

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Legal and Policy Challenges



Overview of the Program

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: Legal and Policy Challenges is a three-session, video-based program designed for presentation to grandparents who are raising grandchildren, relatives who are raising kin, the professionals and paraprofessionals who work with them, and interested community members. The program consists of a videotape and a CD ROM, which contains background information for the facilitator, detailed plans for the educational sessions, handouts for the educational sessions, and additional materials. Each session is designed to last for two hours.

This program has been adapted from the videoconference, *Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: Legal and Policy Issues*, produced by University of Wisconsin-Extension and Purdue Extension, which was broadcast in February 2001. Where necessary, the information has been updated. Sponsors of the videoconference were AARP, the Brookdale Foundation, the Child Welfare League of America, Generations United, and the National Association of State Units on Aging. In addition, many individuals, both on- and off-screen, contributed to the success of the original satellite program. Portions of the background information for the facilitator have been adapted from the *Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Educational Program*, developed by University of Wisconsin-Extension, Purdue University Extension, and AARP.

CD ROM

The CD ROM contains general and program-specific background information for the facilitator, plans for each educational session, and masters for handouts and optional overheads.

The background information includes general suggestions for guiding groups of adult learners, specific suggestions related to this program, and additional reading on laws and policies that affect kin caregivers.

The three educational sessions have been designed for use with small groups, although the material easily can be adapted for larger groups. The educational sessions include video segments, instructions for guided discussion, and activities to encourage participants to share information and learn from one another. The contents of Sessions II and III build on previous sessions. The three sessions are divided into the following topic areas:

Session I: Legal Challenges and Individual Perspectives

In this session, participants will identify legal challenges faced by grandparents and other relatives raising kin and explore the various

perspectives of relatives and professionals who have a role in raising these children.

Session II: Informal and Formal Care Arrangements

Participants will learn about the legal implications for relative caregivers of formal and informal care arrangements. They will learn about responses to legal challenges developed in other states and then will identify responses that have been developed in their own state.

Session III: Programs, Policies, and Alternative Responses

Participants will learn about model programs and policies that have been developed in Colorado, Ohio, and Washington. They will be asked to identify a gap in programs or policies that exists in their state and to begin work on an action plan for addressing that challenge.

The plan for each session provides specific interactive educational exercises that, based on the contents of the video, respond to the needs of the participants. Guided discussions and group activities are designed to facilitate exploration of these topics as they relate to the participants and the resources available to them. Each session plan provides detailed information for educational programming and directions for the activities. For larger groups, some adjustments in the plan may be needed.

Videotape

Specific video segments are designated for use with each of the sessions. Instructions for the use of the video segments, including approximate running time, are included in each session plan. (The videotape has been edited from the original satellite broadcast, and some additional information has been inserted.)

The segments of the videotape are:

- Session I** Segment 1:1: Legal Issues Grandparents and Other Relatives Face
 Segment 1:2: How Is a Positive Response Possible?
- Session II** Segment 2:1: Developing Different Responses to Challenges
 Segment 2:2: The Kentucky Story
- Session III** Segment 3:1: Case Studies from Colorado, Ohio, and Washington
 Segment 3:2: Mediation