



Important legislation regarding kinship care went into effect on July 1, 2013 and will be in place until June 30, 2016. Virginia Code § 22.1-3 was amended and reenacted to enable a child who is living with an adult relative to enroll in the relative's school division. No custody or guardianship order is

necessary since it is considered "temporary kinship care," and the child is living in the school division not solely for school purposes. The law allows the school division to require a notarized affidavit with certain information. For this reason I have provided you with an example of a form which reflects the revisions. Please feel free to accept or reject this form or to revise it to suite your needs. It is only an example. You should, however, familiarize yourself with the new law.

In many cases the child in "temporary kinship care" will also qualify as an unaccompanied homeless youth and may be eligible for transportation to his/her school of origin as well as other services. For that reason the form should be faxed to the office of the Homeless Liaison.

If the Department of Social Services is involved in the temporary care arrangement (not foster care), they too can be asked to provide documentation that the arrangement is necessary and in the best interest of the child. In most cases they will be able to provide the school with a copy of the "Parental Placement Agreement." If the arrangement lasts beyond a year, DSS can be asked to verify again the necessity of the arrangement.

Virginia Code § 22.1-3 is specific to children living with a relative; however in the case where a non-relative is the caregiver of a child who qualifies as a homeless unaccompanied youth, the same "Caregiver's Authorization" may be used. Please note that, in this case, enrollment cannot be denied if the parent cannot or will not sign the form.