



New Kin-GAP Program!

AB12

What is AB 12?

Assembly Bill 12 ("AB 12") is a bill also known as the California Fostering Connections to Success Act, which was signed into law on September 30, 2010 and went into effect January 2011. AB 12 brings about important changes to the Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment (Kin-GAP) benefits.

What are the changes?

At the time of your next annual Kin-GAP review, your Kin-GAP benefits will be converted into the new Kin-GAP Federal or state subsidized program. Under the new program:

1. You are able to negotiate your Kin-GAP benefits to meet if applicable, the current special needs of your child(ren) but not to exceed the rate that the child would have received in foster care.
2. You are able to re-negotiate the amount of your Kin-Gap benefits at the time of your re-assessment which occurs every 2 years. However, if the needs of your child(ren) change before that time, you can request an earlier reassessment.
3. You are able to move to another state and continue to receive Kin-GAP benefits based on that state's relative foster care rate unless that rate can not be paid or if applicable, does not have a specialized rate. If eligible for federal Kin-GAP, you are likely to receive Medicaid in that state. However, if receiving state-funded Kin-GAP, the receipt of Medicaid depends on whether or not that state has an agreement with California. It is advised that you explore the Medicaid benefits as well as the state's relative foster care rates before you make plans to move to determine the impact of that move.
4. You are now able to continue to receive Kin-GAP benefits for your child until he or she turns 21 provided that they have a qualifying mental or physical disability. Beginning in 2012, Kin-GAP will be extended to age 19, in 2013 age 20 and subject to funding appropriations, in 2014 to age 21. The youth must have attained 16 years of age before the Kin-GAP negotiated agreement payments began. In addition, the youth must be finishing high school or a program to get a GED, enrolled in college or a vocational program, in a program or activity to help find a job, employed at least 80 hours a month or is not able to do any of the above activities because of a medical condition.

What can I expect?

During the time of your next annual Kin-GAP review, you will be contacted by a DCFS social worker who will complete a new Kin-GAP Agreement (SOC 396A) with you and will be able to provide more specific information about the enhanced Kin-GAP program. At that time, before you sign the new agreement you will have an opportunity to negotiate for the most appropriate rate if the needs of the child have changed.

The DCFS Kinship Resource Centers social workers, invite you to one of the many "Drop in Sites" to help you process your paperwork which normally takes 15-20 minutes. Please see the attached schedule and reserve your spot today!

For the most current "Drop-In Sites" and added dates and locations, please call the Kinship Division at 1-888-694-7263