

# All My Relations - Kinship Services

First Nation, Métis, and Inuit (FNMI) family structures naturally have children, youth, and families surrounded by their family, extended family, community, clan, and Nation to support healthy lifestyles and positive outcomes.

*All My Relations* - Historically, and currently, communities have strong family values that tie together families, clans, blood, and non-blood relatives in sharing a collective responsibility towards caring for children/youth.

The top priority is to ensure the safety, comfort, and well-being of children and youth. Comfort is building and maintaining a sense of belonging, safety, health, happiness, and security, within a familiar home.



**The Rights of Anishinaabe Children and Youth are inherent and forever in all care practices.**

View Rights Poster here:

[nijcfs.com/services/kinship-services/](http://nijcfs.com/services/kinship-services/)

Let's keep our children in our communities!



## Niijaansinaanik Child and Family Services

### Kinship Services



**Toll-Free: 1-855-223-5558**

**nijcfs.com**



Who We Serve:

Henvey Inlet, Dokis, Magnetawan, Shawanaga, Wasauksing, and Wahnapiatae.  
\*Indigenous and Inuit children, youth and families in the Nipissing and Parry Sound Districts.

Niijaansinaanik Child and Family Services are members of the Association of Native Child and Family Services Agencies of Ontario (ANCFSAO) and the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies of Ontario (OACAS).

**“Niijaansinaanik  
OUR CHILDREN**



Inodewiswin Bami'aawaso

Families Caring for Children and Youth

# Kinship Services



## Niijaansinaanik Child and Family Services



Kinship Service arrangements are intended to be short-term, however, other avenues may be discussed if protection concerns within the family are not resolved, or other options may be explored for the well-being and permanency of the child/youth.

Many families work well on their own to make plans for children/youth to be cared for while their parents or primary caregivers address issues.

If it is determined that the current place a child/youth is residing is not safe to remain in, the family, band representative, and kinship worker can collaborate to find suitable caregivers to provide care. A Kinship Assessment will be completed to ensure the identified place is suitable and safe, both culturally and positively to meet the child/youth's needs.

Niijaansinani Kinship Workers will assist with the family search, connections, assessment, and support for a family who may be already caring or being prepared to care for child(ren)/youth.



## What are Kinship Services?

Kinship Services are when a known caregiver (*other family members, individuals familiar to the child/youth, or parent/guardian*) provides in-home care to a child/youth who requires an out-of-home placement, while their primary caregivers address challenges, or due to a protection concern brought forward by family, or the Agency. Kinship Caregivers/Providers are known to the child/youth, and can be (*not limited to*):

- Family (*Grandparents, Aunt, Uncle, In-Laws, Cousin*)
- Friend
- Clan/Membership/Community Affiliation
- Significant social connection
- Someone who has played a significant role in the life of the child/youth

Kinship Caregivers/Providers ensure that children/youth remain connected with their family, extended family, heritage, culture, and traditions. This helps build a sense of belonging, safety, and security for children. It is the Agency's goal to have children/youth remain with families and in their communities.

Kinship Service families are eligible to receive temporary care allowance through Ontario works, the Child Tax benefit and are further supported by a Kinship Service worker who will help guide them through the process.

## Other Important Facts

A non-custodial parent is *not* considered a kin service provider for their children. If the Agency is in the process of an investigation and determines that a child can safely remain in the care of the non-custodial parent, Kinship Services will not be pursued. The Agency will make every effort to support a family in its decision, however, a kinship service assessment would not be required.

Parents and Kin entered in co-parenting arrangement (subject to child protection concerns) and living in the same dwelling would *not* be considered Kinship Service. Kin, such as a Grandparent, Aunt/Uncle, or trusted community member, providing periodic respite for families involved with the Agency are *not* considered kinship service providers and are not subject to an assessment or service.