

Notes on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren with Disabilities

Awareness of Grandparent Family Issues

- Fear of illness and death
- Grandchildren's special needs
- Loss and isolation
- Marriage and relationships
- Time constraints and reduced energy
- Role confusion
- Caring for elderly parents
- Challenges from children
- Economic issues
- Health concerns and physical limitations
- Accessing services
- Health insurance
- Legal issues

Legal Information

It is important to understand the term, permanent custody. It is often misunderstood. Even if a grandparent has legal custody or legal guardianship, a parent can regain custody. There is no such thing as permanent custody. Temporary custody usually means that the judge asks the grandparents to come back into court at a future time to review the custody order. Permanent custody means that the judge does not wish to review the order in the future. Permanent custody does not mean that a child will not return to the parent.

Financial Information

If denied SSI, do not reapply. Appeal it so the date of the first application is taken into account. Don't give up. Call or write the Social Security Administration office to inquire about the status of the application.

There is a special exemption for grandparents according to Social Security law. Grandparents can apply for benefits for the child based on their lifetime earnings. They must make application at the initial time that they apply for their own benefits.

Delivering Effective Early Intervention Services to Grandparent Families

Mental Health Information