

20100619D

**HOUSE BILL NO. 917**

Offered January 8, 2020

Prefiled January 7, 2020

*A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 63.2-100, 63.2-900.1, and 63.2-1305 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Kinship Guardianship Assistance program; eligibility; fictive kin.*

Patrons—Brewer and Keam

Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That §§ 63.2-100, 63.2-900.1, and 63.2-1305 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:**

**§ 63.2-100. Definitions.**

As used in this title, unless the context requires a different meaning:

"Abused or neglected child" means any child less than 18 years of age:

1. Whose parents or other person responsible for his care creates or inflicts, threatens to create or inflict, or allows to be created or inflicted upon such child a physical or mental injury by other than accidental means, or creates a substantial risk of death, disfigurement, or impairment of bodily or mental functions, including, but not limited to, a child who is with his parent or other person responsible for his care either (i) during the manufacture or attempted manufacture of a Schedule I or II controlled substance, or (ii) during the unlawful sale of such substance by that child's parents or other person responsible for his care, where such manufacture, or attempted manufacture or unlawful sale would constitute a felony violation of § 18.2-248;

2. Whose parents or other person responsible for his care neglects or refuses to provide care necessary for his health. However, no child who in good faith is under treatment solely by spiritual means through prayer in accordance with the tenets and practices of a recognized church or religious denomination shall for that reason alone be considered to be an abused or neglected child. Further, a decision by parents who have legal authority for the child or, in the absence of parents with legal authority for the child, any person with legal authority for the child, who refuses a particular medical treatment for a child with a life-threatening condition shall not be deemed a refusal to provide necessary care if (i) such decision is made jointly by the parents or other person with legal authority and the child; (ii) the child has reached 14 years of age and is sufficiently mature to have an informed opinion on the subject of his medical treatment; (iii) the parents or other person with legal authority and the child have considered alternative treatment options; and (iv) the parents or other person with legal authority and the child believe in good faith that such decision is in the child's best interest. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to limit the provisions of § 16.1-278.4;

3. Whose parents or other person responsible for his care abandons such child;

4. Whose parents or other person responsible for his care commits or allows to be committed any act of sexual exploitation or any sexual act upon a child in violation of the law;

5. Who is without parental care or guardianship caused by the unreasonable absence or the mental or physical incapacity of the child's parent, guardian, legal custodian or other person standing in loco parentis;

6. Whose parents or other person responsible for his care creates a substantial risk of physical or mental injury by knowingly leaving the child alone in the same dwelling, including an apartment as defined in § 55.1-2000, with a person to whom the child is not related by blood or marriage and who the parent or other person responsible for his care knows has been convicted of an offense against a minor for which registration is required as a violent sexual offender pursuant to § 9.1-902; or

7. Who has been identified as a victim of sex trafficking or severe forms of trafficking as defined in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, 22 U.S.C. § 7102 et seq., and in the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015, 42 U.S.C. § 5101 et seq.

If a civil proceeding under this title is based solely on the parent having left the child at a hospital or emergency medical services agency, it shall be an affirmative defense that such parent safely delivered the child to a hospital that provides 24-hour emergency services or to an attended emergency medical services agency that employs emergency medical services providers, within 14 days of the child's birth. For purposes of terminating parental rights pursuant to § 16.1-283 and placement for adoption, the court may find such a child is a neglected child upon the ground of abandonment.

"Adoptive home" means any family home selected and approved by a parent, local board or a licensed child-placing agency for the placement of a child with the intent of adoption.

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HB917

59 "Adoptive placement" means arranging for the care of a child who is in the custody of a  
60 child-placing agency in an approved home for the purpose of adoption.

61 "Adult abuse" means the willful infliction of physical pain, injury or mental anguish or unreasonable  
62 confinement of an adult as defined in § 63.2-1603.

63 "Adult day care center" means any facility that is either operated for profit or that desires licensure  
64 and that provides supplementary care and protection during only a part of the day to four or more aged,  
65 infirm or disabled adults who reside elsewhere, except (i) a facility or portion of a facility licensed by  
66 the State Board of Health or the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, and (ii)  
67 the home or residence of an individual who cares for only persons related to him by blood or marriage.  
68 Included in this definition are any two or more places, establishments or institutions owned, operated or  
69 controlled by a single entity and providing such supplementary care and protection to a combined total  
70 of four or more aged, infirm or disabled adults.

71 "Adult exploitation" means the illegal, unauthorized, improper, or fraudulent use of an adult as  
72 defined in § 63.2-1603 or his funds, property, benefits, resources, or other assets for another's profit,  
73 benefit, or advantage, including a caregiver or person serving in a fiduciary capacity, or that deprives the  
74 adult of his rightful use of or access to such funds, property, benefits, resources, or other assets. "Adult  
75 exploitation" includes (i) an intentional breach of a fiduciary obligation to an adult to his detriment or  
76 an intentional failure to use the financial resources of an adult in a manner that results in neglect of  
77 such adult; (ii) the acquisition, possession, or control of an adult's financial resources or property  
78 through the use of undue influence, coercion, or duress; and (iii) forcing or coercing an adult to pay for  
79 goods or services or perform services against his will for another's profit, benefit, or advantage if the  
80 adult did not agree, or was tricked, misled, or defrauded into agreeing, to pay for such goods or services  
81 or to perform such services.

82 "Adult foster care" means room and board, supervision, and special services to an adult who has a  
83 physical or mental condition. Adult foster care may be provided by a single provider for up to three  
84 adults.

85 "Adult neglect" means that an adult as defined in § 63.2-1603 is living under such circumstances  
86 that he is not able to provide for himself or is not being provided services necessary to maintain his  
87 physical and mental health and that the failure to receive such necessary services impairs or threatens to  
88 impair his well-being. However, no adult shall be considered neglected solely on the basis that such  
89 adult is receiving religious nonmedical treatment or religious nonmedical nursing care in lieu of medical  
90 care, provided that such treatment or care is performed in good faith and in accordance with the  
91 religious practices of the adult and there is a written or oral expression of consent by that adult.

92 "Adult protective services" means services provided by the local department that are necessary to  
93 protect an adult as defined in § 63.2-1603 from abuse, neglect or exploitation.

94 "Assisted living care" means a level of service provided by an assisted living facility for adults who  
95 may have physical or mental impairments and require at least a moderate level of assistance with  
96 activities of daily living.

97 "Assisted living facility" means any congregate residential setting that provides or coordinates  
98 personal and health care services, 24-hour supervision, and assistance (scheduled and unscheduled) for  
99 the maintenance or care of four or more adults who are aged, infirm or disabled and who are cared for  
100 in a primarily residential setting, except (i) a facility or portion of a facility licensed by the State Board  
101 of Health or the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, but including any  
102 portion of such facility not so licensed; (ii) the home or residence of an individual who cares for or  
103 maintains only persons related to him by blood or marriage; (iii) a facility or portion of a facility  
104 serving infirm or disabled persons between the ages of 18 and 21, or 22 if enrolled in an educational  
105 program for the handicapped pursuant to § 22.1-214, when such facility is licensed by the Department as  
106 a children's residential facility under Chapter 17 (§ 63.2-1700 et seq.), but including any portion of the  
107 facility not so licensed; and (iv) any housing project for persons 62 years of age or older or the disabled  
108 that provides no more than basic coordination of care services and is funded by the U.S. Department of  
109 Housing and Urban Development, by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, or by the Virginia Housing  
110 Development Authority. Included in this definition are any two or more places, establishments or  
111 institutions owned or operated by a single entity and providing maintenance or care to a combined total  
112 of four or more aged, infirm or disabled adults. Maintenance or care means the protection, general  
113 supervision and oversight of the physical and mental well-being of an aged, infirm or disabled  
114 individual.

115 "Auxiliary grants" means cash payments made to certain aged, blind or disabled individuals who  
116 receive benefits under Title XVI of the Social Security Act, as amended, or would be eligible to receive  
117 these benefits except for excess income.

118 "Birth family" or "birth sibling" means the child's biological family or biological sibling.

119 "Birth parent" means the child's biological parent and, for purposes of adoptive placement, means  
120 parent(s) by previous adoption.

"Board" means the State Board of Social Services.

"Child" means any natural person under 18 years of age.

"Child day center" means a child day program offered to (i) two or more children under the age of 13 in a facility that is not the residence of the provider or of any of the children in care or (ii) 13 or more children at any location.

"Child day program" means a regularly operating service arrangement for children where, during the absence of a parent or guardian, a person or organization has agreed to assume responsibility for the supervision, protection, and well-being of a child under the age of 13 for less than a 24-hour period.

"Child-placing agency" means (i) any person who places children in foster homes, adoptive homes or independent living arrangements pursuant to § 63.2-1819, (ii) a local board that places children in foster homes or adoptive homes pursuant to §§ 63.2-900, 63.2-903, and 63.2-1221, or (iii) an entity that assists parents with the process of delegating parental and legal custodial powers of their children pursuant to Chapter 10 (§ 20-166 et seq.) of Title 20. "Child-placing agency" does not include the persons to whom such parental or legal custodial powers are delegated pursuant to Chapter 10 (§ 20-166 et seq.) of Title 20. Officers, employees, or agents of the Commonwealth, or any locality acting within the scope of their authority as such, who serve as or maintain a child-placing agency, shall not be required to be licensed.

"Child-protective services" means the identification, receipt and immediate response to complaints and reports of alleged child abuse or neglect for children under 18 years of age. It also includes assessment, and arranging for and providing necessary protective and rehabilitative services for a child and his family when the child has been found to have been abused or neglected or is at risk of being abused or neglected.

"Child support services" means any civil, criminal or administrative action taken by the Division of Child Support Enforcement to locate parents; establish paternity; and establish, modify, enforce, or collect child support, or child and spousal support.

"Child-welfare agency" means a child day center, child-placing agency, children's residential facility, family day home, family day system, or independent foster home.

"Children's residential facility" means any facility, child-caring institution, or group home that is maintained for the purpose of receiving children separated from their parents or guardians for full-time care, maintenance, protection and guidance, or for the purpose of providing independent living services to persons between 18 and 21 years of age who are in the process of transitioning out of foster care. Children's residential facility shall not include:

1. A licensed or accredited educational institution whose pupils, in the ordinary course of events, return annually to the homes of their parents or guardians for not less than two months of summer vacation;

2. An establishment required to be licensed as a summer camp by § 35.1-18; and

3. A licensed or accredited hospital legally maintained as such.

"Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the Department, his designee or authorized representative.

"Department" means the State Department of Social Services.

"Department of Health and Human Services" means the Department of Health and Human Services of the United States government or any department or agency thereof that may hereafter be designated as the agency to administer the Social Security Act, as amended.

"Disposable income" means that part of the income due and payable of any individual remaining after the deduction of any amount required by law to be withheld.

"Energy assistance" means benefits to assist low-income households with their home heating and cooling needs, including, but not limited to, purchase of materials or substances used for home heating, repair or replacement of heating equipment, emergency intervention in no-heat situations, purchase or repair of cooling equipment, and payment of electric bills to operate cooling equipment, in accordance with § 63.2-805, or provided under the Virginia Energy Assistance Program established pursuant to the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 (Title XXVI of Public Law 97-35), as amended.

"Family and permanency team" means the group of individuals assembled by the local department to assist with determining planning and placement options for a child, which shall include, as appropriate, all biological relatives and fictive kin of the child, as well as any professionals who have served as a resource to the child or his family, such as teachers, medical or mental health providers, and clergy members. In the case of a child who is 14 years of age or older, the family and permanency team shall also include any members of the child's case planning team that were selected by the child in accordance with subsection A of § 16.1-281.

"Family day home" means a child day program offered in the residence of the provider or the home of any of the children in care for one through 12 children under the age of 13, exclusive of the provider's own children and any children who reside in the home, when at least one child receives care for compensation. The provider of a licensed or registered family day home shall disclose to the parents

182 or guardians of children in their care the percentage of time per week that persons other than the  
183 provider will care for the children. Family day homes serving five through 12 children, exclusive of the  
184 provider's own children and any children who reside in the home, shall be licensed. However, no family  
185 day home shall care for more than four children under the age of two, including the provider's own  
186 children and any children who reside in the home, unless the family day home is licensed or voluntarily  
187 registered. However, a family day home where the children in care are all related to the provider by  
188 blood or marriage shall not be required to be licensed.

189 "Family day system" means any person who approves family day homes as members of its system;  
190 who refers children to available family day homes in that system; and who, through contractual  
191 arrangement, may provide central administrative functions including, but not limited to, training of  
192 operators of member homes; technical assistance and consultation to operators of member homes;  
193 inspection, supervision, monitoring, and evaluation of member homes; and referral of children to  
194 available health and social services.

195 "Fictive kin" means persons who are not related to a child by blood or adoption but have an  
196 established relationship with the child or his family.

197 "Foster care placement" means placement of a child through (i) an agreement between the parents or  
198 guardians and the local board where legal custody remains with the parents or guardians or (ii) an  
199 entrustment or commitment of the child to the local board or licensed child-placing agency. "Foster care  
200 placement" does not include placement of a child in accordance with a power of attorney pursuant to  
201 Chapter 10 (§ 20-166 et seq.) of Title 20.

202 "Foster home" means a residence ~~licensed~~ *approved* by a child-placing agency or local board in  
203 which any child, other than a child by birth or adoption of such person or a child who is the subject of  
204 a power of attorney to delegate parental or legal custodial powers by his parents or legal custodian to  
205 the natural person who has been designated the child's legal guardian pursuant to Chapter 10 (§ 20-166  
206 et seq.) of Title 20 and who exercises legal authority over the child on a continuous basis for at least 24  
207 hours without compensation, resides as a member of the household.

208 "General relief" means money payments and other forms of relief made to those persons mentioned  
209 in § 63.2-802 in accordance with the regulations of the Board and reimbursable in accordance with §  
210 63.2-401.

211 "Independent foster home" means a private family home in which any child, other than a child by  
212 birth or adoption of such person, resides as a member of the household and has been placed therein  
213 independently of a child-placing agency except (i) a home in which are received only children related by  
214 birth or adoption of the person who maintains such home and children of personal friends of such  
215 person; (ii) a home in which is received a child or children committed under the provisions of  
216 subdivision A 4 of § 16.1-278.2, subdivision 6 of § 16.1-278.4, or subdivision A 13 of § 16.1-278.8;  
217 and (iii) a home in which are received only children who are the subject of a properly executed power  
218 of attorney pursuant to Chapter 10 (§ 20-166 et seq.) of Title 20.

219 "Independent living" means a planned program of services designed to assist a child age 16 and over  
220 and persons who are former foster care children or were formerly committed to the Department of  
221 Juvenile Justice and are between the ages of 18 and 21 in transitioning to self-sufficiency.

222 "Independent living arrangement" means placement of (i) a child at least 16 years of age who is in  
223 the custody of a local board or licensed child-placing agency by the local board or licensed child-placing  
224 agency or (ii) a child at least 16 years of age or a person between the ages of 18 and 21 who was  
225 committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice immediately prior to placement by the Department of  
226 Juvenile Justice, in a living arrangement in which such child or person does not have daily substitute  
227 parental supervision.

228 "Independent living services" means services and activities provided to a child in foster care 14 years  
229 of age or older who was committed or entrusted to a local board of social services, child welfare  
230 agency, or private child-placing agency. "Independent living services" may also mean services and  
231 activities provided to a person who (i) was in foster care on his 18th birthday and has not yet reached  
232 the age of 21 years; (ii) is between the ages of 18 and 21 and who, immediately prior to his  
233 commitment to the Department of Juvenile Justice, was in the custody of a local board of social  
234 services; or (iii) is a child at least 16 years of age or a person between the ages of 18 and 21 who was  
235 committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice immediately prior to placement in an independent  
236 living arrangement. Such services shall include counseling, education, housing, employment, and money  
237 management skills development, access to essential documents, and other appropriate services to help  
238 children or persons prepare for self-sufficiency.

239 "Independent physician" means a physician who is chosen by the resident of the assisted living  
240 facility and who has no financial interest in the assisted living facility, directly or indirectly, as an  
241 owner, officer, or employee or as an independent contractor with the residence.

242 "Intercountry placement" means the arrangement for the care of a child in an adoptive home or foster  
243 care placement into or out of the Commonwealth by a licensed child-placing agency, court, or other

entity authorized to make such placements in accordance with the laws of the foreign country under which it operates.

"Interstate placement" means the arrangement for the care of a child in an adoptive home, foster care placement or in the home of the child's parent or with a relative or nonagency guardian, into or out of the Commonwealth, by a child-placing agency or court when the full legal right of the child's parent or nonagency guardian to plan for the child has been voluntarily terminated or limited or severed by the action of any court.

"Kinship care" means the full-time care, nurturing, and protection of children by relatives.

"Kinship guardian" means the adult relative of a child in a kinship guardianship established in accordance with § 63.2-1305 who has been awarded custody of the child by the court after acting as the child's foster parent.

"Kinship guardianship" means a relationship established in accordance with § 63.2-1305 between a child and an adult relative of the child who has formerly acted as the child's foster parent that is intended to be permanent and self-sustaining as evidenced by the transfer by the court to the adult relative of the child of the authority necessary to ensure the protection, education, care and control, and custody of the child and the authority for decision making for the child.

"Kinship Guardianship Assistance program" means a program consistent with 42 U.S.C. § 673 that provides, subject to a kinship guardianship assistance agreement developed in accordance with § 63.2-1305, payments to eligible individuals who have received custody of a relative child of whom they had been the foster parents.

"Local board" means the local board of social services representing one or more counties or cities.

"Local department" means the local department of social services of any county or city in this Commonwealth.

"Local director" means the director or his designated representative of the local department of the city or county.

"Merit system plan" means those regulations adopted by the Board in the development and operation of a system of personnel administration meeting requirements of the federal Office of Personnel Management.

"Parental placement" means locating or effecting the placement of a child or the placing of a child in a family home by the child's parent or legal guardian for the purpose of foster care or adoption.

"Public assistance" means Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF); auxiliary grants to the aged, blind and disabled; medical assistance; energy assistance; food stamps; employment services; child care; and general relief.

"Qualified assessor" means an entity contracting with the Department of Medical Assistance Services to perform nursing facility pre-admission screening or to complete the uniform assessment instrument for a home and community-based waiver program, including an independent physician contracting with the Department of Medical Assistance Services to complete the uniform assessment instrument for residents of assisted living facilities, or any hospital that has contracted with the Department of Medical Assistance Services to perform nursing facility pre-admission screenings.

"Qualified individual" means a trained professional or licensed clinician who is not an employee of the local board of social services or licensed child-placing agency that placed the child in a qualified residential treatment program and is not affiliated with any placement setting in which children are placed by such local board of social services or licensed child-placing agency.

"Qualified residential treatment program" means a program that (i) provides 24-hour residential placement services for children in foster care; (ii) has adopted a trauma-informed treatment model that meets the clinical and other needs of children with serious emotional or behavioral disorders, including any clinical or other needs identified through assessments conducted pursuant to clause (viii) of this definition; (iii) employs registered or licensed nursing and other clinical staff who provide care, on site and within the scope of their practice, and are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; (iv) conducts outreach with the child's family members, including efforts to maintain connections between the child and his siblings and other family; documents and maintains records of such outreach efforts; and maintains contact information for any known biological family and fictive kin of the child; (v) whenever appropriate and in the best interest of the child, facilitates participation by family members in the child's treatment program before and after discharge and documents the manner in which such participation is facilitated; (vi) provides discharge planning and family-based aftercare support for at least six months after discharge; (vii) is licensed in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 671(a)(10) and accredited by an organization approved by the federal Secretary of Health and Human Services; and (viii) requires that any child placed in the program receive an assessment within 30 days of such placement by a qualified individual that (a) assesses the strengths and needs of the child using an age-appropriate, evidence-based, validated, and functional assessment tool approved by the Commissioner of Social Services; (b) identifies whether the needs of the child can be met through placement with a family member or in a

305 foster home or, if not, in a placement setting authorized by 42 U.S.C. § 672(k)(2), including a qualified  
306 residential treatment program, that would provide the most effective and appropriate level of care for the  
307 child in the least restrictive environment and be consistent with the short-term and long-term goals  
308 established for the child in his foster care or permanency plan; (c) establishes a list of short-term and  
309 long-term mental and behavioral health goals for the child; and (d) is documented in a written report to  
310 be filed with the court prior to any hearing on the child's placement pursuant to § 16.1-281, 16.1-282,  
311 16.1-282.1, or 16.1-282.2.

312 "Registered family day home" means any family day home that has met the standards for voluntary  
313 registration for such homes pursuant to regulations adopted by the Board and that has obtained a  
314 certificate of registration from the Commissioner.

315 "Residential living care" means a level of service provided by an assisted living facility for adults  
316 who may have physical or mental impairments and require only minimal assistance with the activities of  
317 daily living. The definition of "residential living care" includes the services provided by independent  
318 living facilities that voluntarily become licensed.

319 "Sibling" means each of two or more children having one or more parents in common.

320 "Social services" means foster care, adoption, adoption assistance, child-protective services, domestic  
321 violence services, or any other services program implemented in accordance with regulations adopted by  
322 the Board. Social services also includes adult services pursuant to Article 4 (§ 51.5-144 et seq.) of  
323 Chapter 14 of Title 51.5 and adult protective services pursuant to Article 5 (§ 51.5-148) of Chapter 14  
324 of Title 51.5 provided by local departments of social services in accordance with regulations and under  
325 the supervision of the Commissioner for Aging and Rehabilitative Services.

326 "Special order" means an order imposing an administrative sanction issued to any party licensed  
327 pursuant to this title by the Commissioner that has a stated duration of not more than 12 months. A  
328 special order shall be considered a case decision as defined in § 2.2-4001.

329 "Temporary Assistance for Needy Families" or "TANF" means the program administered by the  
330 Department through which a relative can receive monthly cash assistance for the support of his eligible  
331 children.

332 "Temporary Assistance for Needy Families-Unemployed Parent" or "TANF-UP" means the  
333 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program for families in which both natural or adoptive  
334 parents of a child reside in the home and neither parent is exempt from Virginia Initiative for Education  
335 and Work (VIEW) participation under § 63.2-609.

336 "Title IV-E Foster Care" means a federal program authorized under §§ 472 and 473 of the Social  
337 Security Act, as amended, and administered by the Department through which foster care is provided on  
338 behalf of qualifying children.

339 **§ 63.2-900.1. Kinship foster care.**

340 A. The local board shall, in accordance with regulations adopted by the Board, determine whether the  
341 child has any relative who may be eligible to become a kinship foster parent. Searches for relatives  
342 eligible to serve as kinship foster parents shall be conducted at the time the child enters foster care, at  
343 least annually thereafter, and prior to any subsequent changes to the child's placement setting. The local  
344 board shall take all reasonable steps to provide notice to such relatives of their potential eligibility to  
345 become kinship foster parents and explain any opportunities such relatives may have to participate in the  
346 placement and care of the child, including opportunities available through kinship foster care or kinship  
347 guardianship.

348 B. Kinship foster care placements pursuant to this section shall be subject to all requirements of, and  
349 shall be eligible for all services related to, foster care placement contained in this chapter. Subject to  
350 approval by the Commissioner, a local board may grant a waiver of the Board's standards for foster  
351 home approval, set forth in regulations, that are not related to safety. Waivers granted pursuant to this  
352 subsection shall be considered and, if appropriate, granted on a case-by-case basis and shall include  
353 consideration of the unique needs of each child to be placed. Upon request by a local board, the  
354 Commissioner shall review the local board's decision and reasoning to grant a waiver and shall verify  
355 that the foster home approval standard being waived is not related to safety. The approval or disapproval  
356 by the Commissioner of the local board's waiver shall not be considered a case decision as defined in  
357 § 2.2-4001.

358 C. The kinship foster parent shall be eligible to receive payment at the full foster care rate for the  
359 care of the child.

360 D. A child placed in kinship foster care pursuant to this section shall not be removed from the  
361 physical custody of the kinship foster parent, provided that the child has been living with the kinship  
362 foster parent for six consecutive months and the placement continues to meet approval standards for  
363 foster care, unless (i) the kinship foster parent consents to the removal; (ii) removal is agreed upon at a  
364 family partnership meeting as defined by the Department; (iii) removal is ordered by a court of  
365 competent jurisdiction; or (iv) removal is warranted pursuant to § 63.2-1517.

366 E. For purposes of this section, "relative" means an adult who is (a) related to the child by blood,

marriage, or adoption or (ii) fictive kin of the child.

**§ 63.2-1305. Kinship Guardianship Assistance program.**

A. The Kinship Guardianship Assistance program is established to facilitate placements with relatives and ensure permanency for children for whom adoption or being returned home are not appropriate permanency options. Kinship guardianship assistance payments may include Title IV-E maintenance payments, state-funded maintenance payments, state special services payments, and nonrecurring expense payments made pursuant to this section.

B. A child is eligible for kinship guardianship assistance under the program if:

1. The child has been removed from his home pursuant to a voluntary placement agreement or as a result of a judicial determination that continuation in the home would be contrary to the welfare of the child;

2. The child was eligible for foster care maintenance payments under 42 U.S.C. § 672 or under state law while residing for at least six consecutive months in the home of the prospective kinship guardian;

3. Being returned home or adopted is not an appropriate permanency option for the child;

4. The child demonstrates a strong attachment to the prospective kinship guardian, and the prospective kinship guardian has a strong commitment to caring permanently for the child; and

5. The child has been consulted regarding the kinship guardianship if the child is 14 years of age or older.

C. If a child does not meet the eligibility criteria set forth in subsection B but has a sibling who meets such criteria, the child may be placed in the same kinship guardianship with his eligible sibling, in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 671(a)(31), if the local department and kinship guardian agree that such placement is appropriate. In such cases, kinship guardianship assistance may be paid on behalf of each sibling so placed.

D. In order to receive payments under 42 U.S.C. § 674(a)(5) or pursuant to the Children's Services Act (§ 2.2-5200 et seq.), the local department and the prospective kinship guardian of a child who meets the requirements of subsection B shall enter into a written kinship guardianship assistance agreement negotiated by the Department and containing terms providing for the following:

1. The amount of, ~~and the manner in which,~~ each kinship guardianship assistance payment, *the manner in which such payments* will be provided, and the manner in which such ~~payment~~ payments may be adjusted periodically, in consultation with the kinship guardian, on the basis of the circumstances of the kinship guardian and the needs of the child;

2. The additional services or assistance, if any, for which the child and kinship guardian will be eligible under the agreement;

3. The procedure by which the kinship guardian may apply for additional services as needed;

4. Subject to 42 U.S.C. § 673(d)(1)(D), assurance that the local department shall pay the total cost of nonrecurring expenses associated with obtaining kinship guardianship of the child, to the extent that the total cost does not exceed \$2,000; and

5. Assurance that the agreement shall remain in effect without regard to the state of residency of the kinship guardian.

E. A kinship guardianship assistance payment on behalf of a child pursuant to this section shall not exceed the foster care maintenance payment that would have been paid on behalf of the child had the child remained in a foster family home.

F. The Board shall promulgate regulations for the Kinship Guardianship Assistance program that are necessary to comply with Title IV-E requirements, including those set forth in 42 U.S.C. § 673. The regulations may set forth qualifications for kinship guardians, the conditions under which a kinship guardianship may be established, the requirements for the development and amendment of a kinship guardianship assistance agreement, and the manner of payments on behalf of siblings placed in the same household.

G. For purposes of this section, "relative" means an adult who is (a) related to the child by blood, marriage, or adoption or (ii) fictive kin of the child.