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**NEWS RELEASE**

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***Family Ties: New Report Shows Children in Long-Term Foster Care  
Can Find Safety and Stability with Grandparents and Other Relatives***

*New York, New York* - According to a new report released today by *Fostering Results*, thousands of children in New York State could exit foster care safely and more quickly if the federal government subsidized legal guardianship by grandparents and relatives.

***New York State's Foster Care Population:***

Currently, 5,399 foster children in New York State are cared for by a grandparent or relative. For many of these children, long-term foster care is commonplace because current federal financing laws do not support subsidized legal guardianship. And while many grandparents and relatives are willing care for their kin, they are simply unable to carry the financing burden alone because they are living on small pensions, social security, and are working poor.

According to Susan Jacobs, Esq. Executive Director, Center for Family Representation, Inc., "Subsidized legal guardianship in New York would offer a viable alternative to foster children who cannot be reunified with a parent or adopted, offering them a pathway out of foster care and into safe, loving, and permanent homes. Subsidized legal guardianship positively impacts child and family well being as it retains a family bond and, while transferring parental rights and duties to a grandparent or relative, allows birth parents to maintain a presence in the lives of their children."

## **National study shows subsidized guardianship promotes positive outcomes for children:**

According to Mark Testa, Co-Director of *Fostering Results* and Director of the Children & Family Research Center at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, “research proves that subsidized legal guardianship has a positive impact on outcomes for children in foster care.”

*The Fostering Results* “Family Ties” study finds:

- ?? Kinship care affords most children the benefits of stability, continuity, and familiarity that are hard to match in foster homes unknown to them.
- ?? In states where “waivers” allow for the use federal dollars to support permanent legal guardianship by relatives, the number of children in long term foster care declined by one-third.
- ?? Subsidizing legal guardianship by grandparents and other relative is more stable than keeping children in foster care and as stable and as permanent as adoption.
- ?? Supporting the care of children with guardian subsidies saves the costs of caseworker visits and court supervision, and offers children another pathway out of foster care and into safe, loving and permanent homes.

Finally, according to Gail B. Nayowith, Executive Director, Citizens’ Committee for Children of New York, “There is growing momentum at the federal level for making this permanency option a choice in every state, and New York would do well to embrace it for the sake of the thousands of children experiencing long-term foster care placement who are currently living with grandparents and relatives.”

A complete copy of the report may be obtained at [www.fosteringresults.org](http://www.fosteringresults.org)

*Fostering Results* is a national, nonpartisan project to raise awareness of issues facing children in foster care. It is supported by a grant from The Pew Charitable Trusts to the Children and Family Research Center at the School of Social Work, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The complete report is available at <http://www.fosteringresults.org>.

*Citizens’ Committee for Children of New York* (CCC) is a 60-year-old independent, multi-issue child advocacy organization working to ensure that every child in New York City is healthy, housed, educated and safe. CCC has a long history of involvement in efforts to improve child welfare services, including efforts to address state and federal financing challenges. <http://www.kfnny.org>

*Center for Family Representation, Inc* (CFR) seeks to improve outcomes for families involved in the child welfare and family court systems through advocacy, education, legal representation, practice assistance, and research. CFR participates in several initiatives at the city and state level, aimed at enhancing parent engagement, improving visitation for children in foster care, and examining changes to the “front door” of child welfare.