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Informational Letter

Transmittal:	10-OCFS-INF-03
To:	Commissioners of Social Services Executive Directors of Voluntary Authorized Agencies
Issuing Division/Office:	Strategic Planning & Policy Development
Date:	May 27, 2010
Subject:	New Brochure: “Know Your Options: Relatives Caring for Children”
Suggested Distribution:	Directors of Social Services CPS Supervisors Foster Care Supervisors Homefinding Supervisors Adoption Supervisors Staff Development Coordinators
Contact Person(s):	Any questions concerning this release should be directed to the appropriate Regional Office: Buffalo Regional Office – Mary Miller (716) 847-3145 Mary.Miller@ocfs.state.ny.us Rochester Regional Office – Karen Buck (585) 238-8549 Karen.Buck@ocfs.state.ny.us Syracuse Regional Office – Jack Klump (315) 423-1200 Jack.Klump@ocfs.state.ny.us Albany Regional Office – Kerri Barber (518) 486-7078 Kerri.Barber@ocfs.state.ny.us Spring Valley Regional Office – Pat Sheehy (845) 708-2498 Patricia.Sheehy@ocfs.state.ny.us NYC Regional Office – Patricia Beresford (212) 383-1788 Patricia.Beresford@ocfs.state.ny.us Native American Services – Kim Thomas (716) 847-3123 Kim.Thomas@ocfs.state.ny.us
Attachments:	Yes - Know Your Options: Relatives Caring for Children (English and Spanish versions)
Attachment Available Online:	http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/publications/Pub5120.pdf http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/publications/Pub5120-S.pdf

Filing References

Previous ADMs/INFs	Releases Cancelled	Dept. Regs.	Soc. Serv. Law & Other Legal Ref.	Manual Ref.	Misc. Ref.
09-OCFS-ADM-04					

I. Purpose

The purpose of this Informational Letter is to advise Child Protective Services staff and other Child Welfare staff of a new publication that can be used to assist relatives who are considering caring for a child. Entitled “Know Your Options: Relatives Caring for Children,” this brochure is being made available as an additional tool to help relatives better understand their options in providing care to a child. The brochure provides a brief summary of these options, and as such can supplement the handbook “Having a Voice and a Choice: A Handbook for Relatives Raising Children.” The use of this brochure does not change the requirements for use of the Handbook as described in 09-OCFS-ADM-04 (“Handbook for Relatives Raising Children”).

II. Background

The Handbook was designed to support implementation of various state laws enacted within the last few years regarding kinship, as well as provisions of the federal law known as The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 [Public Law (P.L.) 110-351]. The federal and state statutes require that kin be notified of a child’s placement and be provided with information about of their options to provide care.

A recent survey conducted by the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) about use and dissemination of the handbook has shown that the handbook has proven useful to clients and caseworkers alike, as well as to other stakeholders. However, there have been some requests for a simpler, shorter document to summarize the options and provide key points about each choice. These suggestions led to the development of the “Know Your Options: Relatives Caring for Children” brochure.

III. Program Implications

The “Know Your Options: Relatives Caring for Children” brochure is a supplementary document that may be provided to relatives and others with an interest in understanding the options for relative care. It is available in both English and Spanish. The brochure may be given with the handbook when that document is required, or at any other time or to any other person who may have a need for the information it contains. OCFS will not be printing copies of the “Know Your Options: Relatives Caring for Children” brochure

for ordering purposes. Social services districts and voluntary agencies are free to reproduce copies as desired. English and Spanish versions are posted on the OCFS website at:

<http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/publications/Pub5120.pdf>

<http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/publications/Pub5120-S.pdf>

/s/ Nancy W. Martinez

Issued By:

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Title: Director

Division/Office: Strategic Planning and Policy Development