

Helpful Organizations

Child Welfare: National/General

[The Child Welfare Information Gateway](#): The Child Welfare Information Gateway connects child welfare and related professionals to comprehensive information and resources to help protect children and strengthen families. We feature the latest on topics from prevention to permanency, including child abuse and neglect, foster care, and adoption.

[Children's Bureau/US HHS Administration for Children and Families](#): The Administration for Children & Families (ACF) is a division of the Department of Health & Human Services. ACF promotes the economic and social well-being of families, children, individuals and communities.

[Annie E. Casey Foundation](#): The primary mission of the Foundation is to foster public policies, human-service reforms, and community supports that more effectively meet the needs of today's vulnerable children and families. In pursuit of this goal, the Foundation makes grants that help states, cities and neighborhoods fashion more innovative, cost-effective responses to these needs

[American Academy of Pediatrics, Council on Foster Care, Adoption, & Kinship Care](#): The Council on Foster Care, Adoption, & Kinship Care (COFCAKC) was formed in 2011 when the Section on Adoption and Foster Care (founded in 2000) merged with relevant parts of the Committee on Early Childhood, Adoption, and Dependent Care, and the Task Force on Foster Care. It is dedicated to improving the health and well-being of children and youth in foster care, kinship care, and those who have been adopted.

[National Resource Center on Permanency and Family Connections](#): The National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections at the Hunter College School of Social Work is a training, technical assistance, and information services organization dedicated to help strengthen the capacity of State, local, Tribal and other publicly administered or supported child welfare agencies to: institutionalize a safety-focused, family-centered, and community-based approach to meet the needs of children, youth and families. The National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections is a service of the Children's Bureau – ACF/DHHS and member of the T&TA Network.

Child Welfare: Minnesota/General

[Children's Law Center](#): The Children's Law Center (CLC) provides free advocacy for foster care youth in Minnesota. CLC advocates for foster children through systemic reform and provides free legal representation services to foster children. CLC also trains volunteer attorneys to represent foster children in court.

[Minnesota Department of Human Service](#): The Department of Human Services is the state agency responsible for administration and oversight of human services in the state of Minnesota, including services for families, children, and people with disabilities.

Child Welfare: Adoption

[Voice for Adoption \(VFA\)](#) develops and advocates for improved adoption policies. Recognized as a national leader in special needs adoption, VFA works closely with federal and state legislators, as well as other child welfare organizations, to make a difference in the lives of the 107,000 children in foster care who are waiting to be adopted and the families who adopt children from foster care.

[MNAdopt.org](#) is a program contracted by the Department of Human Services through the Minnesota Adoption Resource Network (MARN). MN ADOPT is dedicated to supporting and sustaining families who adopt Minnesota Waiting Children by providing online resources and referrals to therapeutic and crisis services, support groups, adoption information and comprehensive training opportunities.

[Concerned United Birth Parents](#): Concerned United Birthparents is the only national organization focuses on birthparents – their experiences, healing and wisdom. CUB serves all those touched by adoption and all who are concerned about adoption issues. Although our focus is on birthparents, long the forgotten people of the adoption community, we welcome adoptees, adoptive parents, and professionals. We find that we all have much to learn from each other and that sharing our feelings and experiences benefits all of us.

[North American Council on Adoptable Children](#): Founded in 1974 by adoptive parents, the North American Council on Adoptable Children is committed to meeting the needs of waiting children and the families who adopt them.

Child Welfare: Child Development

The [Center on the Developing Child](#) at Harvard University was founded in 2006 on the belief that the vitality and sustainability of any society depend on the extent to which it expands opportunities early in life for all children to achieve their full potential and engage in responsible and productive citizenship. The Center on the Developing Child views healthy child development as the foundation of economic prosperity, strong communities, and a just society, and its mission is to advance that vision by using science to enhance child well-being through innovations in policy and practice.

The [National Child Traumatic Stress Network](#) works to raise the standard of care and improve access to services for traumatized children, their families and communities throughout the United States by raising public awareness on the scope and seriousness of child traumatic stress, developing a broad range of effective services and interventions by creating trauma-informed developmentally and culturally appropriate programs, and working across systems of care, including health, mental health, education, child welfare, and many others.

Child Welfare and Disability

[Child Abuse and Children with Disabilities](#): This website provides an overview of child abuse and children with disabilities for child welfare workers. Its goal is the provision of information for working more effectively with child abuse cases that may involve children with special needs and their families. It outlines basic knowledge that should be known by all members of the

multidisciplinary team related to child characteristics, strategies or “reasonable accommodations” that may be needed in investigative and/or support procedures.

Child Welfare: Foster Care

[Foster Care Alumni of America](#): Foster Care Alumni of America is a national non-profit association that has been founded and is led by alumni of the foster care system. The mission of FCAA is to connect the alumni community and to transform foster care policy and practice, ensuring opportunity for people in and from foster care.

[Foster Parent College](#): Foster Parent College provides innovative, research-based, interactive online courses for foster, adoptive, and kinship parents. There is a charge for their trainings.

[National Foster Parent Association](#): The National Foster Parent Association is open to anyone who believes in the importance of family-based care for foster children and that every child deserves a permanent family. NFPA delivers Information, Advocacy, Education, and Support

[RG Lewis, Consulting](#) (older youth permanency resource links): Private consultant, provides free links to training resources focused on work with older youth in foster care. Focus on permanency and stability outcomes.

[Rising Tides](#): Rising Tides is a donor-driven program that allows donors to match saving accounts of foster care youth and directly support educational needs.

[Legal Center for Foster Care and Education, American Bar Association](#): The Legal Center FCE serves as a national technical assistance resource and information clearinghouse on legal and policy matters affecting the education of children in the foster care system. The center provides expertise to states and constituents, facilitates networking to advance promising practices and reforms, and provides technical assistance and training to respond to the ever-growing demands for legal support and guidance.

[Things People Never Told Me: When You Start Living on Your Own from Foster Care, There are Some Things in Life that People Seem to Forget to Tell You About](#) (PDF): This compilation of suggestions about finances, health care, employment, and relationships from foster youth transitioning to adulthood is aimed at equipping other youth leaving foster care with the necessary tools to become independent and successful adults. This resource is a product of the Better Futures Project, Research and Training Center for Pathways to Positive Futures, Portland State University.

Disability: National

[National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities](#): NICHCY is a national source of information on disabilities in infants, toddlers, children, and youth. It includes information on IDEA, the law authorizing early intervention services and special education, state-specific resource sheets, as well as information about specific disability diagnoses, public policies impacting children and youth with disabilities, and research.

[National Alliance on Mental Illness](#): NAMI is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. NAMI advocates for access to services, treatment, supports and research and is steadfast in its commitment to raising awareness and building a community of hope for all of those in need.

[National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome](#): NOFAS is the leading voice and resource of the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) community. Founded in 1990, NOFAS is the only international non-profit organization committed solely to FASD primary prevention, advocacy, and support.

[National Council on Disability](#): NCD is a small, independent federal agency charged with advising the President, Congress, and other federal agencies regarding policies, programs, practices, and procedures that affect people with disabilities. NCD is comprised of a team of fifteen Presidential appointees, an Executive Director appointed by the Chairman, and twelve, full-time professional staff. NCD is an excellent source for research and policy information impacting people with disabilities of all ages.

[National Disability Rights Network](#): Through training and technical assistance, legal support, and legislative advocacy, NDRN works to create a society in which people with disabilities are afforded equality of opportunity and are able to fully participate by exercising choice and self-determination.

Disability: Minnesota

[The Arc MN](#) and [The ARC Greater Twin Cities](#): The Arc Minnesota and local chapters of The Arc provide crucial information for people with developmental disabilities and their families, connect them with resources, and stand with them when they need an advocate. The ARC's mission is to secure for all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families the opportunity to realize their goals of where and how they live, learn, work and play.

[Fraser](#): Fraser provides a range of services for children, adolescents, adults, and families in the Twin Cities. Our offerings include early childhood services, autism evaluations and services, mental health services, neuropsychology, rehabilitation, products and information to serve more than 60 types of disabilities and disorders.

[MN Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome](#): MOFAS is here for families, individuals and caregivers, to help guide and support them through the FASD journey, to help find answers and resolve problems, to navigate the complex systems, and most importantly, connect you with others who are walking the same path.

[MN Disability Law Center](#): As part of Legal Aid, the Minnesota Disability Law Center (MDLC) addresses the unique legal needs of Minnesotans with disabilities. MDLC provides free civil legal assistance to individuals with disabilities statewide on legal issues related to their disabilities.

[NAMI-MN](#): The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Minnesota is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of adults and children with mental illness and their families. NAMI Minnesota offers education, support and advocacy. NAMI Minnesota vigorously promotes the

development of community mental health programs and services, improved access to services, increased opportunities for recovery, reduced stigma and discrimination, and increased public understanding of mental illness.

[PACER Center](#): The mission of PACER Center (Parent Advocacy Coalition for Educational Rights) is to expand opportunities and enhance the quality of life of children and young adults with disabilities and their families. PACER Center expands opportunities and enhances the quality of life of children and young adults with disabilities and their families. PACER is staffed primarily by parents of children with disabilities and works in coalition with 18 disability organizations.

[Washburn Center for Children](#): Washburn Center for Children is the leader in helping children with social, emotional and behavioral problems and their families. As a community mental health center focused on children's mental health, Washburn strives to integrate innovative research into program practice, implement meaningful evaluation methods and provide effective training and consultation for agency staff and community collaborators. Of particular interest is the: Washburn Developmental Repair Training Manual, which is available on the website.

[MACMH–Minnesota Association for Children's Mental Health](#): MACMH is an organization set up to serve families, professionals, and youth. MACMH has a simple and straightforward mission. It is "...to promote positive mental health for all infants, children, adolescents and their families."

Parents with Disabilities and Child Welfare

[Through the Looking Glass](#): Through the Looking Glass is a nationally recognized center that has pioneered research, training, and services for families in which a child, parent or grandparent has a disability or medical issue. TLG is a disability community based nonprofit organization, which emerged from the independent living movement, and was founded in 1982 in Berkeley, California.

[Guide for Creating Legislative Change: Disability in the Termination of Parental Rights and Other Child Custody Statutes](#): The Disability and Parental Rights Legislative Change Project was initiated at the University of Minnesota as a collaborative project in the College of Education and Human Development between the School of Social Work and the Institute on Community Integration. The goal of the project is to assist interested groups in removing disability from termination of parental rights and child custody statutes to eliminate discrimination, with the ultimate goal of ensuring the safety, permanency and well-being of children. This guide provides an overview of the problem; key principles for protecting parents with disabilities; model statutory language and accompanying definitions; a legislative change strategy; practice suggestions for modifying services and providing parental accommodations; frequently asked questions and answers; and resources.

Education/ Special Education

[CEC-Council for Exceptional Children](#): The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) is the largest international professional organization dedicated to improving the educational success of individuals with disabilities and/or gifts and talents. CEC advocates for appropriate governmental policies, sets professional standards, provides professional development, advocates for individuals

with exceptionalities, and helps professionals obtain conditions and resources necessary for effective professional practice.

[Fostering Connections, St Paul Public Schools](#): Fostering Connections is a federally mandated program administered by Saint Paul Public Schools for the support of students in foster care, their caregivers and families. This website provides links and information for families, youth, and educators about the law.

[National Working Group on Foster Care and Education](#): A project of the Casey Family Foundation, this collaborative effort heightens national awareness of the educational needs of children and youth in care, and promotes best and promising practices and reforms across educational, child welfare, and juvenile and family court systems.

[Wright's Law](#): Parents, educators, advocates, and attorneys come to Wright's Law for accurate, reliable information about special education law, education law, and advocacy for children with disabilities.