



# Colorado Kinship Adoption Project

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### What is the Kinship Adoption Project?

The law office of Kilpatrick Townsend in partnership with Colorado Department of Human Services is offering pro bono legal services for adoption to kinship caregivers in the Metro Denver area.

### Who qualifies for this project?

To qualify, caregivers:

- Ⓢ Must live in Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, or Jefferson County
- Ⓢ Be a citizen of the US or lawfully present
- Ⓢ Be a relative of or have a significant relationship with the child or youth
- Ⓢ Be willing to make a long-term commitment to the child or youth
- Ⓢ Have been caring for the child or youth for the last 12 months or more

Other eligibility criteria include:

- Ⓢ No current child welfare involvement or pattern of child welfare involvement
- Ⓢ The adoption cannot be contested
- Ⓢ Household income does not exceed 200% of the Federal Poverty Level



### How do I apply?

Applications are available through the Colorado Department of Human Services by contacting Jeannie Berzinkas at (303) 866-4617 or [jeannie.berzinkas@state.co.us](mailto:jeannie.berzinkas@state.co.us) or Connie Vigil at (303) 866-3209 or [constance.vigil@state.co.us](mailto:constance.vigil@state.co.us). Completed applications must be returned to Colorado Department of Human Services. Do not contact the Office of Kilpatrick Townsend directly.

### What happens after I apply?

Applications are screened to ensure eligibility criteria are met. If accepted, the application will be forwarded to Kilpatrick Townsend for consideration and possible case assignment. Applicants will receive a letter that their application has been forwarded. If declined, the applicant will receive a letter stating the denial.

### Where can I get legal assistance if I don't qualify for the Kinship Adoption Project?

Kinship caregivers not eligible for the Kinship Adoption Project may contact their local Colorado Legal Services office or Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center.

### What if I have additional questions?

For additional information or to discuss your specific situation, contact Jeannie Berzinkas at (303) 866-4617 or [jeannie.berzinkas@state.co.us](mailto:jeannie.berzinkas@state.co.us) or Connie Vigil at (303) 866-3209 or [constance.vigil@state.co.us](mailto:constance.vigil@state.co.us).

