

*On July 8, 2008 the Child Welfare bill was signed into law which included the establishment of the*

**Commission on the Status of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren**

The Commission's primary purpose is to serve as a *"resource to the commonwealth on issues affecting grandparents raising grandchildren."*

**Contact the Commission:**

Commission on the Status of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren  
c/o Executive Office of Elder Affairs One Ashburton Place  
Boston, MA 02108

To leave a message, please call the Executive Office of Elder Affairs:  
617-727-7750

or Department of Children and Families:  
617-748-2000

**For a link to "A Resource Guide for Massachusetts' Grandparents Raising their Grandchildren"**

go to [www.capecoalition.com](http://www.capecoalition.com). This is also a valuable website for the latest news and information regarding grandparents raising grandchildren.

The **Cape Cod Family Resource Center** serves all families at no cost in every community on Cape Cod regardless of income. We offer:

- **Parent Education & Support**
- **Information & Referrals**
- **Child and Youth Assessments**
- **Help Navigating Resources**

Cape Cod Family Resource Center  
29 Bassett Lane, Hyannis  
508-815-5100

[www.capecodfamilyresourcecenter.org](http://www.capecodfamilyresourcecenter.org)  
[facebook.com/CapeCodFamilyResourceCenter](https://facebook.com/CapeCodFamilyResourceCenter)

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Please take note that every effort has been made to ensure that the information listed in this brochure is accurate; however, some organizations occasionally relocate or change phone numbers.

**PLEASE CALL BEFORE GOING TO ANY LISTED SUPPORT GROUP**

*\*For corrections, additions, or to be sent the most current pdf version of this brochure, please call 508-815-5100.*



Cape Cod  
Family Resource Center

**Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Groups and Resource Guide**



Updated October 4, 2017

The following excerpt comes from the “Raising Your Grandchildren Tip Sheet” created with input from experts in national organizations that work to protect children and strengthen families:

### **What’s Happening:**

No matter how they come to live with you, your grandchildren will benefit from being in your home. When children cannot be with their parents, living with a grandparent may provide:

- Fewer moves from place to place
- The comfort of a familiar language and culture
- A chance to stay with siblings
- More contact with their parents, depending on the situation.

### **What You Can Do:**

It will take time for your grandchildren to feel safe and secure in their new home with you. You can encourage these good feelings in a number of ways:

- Set up a daily routine or mealtimes, bedtime, and other activities.
- Help your grandchildren feel “at home” by creating a space just for them.
- Talk to your grandchildren, and listen when they talk to you.
- Set up a few rules and explain your expectations. Then, enforce the rules consistently.
- Reward positive behavior. When children make mistakes, focus on teaching rather than punishing.
- Be as involved with their school as you can, and encourage children to participate in school activities.

### **Resources for additional information**

Call the Massachusetts Grandparent Resource Network at 617-727-7750 or 800-243-4636 or try these websites:

[www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/promoting/parenting](http://www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/promoting/parenting)  
<http://capecoalition.com/grandparents>  
[www.mass.gov/elders](http://www.mass.gov/elders)  
[www.massgrg.com](http://www.massgrg.com)  
<http://grandplace.com>

## **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren**

### **Support Groups:**

- ☛ On the **3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month from 5:30-7p.m.** Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group meets at the Cape Cod Family Resource Center, 29 Bassett Lane, Hyannis with Kerry Bickford. This group provides a supportive environment for grandparents who play a significant role in raising their grandchild(ren). Dinner and child care provided. For more information or registration please call 508-815-5100.
- ☛ The Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District offers a Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group on **the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m.** at the Wixon Innovation School, 901 Rte. 134, South Dennis. Please note this group meets September through June. Please join Kristy Atwell and Priscilla Bellerose for light refreshments and connect with other grandparents. For more information, please contact Kristy or Priscilla at 508-398-7695.
- ☛ The Bourne Council on Aging offers a free group on the **fourth Monday of each month** for grandparents who play a substantial role in the parenting of one or more of their grandchildren. The free group is led by Lois Carr and meets from **10-11:30 a.m.** at the Bourne Council on Aging offices, Bourne Veteran’s Memorial Community Center, 239 Main St., *Buzzards Bay*. For more information, please contact Lois at 508-759-0654.
- ☛ **Grandparents of those with intellectual and developmental disabilities** who are interested in information or referrals to connect with other grandparents, can contact Juliane Dillon at the Kennedy Donovan Center at [jdillon@kdc.org](mailto:jdillon@kdc.org) or call 508-385-6019.
- ☛ **Questions about guardianship or other options?** Visit the Probate Court on the **3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month** between 8:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. for more information.
- ☛ On the **third Friday of each month from 12-1 p.m.** Kerry Bickford from the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren facilitates a Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group at the Barnstable Senior Center, 825 Falmouth Road (Rte. 28), Hyannis. For more information, please contact Kerry at [grandparents@capecoalition.com](mailto:grandparents@capecoalition.com) or call 508-862-4750.
- ☛ On the **first and third Tuesdays from 5:30-7 p.m.** Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group is held at East Falmouth Elementary School, 33 Davisville Road, with Beverly Costa-Ciavola. This group provides a supportive environment for parenting grandparents to share successes, challenges, and resources. Come create connections to help support yourself and your family. Light dinner and child care provided. Sponsored by the Cape Cod Neighborhood Support Coalition and Falmouth Human Services. For more information or registration, call at 508-771-4336 or email [Beverly@capecoalition.com](mailto:Beverly@capecoalition.com).
- ☛ A Grandparenting Support Group meets the **fourth Tuesday of each month from 9-10 a.m.** at Harwich Elementary School (Family Resource Center), 263 South St., Harwich, with Kerry McCarthy This free support group is for parenting grandparents. To register and for more information, please call 508-430-1692 or [fjoseph@monomoy.edu](mailto:fjoseph@monomoy.edu).
- ☛ **Appointments with Kathleen Snow** are available **Mondays** from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please call the Bar Association at 508-362-2121 or Susan at the Courthouse to set up at time.

### **Legal Services:**

Children’s Law Center of Massachusetts	888-543-5298
Massachusetts Senior Free Legal Helpline	866-778-0939
South Coastal Counties Legal Services, Inc.	508-775-7020
Atty. Laura McDowell	
Contact Dennis Sr. Center	508-385-5067
Atty. Kathleen Snow, 3180 Main Street,	
PO Box 1085, Barnstable, MA, 02630	508-362-4900