



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
SENIOR & DISABLED SERVICES DIVISION
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**SDSD Administrator/Deputy/
Assistant Administrator**

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

SDSD-IM-00-91

Date: September 7, 2000

TO: SDSD District and Unit Managers
Area Agency on Aging Directors

SUBJECT: Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Video Conference

INFORMATION: A video satellite conference entitled "Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: Legal and Policy Issues" will air on December 12th at 10:30 a.m. PST. The Conference is being organized by the University of Wisconsin-Extension in Madison and is co-sponsored by AARP, NASUA and other organizations.

The videoconference is intended for grandparents who are raising their grandchildren and the professionals that serve either.

For more information or to sponsor a site, individuals can call Elaine Barrett at 1(888) 391-4255 or 1(608) 262-1411 or by visiting the project's website at www.uwex.edu/grg.

CONTACT PERSON: Jane-ellen Weidanz

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MEMORANDUM

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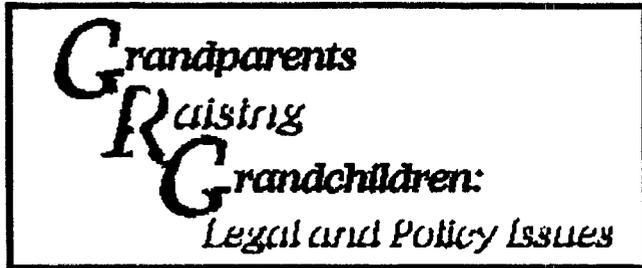
**SENIOR AND DISABLED
SERVICES DIVISION
ADMINISTRATION**

TO: State Aging Directors
FROM: Dan Quirk 
RE: Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Videoconference
DATE: July 27, 2000

A video satellite conference entitled "Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: Legal and Policy Issues" will air on December 12 at 1:30 p.m. Eastern Time. The conference is being organized by the University of Wisconsin-Extension in Madison, Wisconsin and is co-sponsored by AARP, NASUA and other national aging organizations.

The videoconference is intended for grandparents who are raising grandchildren and the professionals/agencies that serve either grandparents or grandchildren. Participants will gather at local sites to participate in a live satellite program, view pre-recorded videos, and engage in on-site activities. Participants will explore such issues as custody and visitation; access to social, education and medical services; and strategies for using local community resources to assist grandparents raising grandchildren.

Members of the aging network can participate in the conference as state coordinators, site facilitators, or individual participants. State coordinators serve as a link between local participants and the national project, and are responsible for finding local site facilitators and promoting the event in their state. Site facilitators handle the logistics of the videoconference, promote the conference locally, and develop pre- and post-conference learning activities. An overview of the project is enclosed. Detailed information is available from Elaine Barrett at 1-888-391-4255 or 1-608-262-1411 or by visiting the project's website at www.uwex.edu/grg.



*A Video Satellite Conference
December 12, 2000*

Overview

Why is this topic important?

One in ten grandparents have been the primary support of a grandchild at sometime in their lives. Currently six percent of children live in a grandparent headed household. Whatever the reason and situation, these grandparents face a range of difficulties, including legal and policy challenges. Many organizations and services for both generations are not prepared to deal with the special needs and situations presented. Legal options are limited and emotionally draining and financially expensive. Few attorneys are familiar with the relevant laws. In most states, statutes are not responsive to the evolving needs of grandparents who wish to have more temporary or permanent rights.

Who is the target audience?

The program is targeted to grandparents who care for grandchildren and to individuals and agencies that provide services to grandparents or grandchildren.

When and Where?

December 12, 2000

1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time

12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Central Time

11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Mountain Time

10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Pacific Time

The program will be available in any community through local agencies and organizations who register as a site.

Why a videoconference?

Through this national videoconference, grandparents raising grandchildren and professionals who serve them from across the country will come together at local sites to share concerns, explore options, and discuss potential local or state action. A local site facilitator will help participants interact with and question the presenters by telephone or fax. The program includes on-site activities, panel discussions, and pre-recorded videos. The program will:

- Present the similarities and differences among various forms of custodial care including guardianship, court-ordered placements, foster care and adoption;
- Review the ways in which legal and policy issues, including visitation, TANF, school regulations, and access to medical care affect grandparents raising grandchildren;
- Offer strategies for effective working relationships between grandparents and professionals and community resources;
- Highlight success stories that illustrate the ways in which grandparents and professionals have worked with policymakers to make changes in state laws.

Objectives:

Participants will:

1. Explore the implications of various forms of informal and formal custody arrangements, such as guardianship, court-ordered placements, and foster care and adoption for grandparents raising grandchildren.
2. Understand how laws and public policies impact custodial caregivers.
3. Improve skills for interaction between grandparents and professionals and organizations, including lawyers, medical personnel, schools and social service providers.
4. Learn to design and implement changes in legislation at the state level.

Who are the sponsors?

The program will originate from the University of Wisconsin-Extension in Madison. UW-Extension and Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service are the producers. AARP is also a sponsor. The program is a follow-up to a January 1999 broadcast that introduced the issue to professional and agencies.

Are CEUs or professional development credits available?

CEUs are available for social workers, family life educators, family and consumer scientists, and from the University of Wisconsin-Extension.

Cost?

Sites that host the program will be charged a site license fee of \$75. Local sites may charge a participant fee (usually \$5-10/person) to cover the license fee, duplication of participant materials and other expenses.

How to get involved?

For more information, contact our web site at: www.uwex.edu/grg

or call Elaine Barrett at 1-888-391-4255 or 1-608-262-1411

As a participant – see the web site for a location near you.

As a site – see the web site for a site registration form and more details. Site license fee is \$75. Registration will be accepted after July 1, 2000.

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Comments to: flp@uwex.edu

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URL is <http://www.uwex.edu/grg/overview.html>