Castle County (302) 479-1660

Kent & Sussex Counties 1-800-660-6602

3. I work and need care for my grandchild before and after school. What sort of programs are there at those times?

Before and after school care programs are specifically arranged for children ages 5 through 12 years. There are a wide variety of programs available that may or may not include school holidays, snow days, or the summer months. Some of the agencies that sponsor these programs are churches, YW/YMCAs, school districts, and youth clubs. This care is also available in many child care centers and family child care homes.

You can call area churches, the YW/YMCA, your local school district, or The Family & Workplace Connection for names and phone numbers of programs in your area. You will find the phone numbers for your local school district in the Education section, question 5.

4. I would like my grandchild to attend a summer camp program. How can I locate one?

Many child-oriented agencies arrange summer programs for school age children that involve recreational and special interest programs. These might be operated on a part-day basis or full-day to accommodate children who need all-day supervision. Some camps are also set up for children with special needs. The *News Journal* lists summer camps once a year. You can also call The Family & Workplace Connection.

5. I work shift work and need child care after 5 PM. Are there any child care centers available at night?

Some child care centers and many family child care homes offer evening and overnight care. The Office of Child Care Licensing requires some specific regulations for this type of care in order to keep children safe and healthy. Call The Family & Workplace Connection for information.

6. I work on weekends. Where can I find child care?

Weekend care is available in some family child care homes and child care centers. To obtain names of providers in your area who care for children on weekends, call The Family & Workplace Connection.

7. I am able to care for my grandchild myself, but sometimes I need to go to the doctor or somewhere it would not be appropriate to take him. Other than family or friends, are there any child care choices in this situation?

Some child care centers and family child care providers offer care for a short period of time or on an occasional basis if they have the room. There are some programs specifically set up for this type of care, often called “drop-in” care or “mother’s day out.” Contact The Family & Workplace Connection in order to get names of providers in your area. Their phone numbers are listed in question 2.

8. What if my grandchild becomes ill? I can’t take off from work. Is there child care available for sick children?

Children who are mildly ill or are recuperating from a long illness or accident may obtain care in a special program established to help meet their medical needs. These programs are licensed by the State of Delaware and include ongoing consultation with the medical community. Children with highly contagious conditions, such as chicken pox or diarrhea, are not permitted in a group setting. St. Francis Hospital Care-A-Lot Program in Wilmington offers such services. The phone number is (302) 421-4485.

9. Are there any health care professionals who can care for my sick grandchild in my home when I cannot take the time off from work to be there?

The following agencies will send trained staff into your home to care for a mildly ill child. Be sure to check daily rates before engaging this service, since this is one of the most expensive forms of child care.

**Visiting Nurse Association - Sniffles & Sneezes**

**New Castle County (302) 323-8200**

**Kent County (302) 674-7710**

**Sussex County (302) 855-9700**

**Interim Health Care**

**New Castle County (302) 995-6696**

**Kent & Sussex Counties (302) 734-3131**

10. Is there any place my grandchildren can stay temporarily if I have a personal crisis?

H.O.P.E. HOMES (Healthy Option for Parents on the Edge) is available to parents and caretakers when a family is facing a difficult short-term problem and when “time out” from parental responsibilities can be of help. Some of the reasons for requesting these services are medical emergencies such as hospitalization, financial difficulties or housing problems such as eviction.

Services are available without regard to income. This program serves children up to 12 years of age, at no cost to the parent or caregiver, for up to 30 days per year.

For more information or to make a referral contact:

**Children & Families First:**

**New Castle County** (302) 658-5177

**Kent & Sussex Counties** (302) 422-8013

11. My grandchild has a disability that requires special care. How do child care providers deal with children with disabilities?

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 states that child care providers must serve children with disabilities unless it would place an undue burden on their program or seriously change the nature of the program. Children with HIV are considered as having a disability and not an infectious disease. More and more providers are accepting children with special needs as they find that some of the medical conditions are not that difficult to accommodate. However, with a medically fragile child or one with a severe emotional problem, it might be best to contact some of the agencies below for further help in locating child care.

**Parent Information Center** (302) 366-0152  
(TTY) 366-0178

**Nurses & Kids**  
**New Castle County** (302) 323-1118  
**Kent & Sussex Counties - Milford** (302) 424-4467

**Easter Seals**  
**Kent County - Tech Learning Center** (302) 736-6183  
**Sussex County - PACTT** (302) 856-3490

**The Wishing Well - Dover** (302) 734-3200  
1-800-290-2800

12. Sometimes I need a break caring for my special needs child. Are there any programs that can help?

It is important for you to recognize that you need to have a break in order to do your best. For some families who have a child with a special need, it can become necessary to find child care for a period of several days or over a weekend. This is known as respite care. For more information on this call:

**Division of Mental Retardation**

**New Castle County** (302) 577-4950, extension #234

**Kent & Sussex Counties** (302) 934-8031, extension #336

**Special Care**

**New Castle County (302) 738-9206**

**United Cerebral Palsy**

**New Castle County (302) 674-2400**

**Kent & Sussex Counties (302) 335-5626**

13. I would like for my preschool grandchild to have some educational opportunities. Where can I find out about these types of programs?

Preschools or nursery schools offer children ages 3 - 5 educational, social and developmental activities usually three to four hours a day, two to five days a week. These programs cannot function as child care, since most families need longer hours available to fit their work schedule. Many child care centers do offer preschool type programs within their curriculum of all day care. Many times churches will sponsor or house a preschool program.

For more information on preschools call The Family & Workplace Connection. The phone numbers are listed in question 2.

14. I cannot afford to send my grandchild to preschool. What about Head Start?

Head Start is a federally supported program for children ages 3 to 5 who come from low- income families. It is set up as a part day program, but some sites offer full day care for those families who work. For more information look in the Education section of this directory, question 1.

15. I can't afford to pay the cost of child care. Is there some way I can get financial assistance?

Some families might qualify for financial assistance (known as Purchase of Care) to help pay for child care if their income level and family size meet certain criteria. To be eligible you will need to show that you need child care and cannot pay for part or all of it. Children may be considered eligible because of special needs of the child such as developmental delays, chronic illnesses, mental or physical handicaps, or if the family is active with the Division of Family Services (Child Protective Services).

Not all child care providers participate in the Purchase of Care program because it pays only a percentage of the full rate. For more information and to see if you qualify call:

**New Castle County**

**Social Services - 4th Street (302) 577-3649**

**Northeast State Service Center - Wilmington (302) 577-3233**

**Hudson State Service Center - Newark (302) 368-6770**

**Kent County**

**Carroll Plaza - Dover (302) 739-6920**

**Sussex County**

**Georgetown State Service Center (302) 856-5569**

16. Is there any way my employer can help with the expense of child care?

Some companies offer dependent care (child care) as part of their Flex Benefit Plan. This is part of your salary set aside by your employer and reimbursed to you as your dependent care expenses occur. The portion set aside is pre-tax dollars. Check with your employer to see if you have a Flex Benefit Plan.

17. Child care is very expensive. Can I claim a tax credit on my federal and state taxes?

You may be eligible for a Child and Dependent Care Credit if you have child care expenses for one or more children under age 13 who live with you. Families of all income levels are eligible. The higher your child care expenses and the lower the amount of your income, the larger your credit. For more information call the Internal Revenue Service at 1-800-829-1040.

18. My granddaughter is expecting a baby. What programs can she participate in to continue her education while carrying her baby?

Pregnant teens and teen parents can get educational help, counseling, and child care through the Delaware Adolescent Program, Inc. Look in the Health section, question 15 for phone numbers.

MOM's House in Wilmington and Dover offers daycare, parent education, and support services for single parents who are going to school and cannot afford day care.

<b>Wilmington</b>	<b>(302) 658-3433</b>
<b>Dover</b>	<b>(302) 678-8688</b>

# COUNSELING INDEX

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# COUNSELING

Children and young people who come to live with grandparents may be handling a great deal of anxiety and stress. They may feel they are unwanted or that they are the reason for the disruption in their family's life. They may have been exposed to drug and alcohol abuse, HIV/AIDS, or the imprisonment or death of a parent. As a grandparent you are also dealing with your feelings about your adult child, the parent of your grandchild.

Sometimes these situations require quick and immediate attention for the safety and well-being of all involved. The **EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS** section in the beginning of this book will give you a quick list of phone numbers to call. The information in this section will provide you with some of the places you can call for counseling help or support groups for your grandchild and yourself.

## 1. What are some of the signs that counseling may be needed?

Some indications that counseling may be needed are:

- Sudden changes in mood or behavior
- Depression - feeling unhappy for a long time
- Anxiety - strong feelings of fear or nervousness
- Losing temper over small things
- Physical aches and pains that have no real physical cause
- Dropping grades

## 2. My grandchild is very young. Do young children need counseling?

Many adults feel that young children don't know what conditions such as depression and anxiety are, so they don't experience it. Even though youngsters may not be able to explain a mental health term, they can and do experience it. Check over the list of signs that may indicate a problem in the previous question. Remember to keep the child's age in mind.

## 3. How can I find the right counseling service for my situation?

You can begin by checking the counseling/mental health services at the end of this section. Another good resource is the Counseling section in the yellow pages of your phone book. An agency that offers assessment and consultation will be able to examine the child, tell you what they think the problem is, and recommend where you can take her to receive treatment. They will also recommend individual, family, or group therapy, whichever fits your situation.

## 4. What are some questions I can ask a mental health professional to determine if they can help in my situation?

Finding the right mental health professional may take several tries. The mental well-being of your grandchild and yourself is important. Here are some questions you can ask:

- What are your qualifications, experience and training?
- What kind of license do you have?

- What is your fee and can you adjust it based on my income?
- Is there a charge for an initial consultation?
- What type of therapy do you use?
- What hours are available for appointments?
- How long must I wait for an appointment?
- What experience do you have in treating my problem?
- How long are therapy sessions?
- How often will appointments be scheduled?
- How can you be reached in an emergency?
- How will my insurance billings and co-payments be handled? When and how do I pay?
- Who will see my records? How confidential is therapy?
- What treatment approach will you take?
- How long will I or my grandchild be in therapy?
- Will you be available by phone outside of appointments?
- Will we set goals for treatment?
- If you feel you are unable to treat my problem, will you make an appropriate referral?

## 5. What are the different types of mental health professionals?

Mental health professionals can be psychiatrists, psychologists, licensed clinical social workers, licensed professional counselors of mental health, certified mental health counselors, psychiatric nurses, marriage and family therapists, or pastoral counselors. You can find the definitions for these different professionals in the Glossary at the back of this book.

## 6. What are support groups?

Self-help or support groups are regularly scheduled meetings of people who share a similar problem. There may or may not be a mental health professional directing the group. Self-help or support groups are meant to add to professional counseling, not replace it.

You will find support groups in this section after the counseling and mental health services listing.

## 7. What does the school counselor do?

School counselors provide educational direction, counseling, and short-term problem intervention for children while they are in school. They assist students with personal and social development, academic development, and career/life planning. At times they work with other school officials, students, and the adult responsible for them in resolving the individual's problems.

If a student needs more long-term help, the school counselor will refer him to the appropriate agency.

Most public schools have crisis teams to respond when serious situations occur. The crisis team usually consists of the counselor, nurse, administrator, key teachers, and when possible, the school psychologist.

#### 8. What are family crisis therapists?

The Department of Public Instruction and the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families (DSCYF) have family crisis therapists in a number of schools in Delaware. These professionals are employed by DSCYF but work in the school setting with a small number of children. Their role is to help children overcome problems that interfere with their learning. They help families access services provided by DSCYF and other community agencies. The therapists also serve as a link among the family, school, and the community. At this time there are 14 family crisis therapists serving 16 schools.

# COUNSELING/MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

AGENCY	AGE GROUP	SERVICES	INDIVIDUAL THERAPY	FAMILY THERAPY	GROUP THERAPY	SPECIALTY SERVICES
<b>Aid in Dover, Inc.</b> (302) 734-7714 (KC) (302) 855-9026 (SC)	10 - 18		x	x	x	Emergency shelter for abused/neglected runaway children
<b>Alliance for Mental Illness in Delaware (AMID)</b> (302) 427-0787	All *	Assessment & consultation Outpatient	x	x		Housing, advocacy, support services/ education for those with mental illness
<b>ABR Counseling Assoc.</b> (302) 697-1701 (KC) (302) 436-5868 (SC)	16+	Assessment & consultation Outpatient	x	x (also couples)		Alcohol/Drug Abuse
<b>Aquila</b> (302) 999-1106 (NCC) (302) 856-9746 (SC)	10 - 18	Assessment Outpatient	x	x	x	Alcohol/Drug Abuse Day treatment
<b>Brandywine Counseling</b> (302) 656-2348 (NCC)	11 & older	Outpatient	x	x	x	Drug and alcohol AIDS prevention
<b>Catholic Charities</b> (302) 655-9624 (NCC) (302) 674-1600 (KC) (302) 856-9578 (SC)	All	Assessment & consultation Outpatient Residential - NCC	x	x	x	Medication monitoring Adoption/foster care Residential group homes Crisis intervention Drug & alcohol treatment Domestic violence prevention AIDS counseling
<b>CHILD , Inc.</b> * (302) 762-8989 (NCC) (302) 697-0411 (KC) (302) 424-1190 (SC) 1-800-874-2070	All	Residential	x	x	x	Pregnant/Parenting Teen Domestic violence counseling and shelter Emergency shelter for abused, neglected, runaway children

\* Services available statewide

# COUNSELING/MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

AGENCY	AGE GROUP	SERVICES	INDIVIDUAL THERAPY	FAMILY THERAPY	GROUP THERAPY	SPECIALTY SERVICES
<b>Children &amp; Families First</b> (302) 658-5177 (NCC) (302) 674-8384 (KC) (302) 628-2011 (SC)	All	Assessment & consultation Outpatient Homebased	x	x	x	Respite Alcohol & drug abuse Child abuse/neglect General counseling
<b>Chrysalis</b> (302) 678-8191 (KC)	11 & up	Assessment & consultation Outpatient Homebased	x	x	x	Addictions treatment
<b>Crossroads</b> (302) 652-1405 (NCC)	14-18	Assessment & consultation Outpatient	x	x	x	Partial day, after-school programs Alcohol/drug abuse
<b>Delaware Day Treatment Center for Young Children</b> (302) 674-8211 (Dover)	3 - 6	Assessment & consultation Homebased	x	x		Parent group meetings, family & social recreational activities, speech therapy, support meetings for parents & education (skill building) intense day treatment center
<b>Delaware Family Center</b> (302) 995-9600 (NCC)	2 & up	Assessment & consultation Outpatient	x	x	x	Psychological & psychiatric evaluation/alcohol & drug abuse treatment PACE Inc. alcohol & drug rehabilitation
<b>DE Guidance Services for Children &amp; Youth</b> (302) 652-3948 (NCC) (302) 678-3020 (KC) (302) 645-5338 (SC)	3 - 18	Assessment & consultation Psychologically & psychiatric evaluation Day treatment Outpatient	x	x	x	Depression, suicidality in children & teens, divorce, illness, death, learning problems, school-related problems, sexual & physical abuse, behavioral problems, eating disorders, ADD, parent education

\* Services available statewide

# COUNSELING/MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

AGENCY	AGE GROUP	SERVICES	INDIVIDUAL THERAPY	FAMILY THERAPY	GROUP THERAPY	SPECIALTY SERVICES
<b>DE Health &amp; Social Services Division of Public Health</b> (302) 995-8653 (NCC) (302) 739-5376 (KC) (800) 752-9393 (KC & SC)	Birth to 5	Assessment & consultation Homebased	x			Psychological services regarding parenting, early intervention, behavioral evaluations
<b>Division of Child Mental Health Services</b> (302) 577-4270 (NCC) (302) 674-8211 (KC) (302) 422-8013 (SC) (302) 739-3712 *	Birth to 13	Assessment & consultation Outpatient Inpatient Day treatment Crisis intervention Inpatient Hospitalization	x	x	x	Residential services Substance abuse
<b>duPont Hospital for Children Psychiatry Program</b> (302) 651-4500 (NCC)	Children Adolescents	Assessment & consultation Outpatient	x	x	x	ADD/ADHD Mood, anxiety, impulse disorders
<b>duPont Hospital for Children - Psychology</b> (302) 651-4510 (NCC)	1 - 17	Assessment & consultation Outpatient	x	x	x	Diabetes Asthma ADHD Gastrointestinal Weight management
<b>Eugenia Counseling Center</b> (302) 368-1100 *	3 years and older	Consultation	x		x	Children with all types of psychological concerns
<b>Jewish Family Services</b> (302) 478-9411 (NCC)	Some children, mostly adults	Counseling	x	x		Services to the aging

\* Services available statewide

# COUNSELING/MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

AGENCY	AGE GROUP	SERVICES	INDIVIDUAL THERAPY	FAMILY THERAPY	GROUP THERAPY	SPECIALTY SERVICES
<b>Latin American Community Center</b> (302) 655-7338 (NCC)	All	Counseling referral	x	x	x	Bi-lingual and bi-cultural
<b>Multiple Sclerosis Society</b> (302) 655-5610 (NCC) (302) 645-1844 (KC & SC) (800) 640-1001	All	Counseling	x	x		Support groups
<b>Newark Family Counseling Center</b> (302) 368-6895 (NCC)	All	Assessment counseling	x	x	x	Substance abuse/ smoking Hypnosis Weight
<b>Open Door, Inc.</b> (302) 798-9555 (NCC)	All	Assessment & consultation Outpatient	x	x	x	Alcohol & drug abuse Chemical imbalance Co-dependency
<b>Pace, Inc.</b> (302) 234-2211 *	18+	Assessment & consultation Outpatient	x	x	x	Intensive mental health Substance abuse
<b>Parents of Children with Disabilities</b> (302) 856-7364 (SC)	All	Outpatient	x		x	Physical Occupational Speech therapy
<b>Parent Self-Help Group for Children with Epilepsy</b> (302) 324-4455 (NCC)	All	Education Information Referral & support	x	x	x	Educate general public Support for people with epilepsy

\* Services available statewide

## COUNSELING/MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

AGENCY	AGE GROUP	SERVICES	INDIVIDUAL THERAPY	FAMILY THERAPY	GROUP THERAPY	SPECIALTY SERVICES
<b>People's Place II</b> <b>(302) 422-8011</b> (KC & SC)	All	Assessment & consultation Residential Outpatient	x	x	x	Medication monitoring Outpatient drug & alcohol Sexual abuse/incest survivors, Bereavement, parent/child conflict, emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence and homeless residential/Counseling for veterans, Occupational training
<b>Pike Creek Psychological Center</b> <b>(302) 738-6859</b> (NCC)	All	Assessment & consultation Outpatient	x	x	x	Christian counseling Marital Domestic abuse ADD/ADHD
<b>Psychotherapeutic Children Services</b> <b>(302) 736-5314</b> *	All	Assessment & consultation Psychiatric evaluation	x	x	x	Medication monitoring ADD/ADHD Drug and alcohol abuse
<b>Terry Center Psychiatric Center</b> <b>(302) 577-4270</b> *	12-18	Outpatient Residential Community Consultation	x	x	x	Art, music, occupational therapy, special education
<b>Tressler Centers of DE</b> <b>(302) 995-2294</b> (NCC)	5-12	Outpatient	x	x	x	Certified alcohol & drug counseling

\* Services available statewide



# SUPPORT GROUPS/SUPPORT SERVICES

## ADD NETWORK FOR YOUNG ADULTS

**Hockessin Area (302) 234-0208**

Offers support, advocacy, information, and a support group for young adults 16 and older. Parent group meets at the same time.

## ADOPTIVE FAMILIES WITH INFORMATION

**Statewide (302) 239-6232**

Support group for families at all stages of adoption.

## ALLIANCE FOR MENTAL ILLNESS IN DELAWARE

**Statewide (302) 427-0787**

Support groups for youth and their families.

## AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION

**Statewide (302) 655-7258 (800) 586-4872**

Helps children acquire self-care skills through structured play. Sessions for parents increase their understanding of asthma and use of self-care skills.

## AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR DEAF CHILDREN

**Statewide (302) 731-4879 (302) 999-7365**

One-on-one support for parents of children with hearing impairments

## APPOQUINIMINK SPECIAL EDUCATION SUPPORT GROUP

**Appoquinimink School District (302) 378-4574 (302) 653-6375**

Support group for parents of children in the Appoquinimink school district's special education programs.

## AUTISM ASSOCIATION OF DELAWARE

**Statewide (302) 366-0152 (302) 478-8327**

Support and information for parents of children with autism.

## BEREAVED PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP

**Statewide (302) 733-1280**

A support group for parents who have experienced the death of a newborn child.

## BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF DELAWARE

**Statewide (800) 411-0505**

Advocacy, support groups, education, and social events for those who have experienced traumatic head injury and their families.

## CH.A.D.D. - CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH ATTENTION DEFICIT DISORDER

**BRANDYWINE CHAPTER (302) 478-3933**

Support, information, and advocacy for children and adults with ADD/ADHD.

## CH.A.D.D. - CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH ATTENTION DEFICIT DISORDER

**NEWARK CHAPTER (302) 737-6063**

Monthly support meetings for children and adults with ADD/ADHD.

## COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

**Statewide (302) 594-7370 (302) 426-0754**

Support group for parents and siblings when a child in the family dies.

## COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL (gifted) CHILDREN-DELAWARE FEDERATION

**Statewide (302) 684-8516**

Advocacy and support to parents and professionals in the education of exceptional (gifted) persons.

## DELAWARE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY RESOURCE CENTER

**Statewide**

**(302) 328-2872**

**TTY (302) 328-2905**

**New Castle County**

**(302) 739-6885**

**TTY (302) 739-6886**

**Kent County**

**(302) 856-7946**

**TTY (302) 856-6714**

**Sussex County**

Centers are open to the public and house assistive technology devices and materials that are available for demonstration and short-term loan. Staff can also assist in locating assistive technology devices.

## DELAWARE ASSOCIATION FOR GIFTED - TAG

**Statewide (302) 739-4667**

A support group for parents of gifted and talented children.

## DELAWARE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

**Statewide (302) 655-2111 (302) 654-1376**

Social and recreation services, peer support service, and summer day camp for children ages up to 14.

## DELAWARE ASSOCIATION FOR THE DEAF-BLIND

**New Castle County (302) 999-7365**

Parent support group.

## DELAWARE EPILEPSY FOUNDATION

**(302) 324-4455**

**New Castle County**

**(302) 856-3288**

**Kent County**

Support group for children who have epilepsy and their parents.

## DELAWARE CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR DEAF CHILDREN

**New Castle County (302) 731-4879 (Voice/TTY)**

Offers parent-to-parent support.

## DELAWARE LEARNING RESOURCE CENTERS

### Statewide

**(302) 831-8141**                      **New Castle County**

**(302) 672-1958, 59**                **Kent County**

**(302) 855-1649**                      **Sussex County**

Provides educational material and services to help educate children, including those with special needs.

## DELAWAREANS UNITED TO PREVENT CHILD ABUSE

### Statewide

**(302) 654-1102**                      **New Castle County**

**(302) 674-1112**                      **Kent County**

**(302) 856-1737**                      **Sussex County**

Self-help groups for parents and children under stress or involved in abuse and neglect

## DOWN SYNDROME ASSOCIATION

**Statewide**                              **(302) 762-4747**                              **(302) 996-9400**

Experienced parents give support and information.

## EASTER SEAL SOCIETY OF DEL-MAR, INC.

### Statewide

**(302) 324-4444**                      **New Castle County**

**(302) 736-6183**                      **Kent County**

**(302) 856-7364**                      **Sussex County**

Support groups for parents and children with disabilities. Peer counseling and vocational training for adults with physical and cognitive disabilities. Education regarding sign language, augmented communication, physical care, sensory impairment, and learning disabilities.

## FAMILY FORUM

**Statewide**      **Child Development Watch**

**(302) 577-4556**                      **New Castle County**

**1-800-752-9393**                      **Kent and Sussex Counties**

Support group for families of children ages birth through 5 with developmental delays and disabilities.

## FIRST STATE MOTHERS OF MULTIPLES

**New Castle County**                      **(302) 368-9691**

A support group for mothers of twins, triplets, etc.

## GRANDMAS

**Wilmington**                              **(302) 656-3029**

Support group for grandparents raising grandchildren

## GRANDPARENTS CARING FOR GRANDCHILDREN

**New Castle County**                      **(302) 654-5303**

Conducted by Children & Families First, this support/information group is for grandparents to comply with parenting classes required for certain state financial assistance.

## JUVENILE DIABETES FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL

**Statewide (302) 633-3350**

Offers support to juvenile diabetics and their families.

## MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF DELAWARE

**Not all services available statewide. (302) 656-8308 (800) 287-6423**

Education, support, and advocacy for and about persons with mental health concerns. Various support groups for depression, anxiety disorders, survivors of suicide, and dual diagnoses.

## MOMS CLUB OF BEAR/NEWARK

**Bear/Newark (302) 328-3438**

Support group for mothers who stay at home.

## MOTHERS OF CHILDREN WITH DOWNS

**New Castle County (302) 834-8308**

Information and support group.

## MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY

**Statewide**

**(302) 655-5610**

**(302) 645-1844**

**(800) 640-1001**

**New Castle County**

**Kent and Sussex Counties**

**Support groups**

## NATIONAL INFORMATION CENTER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES

**(800) 695-0285**

A free information service that helps parents, educators, care givers, and others to improve the lives of children with disabilities. Answers questions, develops and shares new information through fact sheets, directories, and newsletters.

## PARENT INFORMATION CENTER

**Statewide (302) 366-0152 TTY (302) 366-0178**

Provides services, resources, and programs for parents and their children with disabilities. Offers parent-to-parent support.

## PARENTS OF EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED YOUTH SUPPORT GROUP

**New Castle County (302) 737-8522**

Support group.

## PERINATAL ASSOCIATION

**Statewide**

**(302) 654-1088**

**(302) 674-5098**

**New Castle County**

**Kent & Sussex Counties**

Education, emotional support, transportation for pregnant women.

## PRADER-WILLI SYNDROME - DELAWARE ASSOCIATION

**Statewide**

**(302) 791-0102**

**(302) 836-6213**

**(302) 475-4197**

Monthly support group.

## PROJECT ASSIST SUPPORT GROUP

**Statewide**

**(302) 764-1010**

Tutoring in reading, writing, and spelling for children with dyslexia or other reading problems.  
Support group for the parents.

## REYE'S SYNDROME FOUNDATION - DELAWARE CHAPTER

**Statewide**

**(302) 478-9624**

Support group, information.

## SIDS PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

**Statewide**

**(302) 996-0819**

Support group for parents who have lost children to sudden infant death syndrome.

## SMALL WONDERS OF DELAWARE

**New Castle County**

**(302) 453-9143**

Support for parents of premature babies.

## S.O.F.T. - SUPPORT ORGANIZATION FOR TRISOMY 18, 13 AND RELATED DISORDERS

**(302) 629-9624**

Provides information and support.

## SOUTHERN DELAWARE CH.A.D.D. - CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH ATTENTION DEFICIT DISORDER

**Sussex County**

**(302) 226-0200**

Offers support group, information, and advocacy.

## SUPPORTING K.I.D.D.S.

**New Castle County**

**(302) 658-5433**

Parents and guardians peer support groups surrounding divorce, grief, and separation.

## TENDER HEARTS

**New Castle County**

**(302) 733-4235**

**(302) 733-1280**

Support group for parents of children with congenital heart disorders.

## TOURETTE SYNDROME SUPPORT GROUP

**New Castle County**

**(302) 999-1916**

Support group.

## UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY

### Statewide

**(302) 764-2400**

**TTY 764-8708**

**New Castle County**

**(302) 335-5626**

**(302) 764-2400**

**Kent and Sussex Counties**

### Respite Care

**(302) 764-2400, 335-5626**

**TTY 764-8708**

Offers summer camps, special events, and respite care after school.

## WARM LINE - CHILD, INC.

### Statewide

**(302) 762-8938**

**New Castle County**

**(800) 874-2070**

**Kent and Sussex Counties**

Confidential telephone support, information and referral on non-medical issues concerning children.

## WILMINGTON SENIOR CENTER

**Ninth Ward, City of Wilmington (302) 651-3460**

Joining Generations: Family Circles — support group for grandparents and relatives raising children.

# EDUCATION INDEX

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# EDUCATION FOR CAREGIVERS AND CHILDREN

Education is an extremely important part of all our lives, particularly for children. Children begin learning as soon as they are born. It is very important that as a caregiver you are aware that meaningful learning takes place long before formal education begins.

Parenting classes can help you understand how to nurture your child as he grows, preparing him for formal, classroom education. The parent education and support guide following question 19 in this section will provide you with information about different parenting education opportunities.

By law, children between the ages of 5 and 16 are required to attend school. The following information will give you what you need to make the best choice for your grandchild.

1. Young children need a lot to prepare for school. My finances are limited. How can I help my grandchild get used to being with other children and get ready to succeed in school?

Head Start is a federally funded program that helps children three to five get ready for kindergarten. Children learn how to interact with other children and some educational basics. A child must be toilet-trained to attend Head Start. Services such as transportation, health, nutrition, social services, meals and parent involvement opportunities are provided. You must be income eligible for your grandchild to participate. There are often waiting lists, so register at least the summer before your grandchild is eligible to begin. You must register at the Head Start in the county where you live. Each county has specific qualifications.

These are some of the documents you may be required to bring with you to register:

1. grandchild's birth certificate
2. grandchild's social security card
3. grandparent's social security card
4. proof of income
5. legal custody papers
6. immunization papers (if possible)  
If there are no immunization papers, you must bring a card that proves you have a doctor's appointment scheduled and dentist's appointment scheduled
7. Medicaid card

**New Castle County: 452-1500**

**City of Wilmington: 762-8038**

**Kent County: 736-3281**

**Sussex County:**

**First State Community Action Agency, Inc.: 856-7761** (covers Clarksville, Coverdale Crossroads, Dagsboro, Frankford, Georgetown, Laurel, Lewes, Millsboro, Milltown, Selbyville)



**Southern Delaware Center for Children and Families: 629-7904** (covers Bridgeville, Coverdale Crossroads area, Greenwood, Milford, Seaford)

2. What are other options for a pre-school program?

There are pre-school programs that operate for a few hours two or three days a week. These programs focus mainly on educational readiness. The majority of day care programs offer an education component as well as socialization. Check the child care section for what to look for in a child care center. You may be eligible for financial assistance for child care and pre-school. See financial assistance, question 21, and child care, question 15. Call The Family & Workplace Connection for licensed programs in your area.

**New Castle County**

**(302) 479-1660**

**Kent & Sussex Counties**

**1-800-660-6602**

3. How can I tell if my grandchild is ready for kindergarten?

If you are concerned about your grandchild's development, the Child Development Watch program can tell you how your grandchild compares with other children her age if she is between the ages of birth to three. If she is over three she can be evaluated through the Child Find Program or your family doctor. Look in Health, question 4, for more information and phone numbers.

There are child development charts at the end of the Health section. You can refer to the charts to check how your child is developing compared to others the same age. Do not become alarmed if your child is not exactly performing or developing as the chart says. Every individual grows and develops at their own rate. If you do not understand some of the terms used or are concerned that your child is not performing several activities for his age group or is several months behind, consult your doctor.

4. What must I bring when I register my grandchild for public school?

The documents required for all public schools in Delaware are:

1. proof of custody
2. birth certificate of the grandchild
3. proof of residence - if the grandparent and the grandchild live with someone who does not have legal custody over the grandchild, a notarized letter of proof of residence from the person they live with is necessary.  
- examples of proof of residence: electric bill, phone bill, lease, rental agreement
4. immunization records
5. past school records (only if available)

5. Where can I call to get information on the public schools in Delaware?

The phone number for the Department of Public Instruction in Dover is (302) 739-4604. You can call that number if you are not sure which school district you live in. If you know your school district, you can call that office directly. The District office numbers are listed below. They will tell you in which school to register your child, and also answer any questions.

## DELAWARE SCHOOL DISTRICTS:

### *New Castle County:*

<b>Appoquinimink:</b>	<b>378-5010</b>
<b>Brandywine:</b>	<b>792-3800</b>
<b>Christina:</b>	<b>454-2000</b>
<b>Colonial:</b>	<b>323-2700</b>

### **New Castle Vocational Technical:**

<b>(high school only)</b>	<b>995-8000</b>
<b>Red Clay:</b>	<b>651-2600</b>

**Smyrna:** 653-8585  
(parts of Kent County also)

### *Sussex County:*

<b>Cape Henlopen:</b>	<b>645-6686</b>
<b>Delmar:</b>	<b>846-9544</b>
<b>Indian River:</b>	<b>436-1000</b>
<b>Laurel:</b>	<b>875-6100</b>
<b>Milford:</b>	<b>422-1600 (parts of Kent County also)</b>
<b>Seaford:</b>	<b>629-4504</b>

### **Sussex County Vocational Technical:**

<b>(high school only)</b>	<b>856-2541</b>
<b>Woodbridge:</b>	<b>337-8296 (parts of Kent County also)</b>

### *Kent County:*

<b>Caesar Rodney:</b>	<b>697-2173</b>
<b>Capital:</b>	<b>672-1500</b>
<b>Lake Forest:</b>	<b>284-3020</b>
<b>Milford:</b>	<b>422-1600</b> (parts of Sussex County also)
<b>Polytech:</b>	<b>697-2170</b>
<b>Smyrna:</b>	<b>653-8585</b> (parts of New Castle County also)
<b>Woodbridge:</b>	<b>337-8296</b> (parts of Sussex County also)

6. If my grandchild is transferring school districts in order to live with me, how can I have the necessary records sent to the new school?

If your grandchild is transferring schools, you must give the new school the name of the former school. The new school will obtain your grandchild's records.

7. I would prefer my grandchild attend a school other than the one the school district office tells me he is assigned to. Is this possible?

In Delaware there is a program called Choice Schools. You can choose to have your grandchild attend another school in your district or in another district. The school districts must approve, and you must provide your own transportation. For more information, call the State Superintendent of Schools' office in Dover at (302) 739-4661.

8. I understand there are publicly funded schools that are run by private organizations in Delaware. What are these Charter schools and how can I find out about them?

Charter schools are schools that are paid for by public funds but are run by private organizations. Some of the Charter schools emphasize particular subjects such as math and science. Others may focus on children with particular problems. You can find out more about Charter schools by call

the Department of Public Instruction in Dover at (302) 739-4583.

9. My granddaughter is pregnant. Is there somewhere other than the public schools where she can continue her education and receive special support?

The Delaware Adolescent Program, Inc. (DAPI) is a program for pregnant teenagers including education in all regular academic subjects, daycare, parent training, counseling for teens and their families, and health and prenatal education.

**(302) 652-3445**

**(302) 697-0356**

**(302) 856-7331**

**Wilmington**

**Dover**

**Georgetown**

10. If I want to register my grandchild into private school, where can I find out which private schools are in my area?

The private schools are listed in the blue pages of your telephone book under *Schools - Private* with the corresponding phone numbers. You may want to call to inquire about scholarships and financial assistance.

11. What are technical or vocational schools and how can my grandchild apply?

Vocational or technical high schools are for 9th to 12th graders. They give students the academic and technical career skills needed for college and career. Students graduate with an academic diploma, technical skills, and in many cases, job experience. These special schools are open for high school age students only and require the student to apply for admission.

**New Castle County:**

- **Delcastle Technical High School, Wilmington:** **995-8100**
- **Howard High School of Technology, Wilmington:** **571-5400**
- **Paul M. Hodgson Vocational Technical High School, Newark:** **834-0490**

**Kent County:**

- **POLYTECH High School, Woodside (south of Camden, DE):** **697-3255**

**Sussex County:**

- **Sussex Technical High School, Georgetown:** **856-0961**

12. Where can my grandchild call to find out about the various colleges in Delaware, including financial aid and scholarship information?

The best place to start the college search is with the high school guidance counselor. He or she can help find the most appropriate schools to apply to as well as help search for scholarships and financial aid.

13. What colleges are located in Delaware and where are their campuses?

**Delaware State University:** A public, accredited, 4-year college with general studies.

**New Castle County Campus Information:** 577-2728  
**Dover Campus Information:** 739-4917  
**Sussex County Campus Information:** 856-5397  
**\*Financial Aid/Scholarship for all campuses:** 739-4908

**Delaware Technical and Community College:** A public, accredited, 2-year college with general studies.

**Wilmington Campus Information:** 571-5300  
**Financial Aid/Scholarship:** 571-5367  
**Stanton Campus Information:** 454-3900  
**Financial Aid/Scholarship:** 454-3995  
**Terry Campus Information: (Dover)** 741-2700  
**Financial Aid/Scholarship:** 741-2732  
**Owens Campus Information: (Georgetown)** 856-5400  
**Financial Aid/Scholarship:** 856-5400 \*342

**Goldey-Beacom College:** Wilmington Campus only: A private, accredited, 4-year business college.

**Information/Financial Aid/Scholarship:** 998-8814

**University of Delaware:** A public, accredited, 4-year college with general studies.

**Wilmington Campus Information:** 573-4437  
**Newark Campus Information:** 831-2000  
**Dover Campus Information:** 741-2793  
**Georgetown Campus Information:** 855-1657  
**\*Financial Aid/Scholarship for all campuses:** 831-8761

**Wesley College:** Dover Campus only: A private, accredited, 4-year liberal arts college.

**Information/Financial Aid/Scholarship:** 736-2300

**Widener College:** A private, accredited, 4-year college with general and professional studies and a law school. No two-year Associate degrees are offered.

Daytime classes are in Chester, PA:

**Information:** (610) 499-4126

Night/Weekend classes are at the University College of Widener, Wilmington, and in Chester, Pennsylvania:

**Information:** (302) 477-2216

**\*Financial Aid/Scholarship for both campuses:** (610) 499-4174

**Wilmington College:** A private, accredited, 4-year college with general studies. Offers day, evening, and weekend classes.

**Downtown Wilmington:** 655-5400  
**New Castle:** 328-9401  
**Dover:** 734-2594  
**Dover Air Force Base:** 674-8726  
**Georgetown:** 856-5780  
**Information:** 328-9401  
**Financial Aid/Scholarship:** 328-9437



18. Are there any programs for people who speak English as a second language?

English as a Second Language (ESL) is taught at various times at the following centers:

- **Christina School District, Newark** 454-2000
- **New Castle Vocational-Technical School District, Marshallton** 994-4079
- **Red Clay Consolidated School District, Wilmington** 651-2709
- **Latin American Community Center, Wilmington** 655-7338
- **Appoquinimink School District, Middletown** 378-5037
- **Polytech School District, Dover** 674-5015
- **Delaware Technical and Community College, Dover** 741-2790
- **Delaware Technical and Community College, Georgetown** 856-5400
- **Sussex Vocational-Technical School District, Georgetown** 856-9035
- **Indian River School District, Frankford** 732-5499

19. It's been a long time since I took care of young children. Where can I get information or take classes on parenting?

Some classes may help you understand your grandchild and remind you of the best ways to help him and yourself. There are no tests in these classes, just people like yourself trying to do their best. The following chart will help you locate the different parent education and support services available in Delaware.

## PARENT EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP PARENT EDUCATION AND SUPPORT REFERENCE GUIDE

AGENCY AND PROGRAM	RESOURCE & REFERRAL	PRE-NATAL & CHILD BIRTH	PARENTING CLASSES	PARENT SUPPORT	SCHOOL-LINKED RESOURCES	HOME VISITING	PARENT SUPPORT GROUPS
<b>Alliance For Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention</b> (302) 428-4512 *	teens/parents of adolescents		teens/parents of adolescents	teens/parents of adolescents			
<b>American Lung Association</b> Pediatric Lung Disease (302) 655-7258 *	all parents						
<b>Bayard House</b> Parenting Education (302) 654-1184 (NCC)		expectant parents	parents				
<b>Bayard House</b> Life Management/ Independent Living Skills (302) 654-1184 (NCC)	parents	expectant	parents				
<b>Bayard House</b> Information and Referral (302) 654-1184 (NCC)	parents	expectant parents					
<b>Bayard House</b> Residential (302) 654-1184 (NCC)		expectant parents	parents				
<b>Boys &amp; Girls Clubs of DE</b> Individual Services Program (302) 655-4591 (NCC)			all parents				all parents
<b>Brandywine School District</b> Parent Outreach (302) 792-3800 (NCC)					parents in school district		
<b>Brandywine School District</b> Intervention Project (302) 792-3800 (NCC)				parents in school district	parents in school district		

\* Services available statewide

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AGENCY AND PROGRAM	RESOURCE & REFERRAL	PRE-NATAL & CHILD BIRTH	PARENTING CLASSES	PARENT SUPPORT	SCHOOL-LINKED RESOURCES	HOME VISITING	PARENT SUPPORT GROUPS
<b>Brandywine School District</b> Parent Center (302) 792-3800 (NCC)			parents in school district		parents in school district		
<b>Brandywine School District</b> Parenting Helpline (302) 792-3800 (NCC)		parents in school district		parents in school district	parents in school district		
<b>Capital School District</b> Community Partnership Program (302) 672-1932 (KC)				parents in school district	parents in school district		
<b>Catholic Charities</b> Various Programs (302) 655-9624 (NCC) (302) 674-8211 (KC) (302) 856-9578 (SC)				all parents			
<b>CH.A.D.D. of Brandywine Valley</b> Children & Adults with Attention Deficit Disorder (302) 478-8202 (NCC)				all parents			all parents
<b>Childbirth &amp; Parenting Associates, Inc.</b> Various classes (302) 239-5681 (NCC)		expectant parents					

\* Services available statewide



## PARENT EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP PARENT EDUCATION AND SUPPORT REFERENCE GUIDE

AGENCY AND PROGRAM	RESOURCE & REFERRAL	PRE-NATAL & CHILD BIRTH	PARENTING CLASSES	PARENT SUPPORT	SCHOOL-LINKED RESOURCES	HOME VISITING	PARENT SUPPORT GROUPS
<b>CHILD, INC.</b> Home Visitor/Parent Aide Program (302) 762-8989 (NCC) (800) 874-2070 (KC & SC)			all parents	all parents		all parents	
<b>CHILD, INC.</b> Troubled Teens Come Without Instructions (302) 762-8989 (NCC) (800) 874-2070 (KC & SC)			parents of teens				parents of teens
<b>CHILD, INC.</b> Children Come Without Instructions (302) 762-8989 (NCC) (800) 874-2070 (KC & SC)	all parents		all parents, grandparents, and other caregivers				
<b>CHILD, INC.</b> Warmline (302) 762-8938 (NCC) (800) 874-2070 (KC & SC)	all parents, grandparents, and other caregivers			all parents, grandparents, and other caregivers			
<b>Children &amp; Families First FAST</b> (Families & Schools Together) (302) 654-5177 *				all parents	all parents		all parents
<b>Children &amp; Families First</b> Parent Aide Program (302) 654-5303 (NCC) (302) 856-2388 (KC & SC)			all parents	all parents		all parents	

\*Services available statewide

## PARENT EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP PARENT EDUCATION AND SUPPORT REFERENCE GUIDE

AGENCY AND PROGRAM	RESOURCE & REFERRAL	PRE-NATAL & CHILD BIRTH	PARENTING CLASSES	PARENT SUPPORT	SCHOOL-LINKED RESOURCES	HOME VISITING	PARENT SUPPORT GROUPS
<b>Children &amp; Families First</b> Living With Children (302) 654-5177 *			all parents				
<b>Children &amp; Families First</b> Family Preservation Services (302) 654-5177 (NCC) (302) 856-2388 (KC & SC)						parents referred by Division of Family Services	
<b>Children &amp; Families First</b> Intensive Homebased Services Family Intervention Program (302) 654-5177 (NCC) (302) 856-2388 (KC & SC)						parents referred by Youth Rehabilitation Services	
<b>Children &amp; Families First</b> Concerned Grandparents (302) 654-5177 (NCC)							all grand-parents
<b>Colonial School District</b> Comprehensive School Discipline Improvement (302) 323-2700 (NCC)			parents in school district		parents in school district		
<b>Colonial School District</b> Children Come Without Instructions (302) 323-2700 (NCC)			parents in school district		parents in school district		
<b>Colonial School District</b> Teen Parent Program (302) 323-2700 (NCC)			teen parents in William Penn High School		teen parents in William Penn High School		

\*Services available statewide

## PARENT EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP PARENT EDUCATION AND SUPPORT REFERENCE GUIDE

AGENCY AND PROGRAM	RESOURCE & REFERRAL	PRE-NATAL & CHILD BIRTH	PARENTING CLASSES	PARENT SUPPORT	SCHOOL-LINKED RESOURCES	HOME VISITING	PARENT SUPPORT GROUPS
<b>Cooperative Extension University of Delaware</b> "Great Beginnings" Newsletter <b>(302) 831-2509</b> *	new and/or parents of young children						
<b>Cooperative Extension University of Delaware</b> "Solo Parenting" - a newsletter for mothers and fathers on their own <b>(302) 831-2509</b> *	divorced/single /widowed parents						
<b>Delaware Adolescent Program, Inc. (DAPI)</b> Parenting and Family Living Education Program <b>(302) 652-3445</b> (NCC) <b>(302) 697-0357</b> (KC) <b>(302) 856-7331</b> (SC)		expectant teen parents	teen parents				
<b>Delaware Chapter of the American Society for Deaf Children (ASDC)</b> <b>(302) 731-4879</b> * TTY <b>(302) 731-4879</b>				all parents			
<b>Delaware Curative Workshop</b> Delaware Lekotek <b>(302) 656-2684</b> (NCC)			parents of young children with special needs				

\*Services available statewide

## PARENT EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP PARENT EDUCATION AND SUPPORT REFERENCE GUIDE

AGENCY AND PROGRAM	RESOURCE & REFERRAL	PRE-NATAL & CHILD BIRTH	PARENTING CLASSES	PARENT SUPPORT	SCHOOL-LINKED RESOURCES	HOME VISITING	PARENT SUPPORT GROUPS
<b>Delaware Curative Workshop</b> Pediatric Programs (302) 656-2684 (NCC)			parents of young children with developmental disabilities				
<b>Delaware Early Childhood Center</b> Parents as Teachers (302) 454-5955 (NCC) (302) 398-8945 (KC & SC)					first time parents	first time parents	first time parents
<b>Delaware Early Childhood Center</b> Even Start Family Literary Program (302) 398-8945 (KC & SC)			parents of young children				
<b>Delaware Family Center</b> Support Groups & Counseling (302) 995-9600 (NCC)				all parents			all parents
<b>Delaware Helpline</b> (800) 464-4357 * TTY (800) 560-3372	all parents						
<b>Delaware Prevention Network</b> Families Matter (302) 762-1391 (NCC) (302) 697-4017 (KC) (302) 628-0472 (SC)				all parents	all parents	all parents	

\*Services available statewide

## PARENT EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP PARENT EDUCATION AND SUPPORT REFERENCE GUIDE

AGENCY AND PROGRAM	RESOURCE & REFERRAL	PRE-NATAL & CHILD BIRTH	PARENTING CLASSES	PARENT SUPPORT	SCHOOL-LINKED RESOURCES	HOME VISITING	PARENT SUPPORT GROUPS
<b>Delaware State University Cooperative Extension</b> Brown Bag for Busy Parents <b>(302) 739-5156</b> (KC)			parents of young children				
<b>Delawareans United to Prevent Child Abuse</b> Foster Parent In-Service Training <b>(302) 996-5444</b> (NCC) <b>(302) 674-1112</b> (KC) <b>(302) 856-1737</b> (SC)			foster parents				
<b>Delawareans United to Prevent Child Abuse</b> Parent Advocacy Project Parent Visiting Services Phone numbers listed above	pregnant & parenting adolescents/ young adults	pregnant & parenting adolescents/ young adults	pregnant & parenting adolescents/ young adults				
<b>Delawareans United to Prevent Child Abuse</b> Parent Support Groups "Parents Anonymous" Phone numbers listed above				all parents			
<b>Delawareans United to Prevent Child Abuse</b> Parent Education Services "Nurturing Programs for Parents and Children" Phone numbers listed above			all parents under stress				all parents under stress

\*Services available statewide

## PARENT EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP PARENT EDUCATION AND SUPPORT REFERENCE GUIDE

AGENCY AND PROGRAM	RESOURCE & REFERRAL	PRE-NATAL & CHILD BIRTH	PARENTING CLASSES	PARENT SUPPORT	SCHOOL-LINKED RESOURCES	HOME VISITING	PARENT SUPPORT GROUPS
<b>Department of Public Instruction</b> Family Life Education (302) 739-2767 *					preparation for parenthood		
<b>DHSS/DMS/Part H, Birth to 3 Program</b> Delaware Central Directory of Services For Young Children With Special Needs (302) 577-4643 *	parents of young children with developmental delay						
<b>DHSS/DMS/Part H, Birth to 3 Program</b> Growing Together Portfolio for New Parents (302) 577-4643 *	new parents						
<b>DHSS/DSS/Part H, Birth to 3 Program</b> Family Forum (302) 577-4643 *	parents of young children with developmental delays/disabilities		parents of young children with developmental delays/disabilities				parents of young children with developmental delays/disabilities
<b>DHSS/Division of Public Health</b> * Child Development Watch (302) 995-8617 (NCC) (302) 422-1335 (KC & SC)	parents of young children with developmental delays			parents of young children with developmental delays			
<b>DHSS/Division of Public Health</b> Home Visiting Program (302) 995-8617 (NCC) (302) 422-1335 (KC & SC)				first time parents		first time parents	

\*Services available statewide

## PARENT EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP PARENT EDUCATION AND SUPPORT REFERENCE GUIDE

AGENCY AND PROGRAM	RESOURCE & REFERRAL	PRE-NATAL & CHILD BIRTH	PARENTING CLASSES	PARENT SUPPORT	SCHOOL-LINKED RESOURCES	HOME VISITING	PARENT SUPPORT GROUPS
<b>DHSS/Division of Public Health</b> Maternal and Child Health Services (800) 671-0050 (NCC) (800) 752-9393 (KC & SC) (800) 221-2266 (Spanish speaking statewide)		expectant parents	expectant parents	parents of infants/young children		parents of infants/young children	
<b>DHSS/DSS/First Step</b> First Step (302) 577-4451 *	TANF parents		TANF parents				
<b>DHSS/DSS/Medicaid</b> Early & Periodic Screening, Diagnosis Treatment (302) 577-4880 Ext. 44 *			Medicaid parents				
<b>DHSS/DSS/Medicaid</b> Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care (302) 368-6550 Ext. 44 *			Medicaid parents	Medicaid parents			
<b>DHSS/DSS/Medicaid</b> Smart Start (302) 577-4880 Ext. 149 *		expectant Medicaid parents			expectant Medicaid parents		
<b>DSCYF/Ferris School</b> Life Skills (Parenting Skills Component) (302) 995-8286 (NCC)			incarcerated teen parents		incarcerated teen parents		
<b>DSCYF - Office of Prevention</b> FACET - Families and Centers Empowered Together (302) 633-2729 (NCC)				all parents			

\*Services available statewide

## PARENT EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP PARENT EDUCATION AND SUPPORT REFERENCE GUIDE

AGENCY AND PROGRAM	RESOURCE & REFERRAL	PRE-NATAL & CHILD BIRTH	PARENTING CLASSES	PARENT SUPPORT	SCHOOL-LINKED RESOURCES	HOME VISITING	PARENT SUPPORT GROUPS
<b>du Pont Hospital for Children</b> Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder Parent Support Group (302) 651-4560 (NCC)							all parents
<b>The Family &amp; Workplace Connection</b> (302) 479-1679 (NCC) (302) 672-0505 (KC & SC)		all parents					
<b>Head Start</b> (See Education, question 1 for requirements, locations, and phone numbers.)		parents of young children		parents of young children			
<b>Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood, Inc.</b> Parent Partnership (302) 656-3224 (Hilltop Community)			all parents	all parents	all parents	all parents	
<b>Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood, Inc.</b> Early Childhood Program (302) 656-3224 (Hilltop Community)		parents of young children		parents of young children			
<b>Informed Birth of DE</b> (302) 322-1077 (NCC)		expectant parents					
<b>Jewish Community Center</b> Family Education Center (302) 478-5660 (NCC)			all parents				

\*Services available statewide



## PARENT EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP PARENT EDUCATION AND SUPPORT REFERENCE GUIDE

AGENCY AND PROGRAM	RESOURCE & REFERRAL	PRE-NATAL & CHILD BIRTH	PARENTING CLASSES	PARENT SUPPORT	SCHOOL-LINKED RESOURCES	HOME VISITING	PARENT SUPPORT GROUPS
<b>Laurel School District</b> Title I (302) 875-6100 (SC)					Title I parents in Laurel School District		
<b>MeadowWood Hospital</b> Parent Education Support Group (302) 328-3330 (NCC) 1-800-239-8336							all parents
<b>Medical Center of Delaware</b> Christiana Hospital Parent Education (302) 733-2472 (NCC & KC)		expectant parents	expectant parents				
<b>Milford School District</b> (302) 422-1639 (SC)			all parents & children in Milford School District				
<b>Parent Early Education Center</b> Parents as Teachers (302) 454-5955 (NCC) (302) 398-8945 (KC & SC)					first time/teen parents	first time/teen parents	first time/teen parents
<b>Parent Information Center of DE, Inc.</b> Parent Training and Information Project (302) 366-0152 *	parents of children with disabilities		parents of children with disabilities	parents of children with disabilities			
<b>Parents Without Partners</b> (302) 998-3115 (NCC)				all parents			
<b>Perinatal Association of Delaware</b> Resource Mother's Project (302) 654-1088 (NCC) (302) 674-5098 (KC & SC)		new parents	new parents	new parents		new parents	

\*Services available statewide

## PARENT EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP PARENT EDUCATION AND SUPPORT REFERENCE GUIDE

AGENCY AND PROGRAM	RESOURCE & REFERRAL	PRE-NATAL & CHILD BIRTH	PARENTING CLASSES	PARENT SUPPORT	SCHOOL-LINKED RESOURCES	HOME VISITING	PARENT SUPPORT GROUPS
<b>Perinatal Association of Delaware</b> Baby Your Baby (800) 454-4357 *		new parents	new parents				
<b>POLYTECH School District</b> PASS: POLYTECH Advisement Support System (302) 697-3257 (KC)					all parents in Polytech School District		
<b>Psychotherapeutic Children's Service</b> Family Intervention Program (302) 736-5314 (KC)					Parents referred by Youth Rehabilitation Services		
<b>READ-ALLOUD Delaware</b> (302) 656-5256 (NCC) (302) 674-4423 (KC) (302) 856-2527 (SC)			parents of young children				
<b>Red Clay School District</b> Parent Center (302) 651-2652 (NCC)					all parents/ students in Red Clay School District		
<b>Rockford Center</b> Systematic Training for Effective Parenting (302) 996-5480 (NCC)			all parents				
<b>St. Francis Hospital</b> Childbirth Readiness Program (302) 421-4478 (NCC)		expectant parents					

\*Services available statewide

## PARENT EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP PARENT EDUCATION AND SUPPORT REFERENCE GUIDE

AGENCY AND PROGRAM	RESOURCE & REFERRAL	PRE-NATAL & CHILD BIRTH	PARENTING CLASSES	PARENT SUPPORT	SCHOOL-LINKED RESOURCES	HOME VISITING	PARENT SUPPORT GROUPS
<b>St. Francis Hospital</b> Postpartum Home Visit (302) 575-8240 (NCC)						new parents	
<b>Seaford School District</b> FAST (Families And Schools Together) (Sussex)				all parents	all parents		
<b>Seaford School District</b> Parenting Classes (302) 629-9352 (Seaford)			all parents	all parents			
<b>Smyrna School District</b> FAST (Families & Schools Together) (302) 653-3135 (Clayton)				all parents	all parents		all parents
<b>Southern Delaware Center for Children and Families</b> (302) 629-7904 Parent Child Center (SC)		new/teen parents	new/teen parents	new/teen parents		new/teen parents	
<b>Sussex County Vocational Technical School District</b> Opportunity 2000 (302) 856-2541 (SC)		teen parents			teen parents		teen parents
<b>United Cerebral Palsy of DE</b> Case Management (302) 764-2400 (NCC) (302) 335-5626 (KC & SC)			Parents/children with disabilities	Parents/children with disabilities			all parents

\*Services available statewide

## PARENT EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP PARENT EDUCATION AND SUPPORT REFERENCE GUIDE

AGENCY AND PROGRAM	RESOURCE & REFERRAL	PRE-NATAL & CHILD BIRTH	PARENTING CLASSES	PARENT SUPPORT	SCHOOL-LINKED RESOURCES	HOME VISITING	PARENT SUPPORT GROUPS
<b>United Cerebral Palsy of DE</b> Parent Support Group (302) 764-2400 (NCC) (302) 335-5626 (KC & SC)			Parents/ children with disabilities	Parents/ children with disabilities			all parents
<b>University of Delaware, College of Education and the Delaware Parents Association</b> The PACT Family Support Network (302) 831-6544 (NCC)			all parents				all parents
<b>VNA Delaware</b> Comprehensive Pregnancy Case Management (302) 324-7900 (NCC) (302) 671-7710 (KC) (302) 422-2010 (Milford) (302) 855-9700 (SC)		expectant parents	new parents			expectant parents	
<b>VNA Delaware</b> (same phones as above) High Risk Neonate Program		new parents	new parents			new parents	
<b>VNA Delaware</b> (same phones as above) Smart Start		expectant Medicaid parents					Medicaid parents
<b>VNA Delaware</b> High School Based Wellness Centers (See Health section, page 29, question 3 for locations and phone numbers.)	all parents			all parents	all parents		

\*Services available statewide

## PARENT EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP PARENT EDUCATION AND SUPPORT REFERENCE GUIDE

AGENCY AND PROGRAM	RESOURCE & REFERRAL	PRE-NATAL & CHILD BIRTH	PARENTING CLASSES	PARENT SUPPORT	SCHOOL-LINKED RESOURCES	HOME VISITING	PARENT SUPPORT GROUPS
<b>Wesley College</b> First State Fatherhood Center (302) 736-6768 (Kent)			fathers	fathers			fathers
<b>Wesley College</b> Variety of Father Related Groups (302) 736-6768 (Kent)			fathers	fathers			fathers
<b>West End Neighborhood House</b> Reflections (302) 658-4171 (NCC)			teen parents	teen parents			
<b>YMCA Resource Center</b> Parent Education of Prevention of Violence and Drug Abuse Among Youth (302) 571-6975 (NCC) (302) 739-3698 (KC) (302) 856-4105 (SC)			all parents				
<b>YMCA Resource Center</b> New Connections for Teen Parents (302) 739-3698 (KC)		teen parents					teen parents

\*Services available statewide

20. As a caregiver, where can I call to get job training and help finding a job?

Here are some programs that can give you some assistance. Some have specific requirements such as low income, a certain age, or where you live.

**Career Exploration Program (CEP) - Wilmington - (302) 573-2474**

CEP works with income eligible seniors 55 and older in New Castle County.

The program helps participants develop work skills, provides training, and assists in finding employment.

**Department of Labor:**

The Department of Labor maintains a listing of job openings which will be made available to you.

**Wilmington/New Castle County: (302) 761-8085**

**Newark: (302) 368-6622**

**Kent County: (302) 739-5473**

**Sussex County: (302) 856-5230**

**Job Training Partnership Act - Delaware Department of Labor**

This program helps those who are unemployed or underemployed to prepare for a job by providing training. You must be a U.S. citizen or an eligible alien, and a resident of Delaware.

Division of Employment and Training:

**Wilmington/New Castle County: (302) 761-8080**

**Kent County: (302) 739-3747**

**Sussex County: (302) 856-5770**

**Ministry of Caring**

The Ministry of Caring offers job placement services for people living in Wilmington. There are no eligibility requirements. The Job Placement office is located at 1100 Lancaster Avenue in Wilmington. The phone number is **652-5522**.

**Personnel - State of Delaware**

The following sites maintain postings of job openings for State of Delaware employment. You can call any of the offices if you would like to make an appointment with the job counselor.

**Wilmington: Carvel Building-Employment Services- 577-3289**

**Dover: Townsend Building- Employment Services- 739-5458**

**Sussex: DelTech Campus - Jason Building - Employment Services - 856-5966**

**Senior Community Service Employment Program**

Subsidized, part-time employment opportunities for low income persons age 55 and above.

**Wilmington/New Castle County: Wilmington Senior Center, Inc. (302) 651-3440**

**Kent County: Modern Maturity Center, Inc. (302) 734-1200**

**Sussex County: First State Companion Program  
First State Community Action Agency (302) 856-7761**

### **Senior Employment Services**

This services provides job search and skills counseling, as well as job development and placement services for New Castle County residents who are 50 years of age or older.

**Wilmington Senior Center (302) 651-3440**

### **Women's Vocational Services**

These programs are for women who have lost their main source of income due to separation, divorce, death or disability of their spouse. Personal, career, and educational counseling are offered. Funds for schooling are available to eligible persons. Job referral and placement assistance are provided, and referrals for other services are made.

#### **New Castle County**

**Wilmington (302) 761-8092**

**Newark (302) 368-6622**

#### **Kent County**

**Dover (302) 739-4540**

#### **Sussex County**

**Georgetown (302) 856-5325**

21. My grandchild would like to get a job. Where can she call for job training and help finding a job?

As with adults, there are many programs that work with young people to help them get job skills and employment. Some have specific requirements such as age, low income, and where you live.

### **Career Exploration Program - Wilmington - (302) 573-2474**

CEP works with income eligible youth 16 to 21 in New Castle County. The program helps participants develop work skills, provides training, and assists in finding employment.

### **Job Training Partnership Act - Delaware Department of Labor**

This program helps unemployed or underemployed to prepare for a job by providing training. You must be either a U. S. citizen or an eligible alien, and a resident of Delaware.

Division of Employment and Training:

**Wilmington/New Castle County: (302) 761-8080**

**Kent County: (302) 739-3747**

**Sussex County: (302) 856-5770**

### **Job Corps**

A residential training program for low income youth ages 16 to 24. Participants receive education and vocational training, along with housing. Youth may stay in the program up to two years. The Advance Career training component of Job Corps offers participants the opportunity to earn an Associates Degree (two year college degree).

**New Castle County: (302) 658-5710 or 1-800-242-0347**

**Kent and Sussex Counties: (302) 674-1109 or 1-800-242-0389**

### **Latin American Community Center**

Offers employment training and placement statewide.

**Wilmington - (302) 655-7338**

### **Salvation Army**

#### **CROSSROADS Basics Program**

Education, training, and job placement program for single young mothers who are on Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and the fathers of their children.

Statewide (except for the city of Wilmington) **1-800-456-7670**. West End Neighborhood House serves those living in Wilmington.

### **West End Neighborhood House**

#### **CROSSROADS Basics Program (302) 888-5300**

Education, training, and job placement program for single young mothers who are on Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and the fathers of their children. Serves those living in the City of Wilmington.

### **Wilmington Employment Corps - Wilmington - (302) 571-4676**

Provides job training and placement for city residents between the ages of 18 and 24 who have a high school diploma or GED.

### **Summer Youth Program**

Provides summer employment opportunities for income eligible youth ages 14 to 21. Participants work approximately 24 hours a week during the summer for minimum wage. The program is funded annually and operated by the Delaware Private Industry Council. You can call the Council directly at 577-6202 if you cannot reach the Summer Youth Program office in your county.

**New Castle County (302) 366-7934**

**City of Wilmington (302) 571-4285**

**Kent County (302) 736-2135**

**Sussex County (302) 856-4140**

### **State of Delaware State Funded Summer Youth Program**

This program is for income eligible youth between the ages of 14 and 20. It offers 24 hours of summer work a week at minimum wage. The program opens in May of each year. Hiring is done by the agencies that receive grants from the program.

**Wilmington (302) 761-8131**

22. I think my grandchild has a special need and/or a developmental delay. What should I do?

The sooner you recognize and question what seems to you to be delay in your grandchild's physical growth and/or development, the sooner she can begin to receive help. Question 3 in this Education section talks about the Child Development Watch program for children from birth to three years of age. The Child Find Program evaluates children three and older. The Health section, question 4 has more information on these programs. Your family doctor or pediatrician can help you identify any potential problems.

The Delaware Early Childhood Center can also evaluate your child, ages 3 to 5, to see if he has a developmental delay or disability. Their phone numbers are: **New Castle County - 323-5370, Kent County - 739-4707, and Sussex County - 398-8945 or 856-5909.**

There are many services available for children with developmental delays and disabilities. You can



request a copy of the *Directory of Services for Young Children with Special Needs* from the Parent Information Center (366-0152 or TTY 366-0178) or the Child Development Watch program. The phone numbers for the Child Development Watch program are: **New Castle County 1-800-671-0050, Kent County 1-800-752-9393, and Sussex County 1-800-752-9393.**

The Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities produces the *Guide to Services for People With Disabilities in Delaware*. To find out where you can pick up a copy, call **577-4791** in **New Castle County**, or **422-1386** in **Milford** for **Kent and Sussex Counties**. The toll-free number is **1-800-223-9074**.

23. My school-age grandchild has a special need and/or a developmental delay. What kind of services are there for her?

Once a child is identified as having a special need and/or a developmental delay and the Department of Public Instruction verifies the condition, the school district becomes responsible for meeting those needs. Each school district has a staff person who handles special education. You can find out who that is by calling your school district. The numbers are in question 5 of this section.

School districts are required to test children and put together an educational and health plan that will meet the needs of each child in their district. This service is free. Each child is entitled to a free appropriate public education whether it is in a regular public school program or a special program, even if the child is not yet school age.

Therapies that may be required such as speech/language, occupational, or physical will be provided. In cases of prolonged illness or extended disability, such as the result of a car accident, arrangements will be made to provide for educational needs in the home.

24. What happens when it's time for my special need and/or developmentally delayed grandchild to go to kindergarten?

Once a child is identified as having a special need and/or developmental delay, the school district will develop an Individualized Education Program (IEP) for your grandchild. The IEP will include written statements of:

- 1) the student's present level of education performance, including areas of need;
- 2) annual goals and short term instructional objectives;
- 3) specific special education and related services to be provided to the student, including physical education and vocational education, which are specially designed to meet the unique needs of a student with disability;
- 4) the extent to which the student will be able to participate in regular education program;
- 5) the projected dates for initiation of services and the anticipated duration of the services;
- 6) appropriate objective criteria and evaluation procedures and schedules for determining, on at least an annual basis, whether the short-term instructional objectives are being achieved;
- 7) whether or not it is necessary to place the student who is transported from school by bus into the charge of a parent or other authorized responsible person;
- 8) disciplinary procedure or limitations, as appropriate;
- 9) determination as to the participation of the student in the Interim Assessment Program; (a temporary, trial program before the child is moved into a formal program); and

10) statement relative to the Transitional Services Plan, as appropriate. Transitional Services Plan refers to those times when a student is moving from school to work, or completing school and moving from the family home to a new setting such as their own apartment or a group home in the community.

You will be notified no less than ten working days prior to any meeting to change or evaluate your grandchild's Individualized Education Program so that you can attend. You may bring someone with you to the meeting. The Parent Information Center (366-0152) can offer you advice and find an advocate or another parent to accompany you if you wish.

## 25. What is the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Grandparent Information Center?

The AARP Grandparent Information Center has been in operation since 1992. The Center works in partnership with The Brookdale Foundation Group to provide assistance to grandparent-headed families. Besides supplying information and referral, the Center works with state, local and regional organizations to expand and improve services for grandparent-headed families.

The Grandparent Information Center also publishes a newsletter and the information packets listed below. You can call them or write to order up to ten copies free.

AARP Grandparent Information Center  
601 East Street, N. W.  
Washington, DC 20049  
(202) 434-2296

D15212 - GIC Fact Sheet	D15857 - GIC Demographic Sheet
D15272 - Brochure - Grandparents Raising Their Grandchildren: What to Consider and Where to Find Help	D15633 - GIC Tip Sheet - Public Programs
D15514 - GIC Tip Sheet - Healthy Grandchildren	D16260 - GIC Book of Children's Quotes
D15306 - Questions & Answers - Visitation Rights Brochure	D15950 - The Apple of Your Eye
D16022 - GIC Tip Sheet - Starting A Support Group	D15536 - GIC Newsletter
	D16239 - Minority Grandparents Component Fact Sheet

## 26. Are there books I can read to learn more about being a parent to my grandchild?

The AARP Grandparent Information Center recommends the following books and publications:

***Black Grandparents as Parents.*** Poe, Lerona. Berkley, CA. (1992). (University of Delaware has a copy.)

A study of 14 grandparents caring for their grandchildren and the effects on the grandparents.

***Directory of Services for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: Support Groups and Other Supportive Interventions for Grandparent Caregivers.*** DC: The Brookdale Foundation. Minkler, M., Driver, D. & Roe, K. (1994). 126 East 56th Street, New York, New York 10022-3668  
(212) 308-7355.

Comprehensive service guide of the national, regional, and local coalitions for grandparent caregivers. Also includes related organizations, periodicals, articles and other resources.

***Grandmothers as Caregivers: Raising Children of the Crack Cocaine Epidemic.*** Newbury Park, CA: Sage. Minkler, Meredith. (1995).

***Grandparenting by Grace: A Guide Through the Joys and Struggles.*** TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers. Endicott, I. (1994).

Commentary based on personal experiences and interviews of grandparents. Covers interesting suggestions and advice on how to deal with single parenting in the 90's. Comments are supported with Bible passages and a personal "Grace Principle."

***Grandparenting Redefined: Guidance for Today's Changing Family.*** WA: Aglow Publications. Endicott, I. (1992).

Deals with problems of grandparents cast in a non-traditional role of raising grandchildren. Addresses issues of rights, personal, emotional, and spiritual resources, and re-parenting.

***Grandparents as Parents: A Survival Guide for Raising a Second Family.*** NY: Guilford Press. De Toledo, Sylvie. (1995).

Examines the needs of the grandparents and children in their new relationship and offers insight on how to work on concrete problems. Walks the reader through various assistance programs, explaining what should happen, what will really happen, and how to work through the system.

***Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: A Guide to Finding Help and Hope.*** The Brookdale Foundation Group. Written for grandparents who have taken on the challenge of raising their grandchildren. This book discusses the needs of grandchildren, the problems of the parents, and the legal and social issues confronting the grandparents. To receive a copy send \$3.00 for mailing and handling to: The National Foster Parent Association, 9 Dartmoor Drive, Crystal Lake, IL 60014, or call (815) 455-2527.

***Manual for Grandparents and Caregivers of Drug-Exposed Infants and Children.*** CA: The Walter S. Johnson Foundation. (1992). (1st Ed.). Legal Services for Prisoners with Children, 100 McAllister Street, San Francisco, CA 94102 (415) 255-7036.

Covers civil legal issues of grandparent and caregivers, including custody options, guardianship, dependency, and public benefits issues.

***Manual for Grandparents and Caregivers of Drug-Exposed Infants and Children.*** CA: The San Francisco Foundation. (1992). (2nd Ed.). Legal Services for Prisoners with Children, 100 McAllister Street, San Francisco, CA 94102 (415) 255-7036.

Manual designed to aid lawyers and legal advocates, grandparents and relatives caring for children whose parents are incarcerated, institutionalized, in treatment programs, or otherwise unavailable. Developed for distribution in the Los Angeles/San Diego area.

*A Tangled Web: Public Benefits, Grandparents, and Grandchildren.* Washington, DC: AARP Public Policy Institute. Mullen, F. (1995). Call AARP at **1-800-424-3410**.

Provides an in-depth look at how our existing public benefit programs help or fail. The perspective of the grandparent caregiver is foremost in the reporting of the effectiveness of public benefits. The personal responsibility of the grandparents is demonstrated for policy makers, public officials, and benefit reform leaders.

*Unplanned Parenthood: The Confessions of a Seventy-Something Surrogate Mother.* NY: Random House. Carpenter, L. (1994).

A humorous account of a 73-year-old grandmother raising her three teenage grandchildren.

27. Are there websites on the World Wide Web that have helpful information?

Here are two web sites you may wish to investigate:

- 1) <http://www.eclipse.com/GrandsRuS/>
- 2) [http://family.starwave.com/resource/prs/Table\\_of\\_Contents.html](http://family.starwave.com/resource/prs/Table_of_Contents.html)

28. Where can I find information about services for older people in Delaware?

The Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities produces the *Guide to Services for Older Delawareans*. To find out where you can pick up a copy, call **577-4791** in **New Castle County**, or **422-1386** in **Milford for Kent and Sussex Counties**. The toll-free phone number is **1-800-223-9074**.

# FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE STATE AND FEDERAL INDEX

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# FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE/ STATE AND FEDERAL

Taking care of a grandchild can be very expensive. There are several state and federal programs that support dependent children. Caring for your grandchild does not mean you have the responsibility to support them financially. That is the obligation of the biological or adoptive parents. As a grandparent you will need to be informed about available programs and how you can take advantage of them. This information should help you get started.

1. Caring for my grandchildren has really placed a heavy financial burden on me. Since their parents are responsible for them financially, how can I get them to support them?

You can file an application for child support with the Division of Child Support Services Enforcement (DCSE). Anyone who is taking care of a child can file. You do not need any documents to prove you are the primary caretaker. You can pick up an application at any of the Family Courts (see Legal, question 22 for locations), or at the Division of Child Support Services Enforcement office in your county.

<b>New Castle County - University Plaza, Newark</b>	<b>(302) 369-2135</b>
<b>Kent County - Carroll's Plaza, Dover</b>	<b>(302) 739-4578</b>
<b>Sussex County - No. 9 Academy St., Georgetown</b>	<b>(302) 856-5586</b>

Child Support Services Enforcement will locate the parents. Through Family Court they will establish paternity and court orders for medical (health insurance) and financial child support. The Division also enforces the court rulings. The child support arrangement is changed as the circumstances change.

2. What is Temporary Assistance for Needy Families? (TANF)

TANF provides cash assistance for the basic needs of children who are not under both parents' care and support. Some of those needs could be for food, clothing, and rent. The purpose of TANF is to support children in their own home or in the home of relatives.

Children in financial need, as well as the relative with whom they live, may be eligible for cash assistance if they meet financial eligibility requirements.

A grandparent who is applying for TANF for the **child** fills out the application form as the child would complete it. Unless you are applying for TANF with your grandchild or you have adopted your grandchild, your income does not count. For example, if the question is "Do you own a home?" the answer is no - the child does not own a home .

3. What is Medicaid?

Medicaid is medical health insurance the state provides to people who are financially eligible and

not covered under other programs. Delaware's Medicaid is a Managed Care system (MCS), which means you must use doctors that are members of the Managed Care Organization. Eligibility for TANF and SSI automatically means you are eligible for Medicaid.

#### 4. What is Supplemental Security Income (SSI)?

SSI is a program that pays monthly benefits to people with low incomes and limited assets who are 65 or older, blind, or disabled. Children can qualify if their parents have limited income and resources or if they meet Social Security's definition of disability and if the income and assets are within the eligibility limits.

SSI is meant to bring a person's income up to a certain level. The level varies from one state to another. Check with your local Social Security office for more information. You can find the addresses and phone numbers for the Social Security offices in question 10.

#### 5. I could especially use help to feed my grandchild. Are there any programs that help with groceries?

Food Stamps are coupons that help low-income families buy a variety of foods that fit basic needs for good nutrition. Eligibility is based on who lives and eats together, as well as relationships in the home, income, and resources. If your household is eligible, you will receive an authorization form which you take to the bank to exchange for food stamps. The food stamps may be used at stores to purchase food, but cannot be used for diapers, toilet paper, tobacco, alcohol, or pet food.

Check question 7 in this section for the State Service Center that would handle your case.

#### 6. What programs can I apply to for financial help in caring for my grandchild?

A grandparent caring for a grandchild can apply for Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF), Medicaid, and Food Stamps. Following question 7 is a list of the State Service Centers located throughout the state. Not all Centers have all services. The letter **F** means that Food Stamp, Temporary Aid to Needy Families, and General Assistance applications are handled at that State Service Center. The letter **M** refers to Medicaid services. Long term care (**LTC**) refers to nursing home and home and community based services for those in danger of institutionalization. Numbers following each listing refer to the zip codes served by that center.

#### 7. How do I get an application and what do I need?

Start out by calling the State Service Center and speaking to an intake worker. You may have the application mailed to you or you may be required to make an appointment. You will be able to apply for TANF, Medicaid, and Food Stamps by completing one application on which you check a box for each service. You will need the following information for the application:

1. Some form of picture identification (driver's license or identification card from Motor Vehicle for non-drivers).
2. Birth certificates for each person on the application. If you cannot get the original certificate, you can request a copy from the Bureau of Vital Statistics. You may be

able to use another proof of age or identity.

**Offices of Vital Statistics:**

- **New Castle County - 995-8586**
- **Kent County - 739-4721**
- **Sussex County - 856-5495**

3. Social Security cards for each member of the family. Apply at Social Security office. Social Security information - **323-0304 or 1-800-772-1213 TTY 800-325-0778**  
There is no charge for a social security number.
4. Bills (rent, utility, medical, etc.).
5. Some proof of residence such as a lease or utility bill.
6. Pay stubs if working or proof of other kinds of income.
7. Bank statements.
8. Car registration if applicable.
9. Proof of your tie to the child (the parent's birth certificate, along with the child's birth certificate, can establish relationship).
10. Proof of income of the child.
11. Proof of the child's citizenship or immigration status if applicable.
12. Grandparents' marriage license, death certificate, or divorce papers may be requested.

## STATE SERVICE CENTERS:

### New Castle County

Northeast State Service Center  
1624 Jessup Street  
Wilmington, DE 19802  
**577-3101**

**F-19703, 19803, 19809, 19802 West of Market St.**  
**M-19703, 19707, 19710, 19735, 19736,**  
19801, 19802, 19803, 19806, 19807, 19809,  
19810, 19899

16th & Thatcher Streets  
Wilmington, DE 19802  
**577-3710**

**F-19802 East of Market St., 19810**  
North Wilmington

Porter State Service Center  
509 W. 8th Street  
Wilmington, DE 19801  
**577-3400**

**F-19801-Downtown Wilmington**

1715 West 4th Street  
Wilmington, DE 19805  
**577-3600**

**F-19710, 19732, 19735, 19805, 19806, 19807**

Hudson State Service Center  
501 Ogletown Road  
Newark, DE 19711  
**368-6770**

**F-19706, 19707, 19708, 19711, 19713,**  
19714, 19716, 19717, 19731, 19733, 19736,  
19804, 19808

DeLaWarr State Service Center  
500 Rogers Road  
New Castle, DE 19720  
**577-3814**

**F-19720, 19801 - Southbridge**



New Castle County Medical Assistance Unit  
Lewis Building  
DHSS Campus  
1901 N. DuPont Highway  
New Castle, DE 19720  
**577-4448**  
M-19720, 19734, 19804, 19805, 19850

Appoquinimick State Service Center  
122 Silver Lake Road  
Middletown, DE 19709  
**378-5770**  
F - 19701, 19702, 19709, 19730, 19734,  
19977

### **Kent County**

Carroll's Corner Plaza  
1114 S. DuPont Highway, Suite 102  
Dover, DE 19901  
**739-6924**  
F-last names beginning in A to O - 19901,  
19904, 19934, 19936, 19938, 19943, 19953,  
19955, 19962, 19964, 19979, 19980  
M- Dover service area with last names A to  
D and the entire Milford service area.

Dover Service Area: Camden-Wyoming,  
Cheswold, Clayton, Dover, Felton, Hartly,  
Kenton, Little Creek, Magnolia, Marydel,  
Smyrna, Viola and Woodside  
Milford Service Area: Bowers Beach,  
Ellendale, Farmington, Frederica, Greenwood  
(Kent County side), Harrington, Houston,  
Lincoln, Little Heaven, and Milford.

Claymont State Service Center  
Claymont Community Center  
3301 Green Street  
Claymont, DE 19703  
**798-2870**  
F - all of Claymont  
M - 19703, 19710, 19732, 19735, 19803,  
19806, 19807, 19809, 19810

Robscott Building  
153 Chestnut Hill Road  
Newark, DE 19713  
**368-6610**  
M-19701, 19702, 19706, 19708, 19709,  
19711, 19712, 19713, 19714, 19730, 19731,  
19732, 19733, 19808

Williams State Service Center  
805 River Road  
Dover, DE 19901  
**739-3351**  
F-last names starting with P through Z-  
19901, 19904, 19934, 19936, 19938, 19943,  
19953, 19955, 19962, 19964, 19979, 19980  
M-Dover Service area with last names E to  
Z.

Milford State Service Center  
18 North Walnut Street  
Milford, DE 19963  
**422-1555**  
F-19941, 19942, 19946, 19950, 19952,  
19954, 19960, 19963  
All Long Term Care applications for Kent  
and Sussex Counties

Milford Annex  
13 S. Front Street  
Milford, DE 19963  
**422-1555**  
F-19941, 19942, 19946, 19950, 19952,  
19954, 19960, 19963

## Sussex County

Bridgeville State Service Center  
N. Cannon & Mill Streets  
Bridgeville, DE 19933  
**855-5350**  
F-19933, 19950, 19973, 21629, 21632  
(Delmar residents)

Laurel State Service Center  
111 Mechanic Street  
Laurel, DE 19933  
**856-5223**  
F-19931, 19940, 19956, 19973

Pyle State Service Center  
R. D. #2  
Frankford, DE 19946  
**856-5237**  
F-19930, 19939, 19944, 19945, 19966,  
19970, 19975

Georgetown State Service Center  
546 S. Bedford Street  
Georgetown, DE 19947  
**856-5450**  
F-19947, 19951, 19958, 19966, 19968,  
19969, 19971

Georgetown State Service Center  
**856-5501**  
M-West Side-19931, 19933, 19940, 19941,  
19950, 19956, 19960, 19963, 19973

Georgetown State Service Center  
**856-5349**  
M-East Side-19930, 19939, 19944, 19945,  
19947, 19951, 19958, 19966, 19968, 19969,  
19970, 19971, 19975

8. Are there any other circumstances under which my grandchild could be eligible for Medicaid?

If your income is too high for cash assistance but still low enough, your grandchild may be eligible for Medicaid coverage without cash assistance. Call the State Service Center that handles Medicaid in your county. Check in this section, question 7, for the name, address, and telephone number of the State Service Center that would handle your application.

9. Can children be eligible for Medicare?

Medicare is a federal health insurance program for people 65 or older, and for people who have been getting Social Security disability benefits for two years. Children, even those with disabilities, do not get Social Security disability benefits until they turn 18. No child can get Medicare coverage until he or she is 20 years old.

The only exception is children with chronic renal disease who need a kidney transplant or maintenance dialysis. Children in such a situation can get Medicare if a parent is getting Social Security or has worked enough to be covered by Social Security.

In order to collect retirement benefits, a person born before 1934 would have to have 40 quarters of employment covered by Social Security, which is ten years.

To qualify for disability benefits, the applicant must have 20 quarters of employment covered by Social Security, which is five years. The person must have worked those five years no more than ten years ago when making their application.

Other criteria also apply.

10. Where are the Social Security offices in Delaware?

The toll free number for Social Security information in Delaware is **1-800-772-1213**. The nationwide toll free TTY number for Social Security is **1-800-325-0778**.

It is easiest to get through by telephone to Social Security later in the month.

Wilmington/New Castle County  
New Castle Corporate Commons  
92 Reads Way, Suite 200 **(302) 323-0304**  
New Castle, DE 19720

Kent County  
Federal Building  
300 S. New Street, Room 1003 **(302) 674-5162**  
Dover, DE 19904 **TTY - (302) 736-3688**

Sussex County  
Georgetown Professional Park  
600 N. DuPont Highway, Suite 202  
Georgetown, DE 19947 **(302) 856-9620**

11. Can a grandparent or relative caregiver apply for Social Security or Supplemental Security Income for the child they are caring for based on their own employment record?

No. The only adult who can apply for Social Security benefits or Supplemental Security Income for a child is the parent. The only exception is when the child is adopted by that caregiver, which means parental rights have been terminated.

12. What are the requirements for a child's disability to be eligible for SSI?

Before a child under 18 can be considered for SSI, the parents' income and assets must be checked to be sure of income eligibility. This process is called deeming.

The child must have a physical or mental condition or conditions that can be medically proven and which result in marked (extreme) and severe functional limitations. The condition must last or be expected to last at least 12 months or be expected to result in death. The child may not be considered disabled if he is working at a job that Social Security considers substantial work. Generally, a job that pays \$500 or more per month is considered substantial.

13. Are children with HIV eligible for Social Security disability?

A child infected with HIV may be eligible for Social Security disability benefits if they have signs and symptoms that indicate an impairment that affects their ability to participate in activities expected of children of their age. Check with the Social Security office.

14. What happens to a child who is disabled once she reaches her eighteenth birthday?

When a child with a qualifying disability turns 18, Social Security no longer considers a parent's income and assets in determining eligibility. A child who was not eligible for SSI before the age of 18 because a parent's income was too high may become eligible at 18. If a child with a disability who is getting SSI turns 18, continues to live with her parent, but does not pay for food or shelter, a lower payment rate may apply.

15. Can children receive Social Security benefits?

Children under the age of 18 may collect Social Security benefits on the record of a parent who is collecting retirement or disability benefits from Social Security. They may collect survivors benefits payable to children under 18 on the record of a parent who has died. They are eligible because they are dependent children of the person receiving the benefits.

16. Are there any Social Security benefits for adults disabled since childhood?

When a child reaches 18, or 19 if the child is a full-time student, Social Security benefits on the record of a parent collecting retirement, disability benefits, or survivor benefits normally stop. If the child's disability began prior to age 22, those benefits can continue to be paid into adulthood.

17. Are there any other programs that could provide cash assistance? General Assistance (GA) is a state-funded program designed to provide cash assistance to low-income people who do not qualify for federally funded programs such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI). The general assistance population includes children who are not deprived of parental care or support, children who live with non-relatives and unemployable adults.

Check question 7 in this section for the State Service Center that would handle your case.

18. My grandchild's health is being affected by his diet. How can I get help?

The Women, Infants, and Children program (WIC) can help with nutrition needs for children up to age 5. To find the office nearest you, call 1-800-222-2189. Check under Health, Question 7, for more detailed information.

19. As a relative is there any way I can take care of my grandchild through the Foster Care program?

Relatives can apply to become foster parents for a grandchild. Relatives providing at home caregiving are supplying Kinship Care. Look in the Legal section, question 5 for more information.

20. I need to get a job to support my grandchild. Where can I get help finding employment?

You can find information about employment and employment training in the Education section, question 20.

21. I need to work to care for my grandchild, but I can't afford child care. Is there any program to help with child care expenses?

The Division of Social Services Purchase of Care program can pay for all or part of licensed child care expenses for eligible families. To be eligible you will need to show that you need child care and cannot pay for part or all of it. Children may be considered eligible because of special needs of the child such as developmental delays, chronic illnesses, mental or physical disabilities, or if the family is active with the Division of Family Services.

You can apply at the Division of Social Services' Child Care Unit at:

<b>New Castle County:</b>	<b>Northeast State Service Center - Wilmington -</b>	<b>577-3233</b>
	<b>Hudson State Service Center - Newark -</b>	<b>368-6770</b>
	<b>Fourth Street Office - Wilmington -</b>	<b>577-3649</b>
<b>Kent County:</b>	<b>Carroll Plaza Location - Dover -</b>	<b>739-6920</b>
<b>Sussex County:</b>	<b>Georgetown State Service Center - Georgetown -</b>	<b>856-5569</b>

22. Are there any funds available for emergency situations?

People who receive TANF, General Assistance, Medicaid or SSI may receive up to \$200.00 to meet an emergency need. Payments may be made in only one period of 30 consecutive days in any twelve consecutive months. Funds are also available for emergency shelter. Check the State Service Center list in question 7 for the Center nearest you. Call first to verify that you are in the right zip code for that Center.

23. Is there any way I can get emergency assistance with food or clothing in my community?

Often there are organizations that work to assist the needy in their own community, such as churches. Contact the State Service Center for your area (question 7 of this section). They can direct you to any resources in your community. You could also call the Delaware HelpLine at **1-800-464-4357**. The HelpLine can also direct you to resources in emergency situations if it is available in your area.

The Ministry of Caring in Wilmington is another possible resource for help in obtaining clothing and food. The Ministry can direct you to food resources in your area. You can also receive a hot meal at one of the Ministry's dining rooms. Call the Ministry of Caring at **594-9476** for more information.

24. My bills for home heating are more than I can afford, especially with taking care of my grandchild. Is there any help?

The Delaware Energy Assistance Program (DEAP) helps low-income families meet the cost of home energy. DEAP services include: fuel assistance, weatherization, oil furnace repairs, and

energy conservation education. You must prove you are financially eligible. Documents you will need are:

- 1) Social Security cards of all household members 5 years and older;
- 2) Documents such as W-2 forms, statements of wages, check stubs of all household members, income from Social Security, Welfare benefits, or other sources must be shown;
- 3) A current utility bill with the applicant's name on it;
- 4) A copy of the applicant's rental lease if heat is included in the rent; and
- 5) Documents that indicate the total number of household members younger than 18 years.

You can apply for DEAP at the Catholic Charities office in your county.

**New Castle County:** **654-9295**

**Kent County:** **674-1782**

**Sussex County:** **856-6310**

# HEALTH INDEX

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# HEALTH SERVICES

Health care is a very important part of anyone's life, especially a young person such as your grandchild. It is extremely important for the child to have consistent medical care. Very young children from birth to five years of age must be seen frequently by a doctor to be sure they are on target with their growth and development. Older children should have an annual checkup for the same reason. Problems discovered early can be treated easier and more quickly. Be concerned about yourself and get your checkups too!

1. I know health care is very important, but I am worried about how to pay. My health insurance tells me which doctor I can see (Managed Care). What can I do?

If your grandchild's parents are employed and have health insurance through their work place, they are required to put the child on their policy. If the parents do not have health insurance, you need to find out if you can put the child on your health insurance program. If your grandchild is eligible, be sure to follow the rules such as when seeing a doctor, getting referrals for services, and using the emergency room. If your insurance is a managed care type or if you are enrolled in the Diamond State Health Plan (managed care for Medicaid recipients) you must use doctors enrolled with your company and follow the rules. Otherwise the bills can be denied and you will be responsible for payment.

If you have a private managed care type of insurance and Delaware Medicaid you must follow the rules of your private insurance company in order for Medicaid to pay any co-payments or deductibles, or to receive payment in full for allowable services.

2. Are there any ways besides using Medicaid and my private family doctor that can help me stretch my medical dollars?

There are clinics throughout Delaware that can help you and your grandchild. Some are privately operated by the du Pont Hospital for Children while others are operated through the Division of Public Health.

The duPont Hospital for Children (Nemours Clinics) provides health care to children up to 18 years old. Fees are based on ability to pay, according to a sliding scale. Services include well-child check-ups, shots, and sick child care. They can also refer children if care is needed from a specialist or in a hospital.

duPont Hospital for Children clinics are located at:

## New Castle County

<b>222 Philadelphia Pike, Wilmington, 19809</b>	<b>(302) 761-4660</b>
<b>1602 Jessup Street, Wilmington, 19802</b>	<b>(302) 576-5050</b>
<b>Bayard Square, 1410 Lancaster Ave, Wilmington, 19805</b>	<b>(302) 425-6440</b>
<b>Penn Mart Shopping Center, 315 E. Basin Road, New Castle, 19720</b>	<b>(302) 325-5150</b>
<b>Fox Run Shopping Center, 404 Fox Hunt Drive, Bear, 19701</b>	<b>(302) 836-7820</b>
<b>Cleaver Farm Road, Suite 201, Middletown, 19709</b>	<b>(302) 378-5100</b>



**Kent County**

**Rodney Village Shopping Center, 1726 S. Governors Ave, Dover, 19904 (302) 672-5650**

**Sussex County**

**15 Georgetown Plaza Shopping Center, Georgetown, 19947 (302) 855-2060**

**Network Health Center, 121 S. Front Street, Seaford, 19973 (302) 629-5030**

Clinics operated by the Division of Public Health provide services in the community including HIV counseling and testing, referral to maternity services, family planning (birth control), child health, sexually transmitted disease (STD) diagnosis and treatment, and the Women, Infants, and Children Nutrition Program. Services may vary by clinic site, so call first.

**New Castle County**

**Belvedere State Service Center, 301 Kiamensi Road, Wilmington, 19804 (302) 995-8545**

**DeLaWarr State Service Center, 500 Rodgers Road, New Castle, 19720 (302) 577- 2073**

**Hudson State Service Center, 501 Ogletown Road, Newark, 19711 (302) 368-6840**

**Middletown Health Unit, 214 N. Broad Street, Middletown, 19709 (302) 378-5200**

**Northeast State Service Center, 1624 Jessup Street, Wilmington, 19802 (302) 577-3536**

**Porter State Service Center, 511 W. 8th Street, Wilmington, 19801 (302) 577-3515**

**Kent County**

**Williams State Service Center, 805 River Road, Dover, 19901 (302) 739-5301**

**Sussex County**

**Bridgeville State Service Center, N. Cannon & Mills Sts., Bridgeville, 19933 (302) 628-2006**

**Georgetown State Service Center, 544 S. Bedford Street, Georgetown, 19947 (302) 856-5246**

**Laurel State Service Center, Mechanic Street, Laurel, 19965 (302) 628-2006**

**Milford State Service Center, 11-13 N. Church Ave, Milford, 19963 (302) 422-1327**

**Pyle State Service Center, Omar-Roxana Road, Frankford, 19945 (302) 856-5246**

**Shipley State Service Center, 350 Virginia Ave, Seaford, 19973 (302) 628-2006**

3. My grandchild is in high school. Is there any way the school can provide health care?

School Based Wellness Centers provide services to students enrolled in particular high schools statewide during regular school hours. Students must have a consent form, signed by their parent or guardian, in order to receive services. Services provided vary by site but may include any or all of the following basic services:

- crisis intervention
- health and nutrition education
- immunizations
- individual, family, group counseling
- nutrition and weight management
- outreach to at-risk youth
- physical and sports exams
- treatment for injuries

**Clinic Locations:** (Other clinics are in the planning stages.)

**New Castle County**

**Christiana Wellness Center 454-5421**

**Concord Wellness Center 477-3960**

**Delcastle Wellness Center 892-4460**

**Dickinson Wellness Center 892-3270**

**Glasgow Wellness Center 369-1501**

<b>Howard High Wellness Center</b>	<b>576-8080</b>
<b>Middletown Adolescent Health Project</b>	<b>378-5000</b>
<b>Newark High Wellness Center</b>	<b>369-1606</b>
<b>Paul M. Hodgson Wellness Center</b>	<b>834-0655</b>
<b>William Penn Wellness Center</b>	<b>324-5743</b>

**Kent County**

<b>Dover High Wellness Center</b>	<b>672-1586</b>
<b>Lake Forest Wellness Center</b>	<b>284-3800</b>
<b>Polytech Wellness Center</b>	<b>697-8402</b>
<b>Smyrna Wellness Center</b>	<b>653-2399</b>

**Sussex County**

<b>Cape Henlopen Wellness Center</b>	<b>644-2946</b>
<b>Delmar Wellness Center</b>	<b>846-0303</b>
<b>Seaford Wellness Center</b>	<b>629-4525</b>
<b>Sussex Tech Wellness Center</b>	<b>856-4360</b>

4. How can I find out if my if my grandchild is growing like other children his or her age?

A measure of how your grandchild compares with other children his age (a developmental evaluation) can be scheduled if the child is between the ages of birth to three at one of the following places:

- 1) New Castle County: Child Development Watch - Wilmington **428-6200**
- 2) Kent and Sussex County: Child Development Watch - Milford **422-1335**

A developmental evaluation can be obtained if the child is over three through the school districts' administrative offices (Education, questions 3 & 22) Child Find Program or at any time through your family doctor on a fee for service basis. If you have added your grandchild to your health insurance, call your member services representative to see which service providers your company contracts with. All children in Delaware are tested by the Child Find Program before being accepted into kindergarten.

If your grandchild is five years old or younger, you can obtain the *Growing Together Portfolio* by calling **(302) 577-4636**. The *Portfolio* is given to all mothers when a child is born. It contains very helpful information for knowing what a child should be able to do at different ages.

You can also refer to the child development chart at the end of this Health section. The chart gives you some general ideas of the physical and mental growth you should see in your child at a particular age. The Family Issues section tells about how the child relates to the main caregiver, the family, and others at different stages. The Health and Growth section tells you about feeding the child and what physical growth to expect. The Body and Mind section describes activities a child should be able to do at certain ages and how the child thinks. Do not become alarmed if your child is not performing or developing exactly as the chart says. Every individual grows and develops at their own rate. If you do not understand some of the terms used or are concerned that

your child is not performing several activities for his age group or is several months behind, consult your doctor.

5. Where can I go to get immunizations for my grandchild? What immunizations are required and when?

Immunizations are very important in keeping children healthy. Children from birth to five should have regular check-ups at which these immunizations are given. If your grandchild has a doctor he goes to regularly, they will have the records and know what is required. If the child does not have a regular doctor and you do not know what shots he has had, you can contact the Immunization Hotline at **1-800-282-8672** to see if the State has a record. You will need proof of immunization to enroll your grandchild in school. You can find an immunization chart which will tell you what immunizations are needed and when at the end of this section. If there is no regular doctor or you cannot afford the immunization, you can attend a clinic.

It is to your advantage to call the clinic to verify services and hours. Even though they are walk-in clinics, sometimes services change. Walk-in immunization clinics are held at the following centers:

**NEW CASTLE COUNTY:**

**DeLaWarr State Service Center - New Castle; every Tuesday 8:00 to 11:00 AM 577-2973**  
**Hudson State Service Center - Newark; every Wednesday 4:00 to 7:00 PM 368-6840**  
**Middletown Clinic - Middletown; every Wednesday, & Friday 8:00 to 10:00 AM 378-5200**  
**West End Neighborhood House - Wilmington; every Wednesday 8:00 to 11:00 AM 658-4171**

**KENT COUNTY/SUSSEX COUNTIES:**

Call your State Service Center to make an appointment. The locations and phone numbers can be found in Financial Assistance, question 7.

6. How can I get dental services for my grandchild?

If you have private insurance and your grandchild is covered, you need to contact the Member Services department. They can let you know if this is a covered service and the list of dentists in that company's network of doctors.

If you have Medicaid, the Division of Public Health provides dental services for recipients up to age 21. You will need to call to make an appointment. Be sure to take and show your child's Medicaid card.

The Division of Public Health's dental clinics are in the following locations:

**New Castle County**

<b>Porter State Service Center</b>	<b>577-3404</b>	<b>Wilmington</b>
<b>Hudson State Service Center</b>	<b>368-6840</b>	<b>Newark</b>
<b>Belvedere State Service Center</b>	<b>995-8585</b>	<b>Wilmington</b>
<b>DeLaWarr State Service Center</b>	<b>577-2973</b>	<b>New Castle</b>

**Kent County**

<b>Milford State Service Center</b>	<b>422-1372</b>	<b>Milford</b>
<b>Williams State Service Center</b>	<b>739-4755</b>	<b>Dover</b>

**Sussex County**

<b>Georgetown State Service Center</b>	<b>856-5240</b>	<b>Georgetown</b>
<b>Shipley State Service Center</b>	<b>628-2009</b>	<b>Seaford</b>

7. What is the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Nutrition program and where can I find out about this nutrition service for my grandchild?

The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program is for children up to age five whose health can be improved by a more nutritious diet. You can get specific nutritional items for your child if you are income eligible. If you receive Food Stamps or Medicaid you are automatically eligible. You will need to call the WIC office in New Castle County at **995-8684**, or Kent and Sussex Counties at **1-800-262-3030** for an appointment.

8. What do I do if my grandchild needs a hospital?

If the child can't breathe, is unconscious or unresponsive, call **911** (see Emergency Phone Numbers Section). When a hospital stay can be planned, work with your family doctor. You will need a referral.

**HOSPITAL IN DELAWARE:**

*New Castle County:*

**Medical Center of Delaware:**

**Christiana Hospital, 4755 Ogletown - Stanton Road, Newark, 19718 (302) 733-1000**

**Wilmington Hospital, 501 W. 14th Street, Wilmington, 19899 (302) 428-2229**

**St. Francis Hospital, 7th & Clayton Streets, Wilmington, 19805 (302) 421-4100**

**du Pont Hospital for Children, 1600 Rockland Road, Wilmington, 19899 (302) 651-4000**

*Kent County:*

**Kent General Hospital, 640 S. State Street, Dover, 19904 (302) 674-4700**

*Sussex County:*

**Beebe Medical Center, 424 Savannah Road, Lewes, 19958 (302) 645-3300**

**Milford Memorial Hospital, Clarke Ave, Milford, 19963 (302) 422-3311**

**Nanticoke Memorial Hospital, 801 Middleford Road, Seaford, 19973 (302) 629-6611**

**OUT OF STATE FACILITIES:**

If you have a managed care type of private insurance, or you are enrolled in the Diamond State Health Plan (managed care for Medicaid recipients), you **must** follow the rules of your managed care organization in order to have bills for out of state services paid.

If you have "fee for service" Medicaid coverage only and receive medical services at a hospital in Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey or Washington, D.C., and that facility is enrolled in the Delaware Medicaid program, bills for those services can be paid. It is advisable to contact the facility before receiving services to make sure that they are enrolled and are accepting Medicaid payments. If they are not enrolled or will not accept Medicaid payment for the services provided, you can be held responsible for payment.

If you are unsure of the type of coverage that your grandchild has, you should contact your insurance company **before** receiving services.

9. My grandchild needs a lot of medical attention. What can I do to keep him at home and not in a hospital?

Home health services are services that are necessary to maintain or aid a patient within the home, usually following inpatient hospital treatment or to avoid hospitalization. These services must be approved and prescribed by your doctor. Services may be provided by a visiting nurse association, home health agency or other organization as approved by your insurance carrier. The agency providing the services must be enrolled with your insurance company or Delaware Medicaid as it applies to your situation. Home health services may include nursing care (skilled and aide services), and therapies such as physical, speech and occupational. (See the Glossary for the definitions of different therapies.) Nursing and aide services are defined below.

**Skilled Nursing Services:** Services are provided on a regular part time basis or as often as the doctor orders. Services are provided by a Registered Nurse. The doctor must write a prescription order for the care and services to be provided. The doctor decides what level of nursing care should be provided and how frequently. Examples of skilled nursing services are:

- administer and care for IV's
- care for feeding tubes, tracheotomy suction
- applying dressing involving prescribed medications and sterile techniques
- teaching patient and caregivers nursing techniques
- intramuscular, intravenous and subcutaneous (beneath the skin) injections

**Home Health Aide:** Services are provided under the direct supervision of a skilled professional. Examples of services provided by a home health aide are:

- assist in personal care as bathing, shampooing hair, oral hygiene
- feeding
- assist with bowel and bladder training
- maintain a clean, safe environment
- **cannot** give medications

10. What in-home services does the Division of Public Health provide?

The public health community services team offers in-home maternal, child, and family health education, as well as family support. Some examples of education and support include:

- a) Evaluating the needs of pregnant women and those of her family
- b) Providing prenatal education to meet those needs
- c) Assessing the physical, social, and mental health of infants and children
- d) Providing growth and developmental screenings for infants and children
- e) Providing parent education to emphasize the importance of routine and preventive medical care
- f) Coordinate services with public and private agencies

For more information call:

**Public Health Central Intake:**

**New Castle County: (302) 995-8617 or 1-800-671-0050**

**Kent and Sussex Counties: (302) 422-1335 or 1-800-752-9393**

11. What in-home pediatric/adolescent nursing services are provided by a home health agency?

Some examples of home health nursing services for children birth through age 18 include:

- a) Observing and evaluating client's condition, both physical and emotional
- b) Providing direct care in administering treatments, medications, and rehabilitation exercises
- c) Assisting client and family toward developing positive coping behavior
- d) Teaching client and family to give treatments and medications when indicated
- e) Teaching client and family to carry out doctor's orders
- f) Reporting to the doctor any new signs and changes in the condition the client is being treated for and arranging for adjustments in medical treatment as needed
- g) Assisting client and family to find and obtain resources that will help client reach his highest possible level of self care and living

12. The doctor and I agree that my grandchild needs to be in a whole new place for a while to get the emotional help she needs. Where is a safe place she can stay and get psychiatric help?

Sometimes the best place for any of us to get help when the problem is emotional or mental is at an in-patient psychiatric facility. Below are the names of the hospitals and private agencies that have programs where the patient lives at their facility for a limited time and receives psychiatric help. Unless it is an emergency, be sure to first contact your health insurance provider before contacting the facility. If it is an emergency where the child is experiencing an emotional problem and is showing behavior that could put him at serious and immediate risk of injury to self or others, call the Division of Child Mental Health Services Crisis Service Team.

<b>New Castle County Crisis Service Team - (North of the C&amp;D Canal)</b>	<b>(302) 633-5128</b>
<b>New Castle County Crisis Service Team - (South of the C&amp;D Canal)</b>	<b>1-800-969-4357 TTY (302) 424-2033</b>
<b>Kent County and Sussex County</b>	<b>(302) 424-4357 1-800-969-4357 TTY (302) 424-2033</b>

The following hospitals provide in-patient psychiatric care:

- **duPont Hospital for Children: Wilmington** (302) 651-4500
- **Kent General Hospital, St. Jones Behavioral Health Care Center (for adolescents)**  
**Dover** (302) 674-4700, 1-800-289-8336
- **MeadowWood Hospital: (children, adolescents, adults, seniors)**  
**Wilmington** (302) 658-0702

- New Castle (302) 328-3303
- Dover (302) 678-1414 or 2285
- Georgetown (302) 856-2388
- **Rockford Center:** (302) 996-5480 Newark (children, adolescents, adults)
- **St. Francis Hospital:** (302) 421-4650 Wilmington (emergency psychiatric treatment for adolescents)
- **Terry Children’s Psychiatric Center:** (302) 577-4270 New Castle (ages 12 - 18)
- **The Medical Center of Delaware:** (302) 733-4200  
Wilmington day treatment program for children and adolescents

### Psychiatric Services

The Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families (DSCYF), Division of Child Mental Health Services (302) 633-2591 or 1-800-722-7710, provides a variety of mental health and substance abuse treatment services including outpatient, day and residential treatments, crisis intervention and in-patient hospitalization. Offers services to children through age 18 and their families.

### Statewide Adolescent Clinical Services:

Division of Child Mental Health:

**New Castle County - (302) 633-2573**

**Kent & Sussex Counties - 1-800-722-7710**

**New Castle County Consultation and Assessment Services - (302) 633-2579**

**Kent & Sussex Counties Consultation and Assessment Services - (302) 739-4270**

**Terry Children’s Psychiatric Center - (302) 577-4270** (serves children ages 6 - 13 yrs)

**MeadowWood Hospital, 575 S. DuPont Highway, New Castle, 19720 (302) 328-3330.**

Provides in-patient and out-patient services. Accepts most private insurance. Services are for adolescents and adults.

**Rockford Center, 100 Rockford Drive, Newark, 19713 (302) 996-5480**

Provides services for children, adolescents and adults. In-patient, out-patient and day programs are available.

13. What services are available for my grandchild with HIV/AIDS? (HIV AIDS defined in Glossary).

Services including case management, monitoring health status, medications, referral, developmental assessment, and home health care (defined in question 9) are available at these locations:

- **duPont Hospital for Children: Infectious Diseases: (302) 651-4421 or 4200**
- **The Medical Center of Delaware: Wilmington Hospital: HIV Community Program/ Pediatric Program: (302) 428-2538**

The Delaware HIV Consortium provides information and referral for people with HIV. Call them at (302) 654-5471, from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM, weekdays. They have information for services throughout Delaware.

14. What services are available to my granddaughter who is pregnant?

Agencies offering contraception, sexually transmitted disease (STD) testing and treatment, and pregnancy testing are:

- **Wilmington Hospital/Preventive Medicine**  
**Adolescent Maternity Services- (302) 428-4399 New Castle County**
- **Children and Families First:**  
**A Resource Center for Youth (ARC) - Spanish speaking counselor available**  
**Wilmington - (302) 658-5177**  
**Dover - (302) 674-8384**  
**Hotline - 1-800-220-3092 (business hours and some evenings)**
- **Planned Parenthood** - also offers well-woman gynecological care, family planning, counseling, options counseling and abortion services  
**Wilmington (302) 655-7293**  
**Newark (302) 731-7801**  
**Claymont (302) 798-8000**  
**Dover (302) 678-2000**
- **Volunteers for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention (VAPP)** - education, counseling, and health care to male and female teens. Medical services includes pelvic exams and cancer screening.  
**Wilmington - (302) 658-5277**

Pregnancy testing, birth control, counseling, and referrals to family planning services or referral to prenatal services are offered at these State Service Centers, Community Centers, and Health Centers (see Financial, question 7 for the complete address)

**New Castle County:**

- **Claymont Community Center - (302) 798-2430** - pregnancy testing and referrals only
- **DeLaWarr State Service Center - (302) 577-2973** - pregnancy testing and referrals only

**New Castle:**

- **Hudson State Service Center - (302) 368-6840** - pregnancy testing and referrals only

**Newark:**

- **Middletown Health Center - (302) 378-5200**
- **Northeast State Service Center - (302) 577-3536 Wilmington**
- **Porter State Service Center - (302) 577-3515** - pregnancy testing and referrals only, Wilmington

**Kent County:**

- **Williams State Service Center - (302) 739-4728 Dover**



**Sussex County:**

- **Georgetown State Service Center - (302) 856-5225**
- **Lewes Health Unit - (302) 645-5815**
- **Milford Health Unit - (302) 422-1331**
- **Pyle Service Center - (302) 732-9501 Frankford**
- **Shipley State Service Center - (302) 628-2006 Seaford**

15. Are there any special programs for pregnant teens to continue their education while carrying their child?

Pregnant teens can remain in their regular school. If they prefer, they can apply to continue their education during the pregnancy through the Delaware Adolescents Program, Inc. (DAPI).

**New Castle County - (302) 652-3445**  
**Kent County - (302) 697-0356**  
**Sussex County - (302) 856-7331**

MOM's House in Wilmington and Dover offers day care, parent education, and support services for single parents who are going to school and cannot afford day care.

**Wilmington (302) 658-3433**  
**Dover (302) 678-8688**

16. Is there any place my granddaughter can live while she is pregnant?

Bayard House in Wilmington is a private agency that provides residential services to pregnant teens and women. While staying there, residents must attend parenting and independent living skills classes. They must also attend school or work and obtain counseling. The fees are based on a sliding scale. The mother must have housing and other arrangements in place before the birth of the child.

**Bayard House (302) 654-1184**

17. I am very concerned about my grandchild being able to make good choices and act responsibly regarding sexual activity. Are there any programs that offer assistance in these areas?

The Boys and Girls Clubs of Delaware offers the *Smart Moves* program to assist young people in resisting alcohol, tobacco, other drugs and premature sexual activity. The program is available to club members between ages 6 and 15. Check your telephone book under Boys and Girls Clubs of Delaware for your closest club with a program. The Boys and Girls Club of Western Sussex County supplements their *Smart Moves* program with *Keep Smart*, a program designed to involve parents in pregnancy prevention education.

The Cooperative Extension offers the *Growing Up Female* program for girls in grades 5 through 7. The program educates girls about human sexuality and seeks to increase communication and decision-making skills. Call **831-8965** for more information.

Girls Incorporated of Delaware offers the *Preventing Adolescent Pregnancy* (PAP) program. Age-appropriate programs provide girls with information, support and motivation to help them avoid pregnancy. Call **798-8610** for information.

Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center, Inc., provides educational and recreational activities for youth ages 9-16, including field trips, academic assistance and an eight to ten week workshop series on pregnancy prevention. Call **656-3670** for information.

Planned Parenthood of Delaware has a peer outreach program called *Teen Talk*. Adolescents 13-18 from New Castle County can receive training in sexual health, self-esteem, assertiveness, effective communication and health decision-making. Call **655-7296**, extensions 38, 39, or 40.

18. Where can my granddaughter/grandson learn more about parenting?

Many classes are offered which can help. Check in Education, question 19.

# Recommended Childhood Immunization Schedule

UNITED STATES, JANUARY - DECEMBER 1997

Vaccines are listed under the routinely recommended age. Bars indicate range of acceptable ages for vaccination. Shaded bars indicate catch-up vaccination: at 11-12 years of age, Hepatitis B vaccine should be administered to children not previously vaccinated, and Varicella Virus vaccine should be administered to unvaccinated children who lack a reliable history of chickenpox.

Age→ Vaccine ↓	Birth	1 mo	2 mos	4 mos	6 mos	12 mos	15 mos	18 mos	4-6 mos	11-12 yrs	14-16 yrs
<b>Hepatitis B</b>	Hep B-1										
		Hep B-2			Hep B-3					Hep B	
<b>Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis</b>			DTaP or DTP	DTaP or DTP	DTaP or DTP	DTaP or DTP			DTaP or DTP	Td	
<b>H. influenzae type b</b>			Hib	Hib	Hib	Hib					
<b>Polio</b>			Polio	Polio		Polio			Polio		
<b>Measles, Mumps, Rubella</b>						MMR			MMR	MMR	
<b>Varicella</b>						Var				Var	

Approved by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). If you have any questions, check with your doctor.

# LEGAL INDEX

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# LEGAL ISSUES

It is important for you to know what your legal rights are regarding your grandchild or another minor relative. Under Delaware law a grandparent may ask the court to allow visitation with his or her grandchild when the parents will not allow visitation. The court will consider whether it is in the best interest of the child to visit with the grandparent. In certain cases, if you are not a grandparent but another relative who has cared for a child as the custodian or legal guardian, you may also have the right to visitation after the child has been returned to the parents.

You should also be aware that you have the right to petition the court for custody of your grandchild if you believe that the child is neglected or abused by his or her parents. The court will not remove custody from a parent as long as the parent can provide adequate care. However, if a parent cannot provide adequate care and it is in the child's best interest, the court may award custody to a grandparent or other relative. In some cases where a grandparent has been a caregiver for a long time, the grandparent may ask the court to allow him or her to adopt their grandchild and become the child's parent.

The main principle guiding the law regarding children is for the children to remain with the parents as long as the parents can provide adequate care. The courts are reluctant to terminate parental rights unless there is "clear and convincing evidence" that there are grounds to terminate the parents' rights and it is in the best interest of the child to do that. The best interest of the child, it is presumed, is to remain with the parents and to preserve the family. These are important facts you will need to keep in mind if you become involved in the legal system, since you may be required to work towards family reunification.

The main legal issue for grandparents and relative caregivers usually is how to protect and care for the child. There are many different ways to accomplish these goals, each with different degrees of control and consequences.

## QUESTIONS ABOUT CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP

### 1. What does having custody of a minor child mean?

Having custody of a child under the age of 18 (a minor) means that you have control and responsibility for that child. The degree of control and responsibility depends on the kind of custody you have.

### 2. Why should I be concerned about custody?

The person who has legal custody of a child has the right to make medical, educational, health, and welfare needs decisions for the child. Without legal custody you cannot register a child for school, approve medical care, or apply for some government aid programs.

### 3. What is legal custody?

A person with legal custody is legally responsible for the safety and care for a child under the age

of 18 through a court order or parent's consent. Legal custody is what the parents of a child have naturally in the eyes of the law. If you are not a parent of a child, legal custody of a child can be obtained by court order. When you have legal custody, you have the same rights and responsibilities as a parent has — the responsibility to care for and support the child and the right to make decisions for the child about school, health, activities, church, discipline, home environment and other things.

#### 4. What is informal placement?

Most caregivers have an informal placement arrangement, which is between the caregiver and the parents. Caregivers have no rights in this situation. They have physical custody, which is the responsibility of the day-to-day care of the child. Parents keep legal custody, which means they can remove the child from your home at any time.

#### 5. What is Kinship care and does it exist in Delaware?

Kinship care is any form of at home caregiving provided to children by relatives (kin). It may be permanent or temporary, full- or part-time, initiated by family agreement or under the supervision of a child welfare agency. Kinship care includes kinship foster care and private kinship care. In Delaware, relatives who are interested in providing for children who are in the custody of the Division of Family Services have two options:

- They can apply to become a foster parent for that child. If approved, the relative caretaker would be eligible to receive foster care payments and Medicaid for the child. The relative caretaker would be required to adhere to all of the Delaware Regulations for child care including but not limited to supervision, criminal background checks, ongoing training and other requirements of foster parents.
- Relative caretakers can apply for legal custody of the child. They can also contact their local State Service Center to apply for TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families). (State Service Centers are found in Financial Assistance, q. 7. TANF information is also in Financial Assistance, q. 2).

#### 6. How can I obtain custody of my grandchild?

Basically, there are two ways to obtain custody. One is by calling the Division of Family Services to report the abuse or neglect of your grandchild and asking for placement if the child is removed from the home. The second is by filing a dependency/neglect petition for custody with the Family Court and proving that the child is neglected or abused. You must also prove that you are an appropriate placement.

The Division of Family Services investigates all reports of abuse or neglect. If the investigation shows that the allegations are true, the Division files a petition in Family Court for legal custody of the child. A hearing will be scheduled, but notice of the hearing will only go to the petitioner (the Division) and respondents (the parents or whomever the allegations are against), if they are different from the natural parents of the child.

The grandparent must contact the Division of Family Services **1-800-292-9582** and let the social worker handling the case know that the grandparent may be able to serve as a placement for the child if the child is removed from the parents' custody. Family Court will not be able to give any information about the case because state law provides that all proceedings in Family Court are private and the Court does not give information to anyone but the people named on the petition, who in most cases are the parents.

At the hearing, one of three things will happen:

- Grandparents or relatives are awarded custody
- Division of Family Services receives custody
- Parents keep custody

7. What is the Division of Family Services' policy on confidentiality?

Confidentiality is a highly complex subject. The Division has ethical, professional, and legal obligation to protect clients from undue intrusion of privacy. The Division's policy is to permit the appropriate use and disclosure of essential oral and written information when sharing is professionally judged to be in the best interests of the child in its care, and when there is a legitimate need and right to know.

Parents and guardians have the right to examine information held about them in the Division's records within established limitations. Contact your child's caseworker for additional information.

8. Going through the Division of Family Services with allegations of child abuse and neglect can take a long time. I am concerned the children are going to be harmed in the meantime. What can I do?

You can file a petition for custody in Family Court, saying you think that the children are being neglected or abused. At the same time that the petition is filed, you may file an affidavit requesting priority scheduling due to the risk of irreparable harm to the children if a hearing is not held immediately. A judge of the Family Court will decide whether the circumstances you present in the affidavit show that an immediate hearing is necessary. You will need to provide detailed facts showing irreparable harm if an immediate hearing is not granted. You should keep a written record of all events of abuse and neglect to support your charges so that it will be factual and documented. (See q. 19 for help on filing the petition and affidavit.)

A \$40 filing fee is required, or affidavits may be submitted to verify why the fee should be waived. The Intake Unit may be able to help with the affidavits (q. 19).

If the priority scheduling hearing is held, you will be notified of the time and date a Family Court Master or Judge will hear the case. The Master or Judge will determine whether the children are neglected or abused and if you should receive legal custody of the child.

9. What are the visitation rights of parents and relative caregivers if a child is in the custody of the Division of Family Services?

For children in the custody of the Division of Family Services, parents who no longer have legal custody still have certain responsibilities such as visitation and financial support which may or

may not be specified by the court. Visitation may be structured, time limited, supervised by the Division, unsupervised, day visits, etc., depending on the age of the child, safety, etc. Relative caretakers can petition the Family Court of Delaware for visitation rights at any time or contact the child's caseworker at the Division to request visitation privileges with a child in foster care.

10. Do the parents and the other grandparents have visitation rights if the children are in my legal custody?

They may have the right to visit the child; however, as the legal caregiver for the child you have the right to make decisions about what is best for the child. If you feel visitation is not wise, you may deny visitation. However, the parents or other grandparents have the right to petition Family Court for visitation. The Court will then decide if there should be visitation or not and under what conditions visitation will occur. If you oppose visitation, you need to go to court and testify about the reasons why you oppose it.

If the parents or grandparents have been charged with a crime involving harm to the child, it is likely that there will be a criminal no-contact order in place and visitation may not be ordered in that situation.

A \$40 filing fee is required, or affidavits may be submitted to verify why the fee should be waived. The Intake Unit may be able to help with the affidavits. See q. 19 of this section for more information on the Intake Unit.

11. I am concerned about my safety and the safety of my grandchild when his parents visit. Is there somewhere I can take the child for a safe, supervised visit?

There are Visitation Centers, one in Newark and one in Milford. If the Court orders supervised visitation, it may take place at one of these centers for 1 to 2 hours at a time. The Centers can also be used to transfer children if the adults do not wish to come into contact with each other. The Centers are available whether you have a court order or not, but there is a waiting list.

**Visitation Centers:**

- **Milford State Service Center - Operated by Families in Transition - (302) 422-8058**
- **Hudson State Service Center (Newark) - Operated by CHILD, Inc. - (302) 762-8989**

If you believe that you or your grandchild need a restraining order because of violence or the threat of violence by a parent, you may file a petition in Family Court for a Protection from Abuse Order or PFA Order. This is a restraining order that is available to family members where there is domestic violence. You may file a petition for yourself and/or on behalf of your grandchild. Once you file a petition, a hearing will be scheduled within 30 days. If the Family Court decides that there is domestic violence, it may order that the parents have no contact with the child or you, or may only allow supervised visitation. A PFA Order lasts up to a year, but may be extended for good cause for another six months.

You will need to testify in court about the allegations of abuse. You should document everything that happens that you believe is domestic violence against you or your grandchild and what injuries or other effects happened.



## 12. What if my youngster is a pregnant or parenting teen?

When a minor mother in Division of Family Services' care and custody gives birth, the child may remain with the minor parent in foster care placement if the caseworker determines that the minor mother's age, maturity, level of demonstrated responsibility, and willingness to care for the child do not place the child at risk. These situations are on a case by case basis and monitored by the Division social worker and foster care provider.

## 13. What happens if my granddaughter is not under the custody of the Division of Family Services (DFS)?

If your granddaughter is not under DFS custody and is pregnant and you do not feel you can continue to care for her during her pregnancy, you may be able to send her to a residential program for pregnant teens and women such as the Bayard House in Wilmington. Bayard House (654-1184) is a private agency that provides residential services to pregnant teens and women. While staying there, the women must attend parenting and independent living skills classes. They must also attend school or work and obtain counseling. The fees are on a sliding scale basis. Before the child is born, the mother must have housing and other arrangements ready.

Delaware Adolescent Program, Inc. (DAPI), is an alternative school program for pregnant girls 12 to 19, although they have had some younger. The choice to attend is the student's. The student remains in the program until there is a convenient break point such as mid-year or the start of the new school year. The student, teachers, counselors and social workers decide together when it is best to return to the regular school system.

### **DAPI**

<b>Wilmington</b>	<b>(302) 652-3445</b>
<b>Dover</b>	<b>(302) 697-0356</b>
<b>Georgetown</b>	<b>(302) 856-7331</b>

## 14. What is the financial responsibility of parents after a grandparent obtains legal custody?

The law of Delaware provides that both parents are equally responsible to support their minor children. This responsibility does not change even if the children are removed from the parents' custody and placed with the State or a relative. If you have custody of your grandchild, you can file a petition for child support against the parents in the Family Court and obtain an order. (See the child support information in Financial Assistance, q. 1).

If you adopt your grandchild, the parents no longer have any responsibility to care for or support the child.

## 15. What is guardianship?

Guardianship is a form of legal custody of a minor. If you become the guardian of a minor child, you have the same rights and responsibilities as if you had been given legal custody. Sometimes it is important to be named the guardian of your grandchild because Delaware law provides that in order for a child to attend public school, his parent or legal guardian must be a resident of that school district. If you are not a legal guardian, you may not be able to enroll your grandchild in

public school in the district where you live, even if you have legal custody.

Usually, a grandparent or other relative will seek guardianship when the child is not abused or neglected but when the parents are moving away during the child's last year of high school and the child wants to remain here to finish school. Another example is when the parents and child are not getting along and the grandparent agrees to have the child live with him or her until their differences are ironed out.

Guardianship is obtained by filing a petition for guardianship in the Family Court. If an order is needed quickly due to the school year beginning, it may be wise to file an affidavit requesting priority scheduling with your petition. There are filing fees involved.

## QUESTIONS ABOUT ADOPTION

### 16. What is adoption?

Adoption gives you the same parental rights as a natural parent. You have the full legal and financial responsibility for parenting the child. The relationship is permanent. Parental rights must be terminated before an adoption can take place.

When filing for adoption, you will have to prove your adult child is incapable of parenting or harmful to the child (unless both parents consent to the adoption). Everything about you and your family will be closely examined in court. It is a long and possibly expensive court process. With adoption you may lose your eligibility for welfare benefits.

### 17. If the Division of Family Services has legal custody, how does that affect the adoption process?

When a child is removed from his family because the child is at risk, the Division will diligently work with the family to reduce the risk so the child may return to his home as quickly as possible. When this does not happen in a timely manner, the goal may be changed to "termination of parental rights" for the purpose of adoption. This may be initiated whenever it appears to be in the child's best interest and one or more of the grounds for termination of parental rights exist. There will be a hearing in Family Court to either voluntarily or involuntarily terminate parental rights, thus freeing the child for adoption. Make sure the Division knows who you are, your relationship to the child, and your desire to adopt.

### 18. How do I begin the adoption process?

Once you decide to adopt, you must file a petition to terminate the parents' rights and a petition to adopt in the Family Court. The Family Court has a packet of information and forms on how to file for termination of parental rights and adoption. You can obtain this by going to Family Court and asking for it or by calling the Family Court courthouse in your county. The phone numbers are listed in question 22. You can pay an attorney to do the filing for you if you can afford it.

If the parents agree to the termination of their rights, they may sign a consent form to be attached to the petition for termination of parental rights. If they do not agree, a hearing will be scheduled

on the petition. As the petitioner, you personally will have the responsibility to prove that one or more of the grounds for termination of parental rights exist and that termination is in the best interests of the child. You can also pay an attorney to represent you.

If the Family Court decides that the parents' rights should be terminated, it will then consider the petition for adoption. However, before the adoption petition can be decided, there must be a home study done by a licensed adoption agency. The home study must approve your home as an adoptive home in order for the Court to grant your petition for adoption. The adoption agency will charge a fee for the home study, but most have a sliding scale based on your income.

If the Division of Family Services has legal custody of the child, you must pursue a different course of action and may still need an attorney. Contact the Division of Family Services Adoption/Permanency Program Manager at **(302) 633-2655**.

## QUESTIONS RELATED TO THE LEGAL PROCESS

19. Do I need a lawyer to get custody or to adopt my grandchild?

No, many people who are unable to afford a lawyer represent themselves in Family Court. As long as you are able to tell the Court the reasons why you believe your grandchildren are neglected and why you should be given custody, you will be able to represent yourself. Remember that it is important to be prepared. The Court makes its decision based on facts. It is important that you show the Court facts that support your request, such as dates when something happened, documents that verify a fact, or a witness who saw something that relates to the issue of neglect or abuse that the Court is being asked to make a decision about. If you think you may not remember everything, write it down. Refer to your own record of events that show abuse or neglect.

Family Court has an Intake Unit available on a first come, first serve basis to assist anyone with determining what exactly the problem is and the proper petition or paper to file with the Court to ask for an order. If you need help in getting started, the Intake staff can probably assist. The staff of the Intake Unit are not lawyers and cannot give you legal advice. They are there to provide information about the Court and what kind of help is available through the Court.

20. How can I find a lawyer to represent me?

If you would like a lawyer to represent you but don't know which one to call, you can call the Delaware State Bar Association's Lawyer Referral Hotline at **658-5279** or **1-800-773-0606**. They will recommend several lawyers. You can have a half-hour consultation with one of the lawyers for a \$25.00 fee.

21. I cannot afford a lawyer's fees. Is there anywhere I can call for help?

Community Legal Aid or Delaware Volunteer Legal Services may be able to provide you with a lawyer without charge.

**Community Legal Aid**

**New Castle County - 575-0660**

**Kent County - 674-8500**

**Sussex County - 856-0038**

**Delaware Volunteer Legal Services - 478-8680**

**OTHER**

22. What are the addresses and phone numbers for Family Court?

**Family Court of Delaware:**

**900 N. King Street**

**Wilmington, DE 19801**

**(302) 577-2200**

**400 Court Street**

**Dover, DE 19901**

**(302) 739-6500**

**22 The Circle**

**Georgetown, DE 19956**

**(302) 856-5601**

23. What is the Family Medical Leave Act?

The Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) allows up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave within a 12 month period, job protection, and continued health-care coverage to workers under certain conditions. Some of the conditions are that the person must have completed at least one year or 1,250 hours of employment. Their employer must have at least 50 employees.

FMLA applies to caring for newborn or adopted children within 12 months of birth or adoption, coping with serious illness of family members, or inability to perform one's job because of serious health problems. Grandparents and relatives caring for children can apply under FMLA for time off to make the childcare arrangements necessary as new caregivers.

If the FMLA applies to you in your situation, your employer must reinstate you to the same or equivalent position you held before taking leave.

The Family Medical Leave Act is regulated by the U. S. Department of Labor. You can call them at **1-800-959-3652** for more information.

# GLOSSARY/ DEFINITIONS

**Acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS)**- a disorder caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). HIV is not AIDS. Symptoms in children include damaged immune system, constant infections, poor growth, and possibly brain disease resulting in developmental delays.

**Affidavit** - a written statement of fact about something that is relevant to a request made to the court or to another document filed with the court. The person making the statement of fact must sign the affidavit and have it witnessed and notarized by a notary public or the Family Court's Clerk of the Court.

**Art Therapy** - a type of play therapy that may appeal to older children more than playing with toys. The choice of color, topic to be featured in the art work, and the story the child may tell about the art work when it is completed helps the child express thoughts and feelings she may not be able to explain otherwise.

**Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD)** - a group of symptoms believed to be caused by slight abnormalities in the brain. These symptoms include an inappropriate lack of ability to pay attention, such as difficulty with listening to and following directions. Other signs of ADD may be acting on impulse without thought of consequences, being distracted, and often being clumsy. A child or adult with ADD is not necessarily overly active. The symptoms for ADD must always be looked at with an understanding of what is considered average for the child's particular age group.

**Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)**- the symptoms for ADHD are the same as those for ADD, but with hyperactivity. ADHD occurs in as many as three percent of children.

**Auditory Impairment**- hearing loss resulting from problems in any part of the ear or of the hearing center of the brain. Auditory impairment refers to a decrease in the range of hearing, loudness and/or pitch. Hearing loss or deafness may be a birth defect or it may be caused by disease or injury.

**Autism**- a developmental disorder with symptoms of disturbances of social, language, and thinking skills. A child with autism may avoid interactions with others, have difficulty understanding and expressing language, be extremely resistant to change, and have repetitive, self-stimulating behavior. The features of autism are obvious by 30 months of age. Autism appears to result from brain damage and may be associated with other disorders. It is important to note that some children with mental retardation, psychiatric disorders, sensory deficits (such as vision or hearing impairment), and some rare neurological diseases have autistic-like characteristics but are not autistic.

**Behavior Therapy**- the treatment approach most often used with developmentally disabled individuals without the verbal skills necessary for talking therapies. The basis of this approach is that inappropriate behaviors are learned and can be unlearned. This approach does not deal with possible underlying conflicts but focuses on the undesirable behavior directly.

**Certified Mental Health Counselor** - provides individual, group and family counseling (M.A., M.S., M.C., M. Ed.). They must hold a master's degree and pass a national certification exam.

**Commissioner** - a constitutional judicial officer who has been appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. Commissioners serve for four years and have the same authority and powers as a Judge of the Family Court. In general, commissioners hear civil actions involving juvenile delinquency, domestic violence, child custody and visitation. They also have the authority to incarcerate a person who is in contempt of a court order.

**Developmental Delay** - a term applied to a child age three or younger who is usually more than six months behind other children their same age and sex in one or more of the following areas: 1) thinking, speaking, writing, and understanding language; 2) fine motor skills such as using fingers to pick up things; 3) gross motor skills such as rolling over, crawling, walking; 4) social and emotional skills such as getting along with people; and 5) self-help activities such as feeding and dressing. Generally boys develop more slowly than girls.

**Family Court** - the State court which decides matters that relate to children and families such as support, custody, neglect, adoption, paternity, visitation and delinquency. It also decides matters related to divorce such as alimony and property division, and issues involved in domestic violence such as protective orders and misdemeanor offenses between family members. Decisions are made by judges, masters, and commissioners. In some cases, the Court has people meet with a court mediator to try to reach an agreement on the matter.

**Fetal alcohol effects**- a combination of congenital abnormalities (problems a child is born with) that is caused by the mother drinking alcohol during pregnancy. The effects of alcohol can range from a slightly smaller birthweight to the presence of many of the same anomalies present in a child with fetal alcohol syndrome (**FAS**). Usually the term is used to describe a child who has some, but not all, of the signs of a child with FAS. Research shows that children with fetal alcohol effects may have just as difficult a time functioning and adapting as children with FAS or prenatal exposure to drugs.

**Fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS)**- a combination of congenital abnormalities that is caused by the mother drinking alcohol during pregnancy. Signs of **FAS** may include growth deficiency, mental retardation, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, and motor delays. Children with FAS have certain facial features such as small eyes, extra skin folds, small jaw, flat midface, little or no groove on the upper lip outer surface, thin upper lip, short nose, ear anomalies, and short openings between eyelids.

**Immunization** - to introduce into the body immune serums or vaccines to prevent or cure disease. Immunity is achieved when the body produces antibodies that defend against the bacteria, virus, or other microorganisms which cause disease. See the immunization chart after question 18 in the Health section to know when certain immunizations need to be given to your grandchild.

**Inpatient Hospitalization** - admission into a hospital that provides care for a period of time.

**Licensed Clinical Social Worker** - provides evaluation, diagnosis, referral, individual counseling and group therapy. In Delaware, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (L.C.S.W.) must hold a master's degree in social work and complete two years of supervised practice.

**Licensed Professional Counselor of Mental Health** - provides professional counseling services to individuals, groups and families (L.P.C.M.H.). In Delaware, a licensed professional counselor of mental health must hold a master's degree and work three full years in a mental health setting with supervision.

**Marriage and Family Therapist** - focuses on premarital, marital, parent-child and sibling relationships, as well as larger family systems. A certified family therapist must hold a master's degree with specialized courses and must work in a mental health setting with supervision.

**Master** - a lawyer who is appointed by the Chief Judge of the Family Court to hear certain types of matters such as child support and child dependency/neglect cases. The Master holds a hearing in a courtroom. After hearing testimony and viewing all the evidence, he or she makes a decision. If a person who is a party in the case does not agree with the Master's decision, they can request a hearing on the matter before a judge who will hold a hearing and make a final decision.

**Medication** - prescription or non-prescription medication recommended by a doctor.

**Mobility Impairment**- the inability of a child with developmental or visual impairments to move about independently. The goal of mobility therapy is to teach the child to move about within familiar environments and how to travel beyond familiar areas.

**Occupational therapy (OT)** - helps the injured, ill, or disabled child develop and improve so she can help herself as much as possible and learn how to adjust in different behavior and play situations. The occupational therapist works with the young child's ability to move, to use her senses of taste, smell, feel, hearing and touch, and posture development to try to prevent or lessen the impact of impairment and developmental delay, and promote learning new skills to increase the child's ability to be as independent as is appropriate for her age.

**Outpatient** - professional medical treatment not requiring admission to a health care facility.

**Partial Hospitalization** (also called **day treatment** or **day hospital**) - intensive outpatient treatment. The length of stay and number of hours per day or week may vary. The individual does not live at the place he receives treatment.

**Pastoral Counselor** - a minister or lay person who holds good standing in a recognized denomination or religious faith. She provides counseling based on the theological and psychological dimensions of human problems. A certified pastoral counselor must hold a master's degree, complete clinical pastoral education and complete a period of supervised practice.

**Pervasive Developmental Disorder**- A diagnosis sometimes given to a child who has some, but not all, of the symptoms of autism.

**Physical Therapy**- treatment to prevent harmful movement or ease movement through a program designed for the individual child. The goal may be to develop muscle strength, increase coordination and/or the ability to move more easily. It also may ease pain or help learn new motor skills. Physical therapists use therapeutic exercises and sometimes heat, cold, and water. Therapeutic exercises for some children may include passive exercise in which the therapist moves and

stretches the child's muscles, or the child may actively participate in learning new ways to acquire and control positions and movement.

**Play therapy**- a method used to help young children work on emotional or psychological conflicts. The child plays freely with a selected group of toys as the therapist observes. Through play the child is able to express thoughts and feelings that he may not be able to talk about or have the ability to explain.

**Psychiatric disorder** - a severe mental disorder that changes the person's understanding of what is real and their ability to participate normally with others. A person may show personality changes, loss of emotions, confused ways of thinking, depression, confusion, a decrease in language skills such as talking in a baby manner or in phrases instead of sentences, more fighting behavior than usual, can't be still, hears things or sees things.

**Psychiatric Nurse** - a registered professional nurse (M.S.N., B.S.N.) who works in a hospital or clinical setting. In addition to a medical background, he has specialized training or education in the treatment of mental disorders.

**Psychiatrist** - a medical doctor (M.D., D.O.) who specializes in mental disorders. He can evaluate and diagnose all types of mental disorders, prescribe medication, and provide therapy. In Delaware, a psychiatrist must be licensed to practice medicine and must complete three years of specialty training.

**Psychologist** - holds a doctoral degree in psychology (Ph.D., Psy.D., Ed.D.). She conducts psychotherapy, evaluates and diagnose mental disorders and conducts psychological testing. Current law in Delaware requires that a psychologist hold a doctoral degree and complete two years of supervised experience.

**Self-Help** (also called **support groups**) - while not a substitute for therapy, these groups are seen as an important addition or alternative to the traditional services provided by a mental health professional. Mutual help groups often offer on-going peer support and education that professionals may not be able to provide.

**Special Need** - any support program or service a child needs beyond what is usually required by a youngster to get an education.

**Speech Therapy**- treatment designed to help the child develop and maintain the speech and language skills of other children his age, as well as to improve oral motor abilities such as feeding.

**Visual Impairment**- a lack or loss of vision due to damage to the organs of vision or to the vision centers of the brain. A person is considered legally blind if she has corrected vision of 20/200. That means she can see at 200 feet what ordinarily can be seen at 20 feet or less. She also may see only directly ahead and not to the sides.





**DELAWARE HEALTH  
AND SOCIAL SERVICES**

**DIVISION OF SERVICES FOR AGING AND  
ADULTS WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES**

1997

**Grandparents Raising  
And Nurturing  
Dependent Children:**

***Delaware's Resource Book for Grandparents  
and Relative Caregivers Raising Children***

is published by:

Delaware Health and Social Services  
Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities  
Joining Generations Program  
1901 N. DuPont Highway  
New Castle, DE 19720  
Telephone: (302) 577-4791, 1-800-223-9074

Please call with revisions, additions, and suggestions.

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***STATEMENT OF POLICY***

Pursuant to Title VI of the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964, DHSS' Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities is prohibited from discrimination because of race, religion, sex, age, national origin, or disability against any applicant for services. This publication is available in microfiche from the Bureau of Archives and Records, Hall of Records, P. O. Box 1401, Dover, Delaware 19903.

***DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES MISSION STATEMENT:***

***To improve the quality of life for Delaware's citizens by promoting health and well-being, fostering self-sufficiency, and protecting vulnerable populations.***

## MISSION

The mission of Delaware Health and Social Services' Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities is to improve or maintain the quality of life for Delawareans who are at least eighteen years of age with physical disabilities or who are elderly. The Division is committed to the development and delivery of consumer-driven services which maximize independence through individual choice, enable individuals to continue living active and productive lives, and protect those who may be vulnerable and at risk.

## OUR VISION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Delaware Health and Social Services' Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities, while pursuing its mission to its customers, will move into the 21st century by pursuing a multi-faceted approach to success.

It must also prepare to serve the succeeding generations, whose needs may require uniquely different approaches and resources. Our focus on advocacy, diversity, partnering, technology, and education will enhance our efforts for success in providing quality services to our customers, empowering them for greater independence.

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