



Kinship Care Pathways in Prince Edward Island

A plain-language map of common caregiving arrangements. The right pathway depends on the child's circumstances, legal authority, safety concerns and whether Child Protection is involved.

Informal family care

A parent and relative or trusted adult arrange for the child to live with the caregiver without a Child Protection placement or court order.

Watch for:

Authority may be limited. Clarify school, health, travel, benefits and emergency decision-making early.

GACP temporary placement

For a child found in need of protection who needs temporary out-of-home care while reunification remains the primary goal.

Watch for:

Child Protection remains involved. A Family Intervention Plan is required and the caregiver is assessed through GACP.

GACP permanent placement

For a child who cannot safely reunify with a parent and is placed long term with an approved caregiver.

Watch for:

The caregiver has permanent legal custody or guardianship through a court order or parent agreement. GACP support continues while eligibility requirements are met.

Private custody or guardianship

A caregiver obtains legal authority through a family-law process or agreement outside a temporary GACP placement.

Watch for:

Legal advice is important because the order or agreement determines decision-making authority and parent rights.

Relative adoption

A close relative becomes the child's legal parent through adoption.

Watch for:

Adoption is permanent and changes the child's legal parentage. PEI has a specific relative-adoption permit process.

Reunification

The child returns to a parent after the safety issues that led to the placement have been resolved.

Watch for:

Benefits, school contacts, health information and caregiver authority may all need to change when the child returns.



Before you decide which path applies

Do not choose a legal pathway from a website alone. Use these questions to identify what needs clarification, then confirm the answer with the appropriate worker, legal information service or lawyer.

- ☐ Is Child Protection currently involved with this child?
- ☐ Is the arrangement voluntary between family members, or is it part of a Child Protection safety plan or court process?
- ☐ Who has legal custody or guardianship today?
- ☐ Who can consent to health care, school decisions and travel?
- ☐ Is the plan temporary, permanent or still being decided?
- ☐ Is reunification with a parent the current goal?
- ☐ Is GACP being considered, assessed or already approved?
- ☐ Who is responsible for the child's day-to-day expenses and who can apply for the Canada Child Benefit?
- ☐ Are there court orders or written agreements about parent or sibling contact?
- ☐ What event would cause this arrangement to be reviewed, changed or ended?

Useful starting points

grandfamiliesinc.com/kinship-care-pathways-pe.html

grandfamiliesinc.com/legal-guardianship.html | grandfamiliesinc.com/gacp-program-pe.html