

## Grandparents Raising Grandchildren....

March 2008

# Parenting *Rules!*

### The Second Time Around...



*According to AARP over 5,000 grandparents in Rhode Island are acting as guardians to their grandchildren. In many of these households, neither of the child's parents is present for a variety of reasons. Despite the individual reasons, care of these children has fallen on their grandparent.*

*Caring for young children at this stage of life may not be what many of these grandparents imagined for their "golden" years. The transition from grandparent to parenting can be challenging as these kids have often suffered some trauma and as a result may have emotional or behavioral issues. This special issue of Parenting Rules for Grandparents is a resource guide with helpful tips on parenting a new generation, financial help, legal rights and other support services.*

### The Generation Gap...

Raising grandkids can be a lot different, but these same basic principals of parenting still apply:

- Focus on the do's instead of the don'ts
- Establish rules and be consistent
- Set safe limits that kids can understand
- Kids of all ages should always be well supervised
- Join them in games and activities that they enjoy
- Give praise often and provide encouragement
- Expect them to test the limits and respond with patience



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## Legal Issues...

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If you will be caring for your grandchildren for more than a short period of time, it may be necessary for you to seek a more formal legal relationship in order to make decisions on medical, legal and educational issues.

Some options for grandparents may include:

- Power of Attorney
- Guardianship
- Legal Custody
- Kinship care

For more information on your rights and options contact:

Rhode Island Legal Services  
56 Pine Street, Fourth Floor Providence, RI 02903  
(401) 274-2652 [www.rils.org](http://www.rils.org)

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### Financial Assistance...

Raising children can be expensive, but you don't have to do it alone. Today there are many programs and resources to help grandparents raising their grandkids make ends meet.

Contact the following agencies for more information on some options for grandparents seeking financial assistance:

[Social Security](#) - In some cases grandchildren can also receive benefits.  
380 Westminster Street 3<sup>rd</sup> fl. Providence, RI 02903  
(401) 528-4501

[Temporary Assistance to Needy Families](#) (TANF)  
Children may be eligible to receive grant money regardless of the grandparent's income.  
RI Department of Human Services (401) 462-2423

[Special Supplemental Nutrition Program](#) (WIC)  
Grandfamilies who meet the income eligibility requirements can apply for WIC benefits.  
3 Capitol Hill Room 302 Providence, RI 02908  
(800) 942-7434

[Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program](#) (LIHEAP) - RI's LIHEAP is designed to provide assistance and relief to those households most vulnerable to the high cost of home heating in relation to income.  
RI Office of Energy Resources One Capitol Hill Providence, RI 02908  
(401) 574-9100

[Medical Assistance Program](#) - Income eligible grandchildren without health insurance can apply for these programs.  
Providence Regional Family Center  
206 Elmwood Avenue Providence, Rhode Island 02907  
(401) 222-7000



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### You Don't Have to do it Alone...



Taking on the job of raising children in your later years can be overwhelming and exhausting. You are not alone; there are thousands of people in your situation in Rhode Island alone.

### *Don't be afraid to reach out for help!*

Below is a list of local agencies to contact for help with parenting questions and to find information on support groups for grandparents:

RI Parent Information Network – 175 Main Street Pawtucket, RI 02860  
(410) 727-4144 [www.ripin.org](http://www.ripin.org)

Rhode Island 211 – dial 2-1-1 on your telephone

AARP Rhode Island – 10 Orms Street Providence, RI 02904  
(866) 542-8170 [www.aarp.org](http://www.aarp.org)

RI Foster Parent Association – 55 South Brow Street East Providence, RI 02914  
(401) 438-3900 [www.rifpa.org](http://www.rifpa.org)

Adoption Rhode Island – 500 Prospect Street Pawtucket, RI 02860  
(401) 724-1901 [www.adoptionri.org](http://www.adoptionri.org)

Prevent Child Abuse RI – 500 Prospect Street Pawtucket, RI 02860  
(401) 728-7920 [www.preventchildabuse-ri.org](http://www.preventchildabuse-ri.org)

### ABOUT PARENTING RULES! E-NEWS...

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 Prevent Child Abuse  
Rhode Island

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Prevent Child Abuse Rhode Island  
500 Prospect Street Pawtucket, RI 02860  
ph: 401.728.7920 fax: 410.724.5850  
[www.preventchildabuse-ri.org](http://www.preventchildabuse-ri.org)

Please share this information with the families in your programs. Thank you!