

What is Subsidized Guardianship?

- ◆ **Subsidized Guardianship is a program that promotes permanency for children who are currently involved in the Arkansas foster care system.**
- ◆ **It is designed for children for whom reunification or adoption are NOT appropriate permanency options.**
- ◆ **A monthly subsidy payment to help defray some costs for caring for the child(ren) may be paid to the relative or fictive kin guardian (who has previously served as the child's resource parent) provided all eligibility criteria are met.**



For More Information Contact:

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Arkansas
Department of
Human Services
**Division of Children
and Family Services**

Subsidized Guardianship Program



Care * Commit * Connect
Together for Arkansas Children
and Families
PUB-60

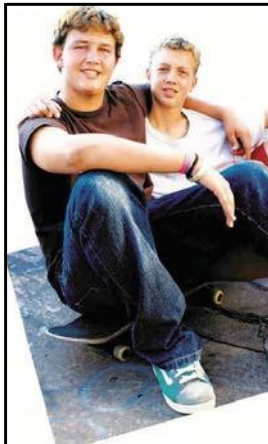
Guardian Eligibility Criteria

- The prospective guardian must meet certain relationship eligibility criteria in terms of how he or she is related to the child.
- The guardian must demonstrate a strong commitment to the child.
- The guardian must be a fully approved resource home for 6 consecutive months prior to finalization of the subsidized guardianship agreement.



Child Eligibility Criteria

- The child has been removed from his or her home and placed in DHS custody per judicial order.
- Adoption or reunification are NOT in the child's best interest.
- The child has resided for at least 6 consecutive months in the fully approved resource home of the prospective guardian.
- The child presents a strong attachment to the prospective guardian.
- The child is engaged in the process and, if age appropriate, must be consulted and consent to the guardianship.



Siblings

- When in the best interest of the children, siblings may be placed together.
- Siblings may be related by biological, marital, or legal ties.
- A child who meets the eligibility criteria for the guardianship subsidy will qualify his or her siblings for the program if being placed together is in each child's best interest.
- There is no required order in which the siblings shall be placed in the prospective guardian's home.

