

# KFAPA NEWS

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## KFAPA Invited to Judicial Summit

KFAPA was invited to send a panel to present at the 2011 Kansas Child Welfare Law Judicial Summit. The Summit was held on September 22-23 in Topeka, Kansas.

The KFAPA panel was the first group to present at the Summit, right after Chief Justice Nuss spoke. The audience was comprised of approximately 130 stakeholders in the child welfare system (CINC judges, CINC prosecutors, GALs, court services officers, SRS reps, private providers, foster parents, CASA and citizen review board reps, and representatives from mental health, education, medical community, law enforcement, and community development disability organizations.)

The panel discussed what foster parents need from those in "the system" and how to better engage foster parents. Panel members briefly shared experiences in dealing with the KS court system as foster parents.

The panel was moderated by Mr. Art Thompson from the Office of Judicial Administration. Questions from the audience were answered by panel members at the end of the presentation. Panel members included Julie Schoemehl, Jeff Piepho, Sandra Hiller, Dana Badders, and Mary Tye.

## 2011 Governor's Conference for the Prevention of Child Abuse & Neglect

Designing the Future to Strengthen Children and Families is the theme for the 2011 Governor's Conference. The conference will be held November 2-4 at the Ramada Hotel and Convention Center in Topeka, Kansas. The Kansas Foster & Adoptive Parent Association will present a workshop on Friday entitled "It Takes A Team To Raise A Child". The panel will include a birth parent, foster parent, guardian of a foster child, and a child adopted from the child welfare system. The panel will educate the attendees about the importance of families being included in all aspects of the team process.

**KFAPA is a 501 c3 Approved Organization**

## LEGAL CORNER

### Can a foster parent object to the reintegration of a child into the home of a natural parent?

**Yes.**

What rights does a foster parent have when an agency decides to reintegrate a child into the home of a natural parent? Kansas law provides that a foster parent who has been caring for a child for six months or more shall receive written notice 30 days in advance of any move of that child to a different placement. The one exception to this requirement is when the child is being placed with a pre-adoptive family for the purpose of adoption.

After receiving notice that the agency intends to move the child to the home of a natural parent, can the

foster parent object to that move? Yes. Under Kansas law, the foster parent has 14 days to request, orally or in writing, that the court conduct a hearing to determine if the change in placement is in the best interest of the child concerned. At that hearing, the foster parents would be allowed to call witnesses and testify.

If there is a challenge to the foster parent's objection to the move of a child to the home of a natural parent, may a foster parent prevail? Kansas law says that the home of a natural parent is a placement and the agency is required to notify foster

parents of a planned move of a child to the home of a natural parent.

While this area of the law is not firmly settled, one appellate court has interpreted the statute to support that a foster parent has the right to request a hearing upon being notified of the agency's intent to move a child to the home of a natural parent. At this hearing, the foster parent would be able to present evidence that the planned reintegration is not in the best interest of the child.

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The information contained in this article is for educational purposes only and is not, nor is it intended to be legal advice.

#### References:

K.S.A. 38-2258

K.S.A. 38-2202

In the Interest of Walter Shelton 8 Kan. App. 2d. 226 (1982).

### Kinship Networking

Offered by Kansas Children's Service League, this is designed to provide assistance, guidance & encouragement to parents, grandparents and other relatives who are raising children. Meetings will be 1st & 3rd Mondays of each month from 6:15 - 7:45 pm at the KCSL office, 1365 N. Custer, Wichita. The program is free and child care is available. For more information or to enroll, please contact Bruce Bynum at 316-204-8373 or via email at [bbynum@kcsli.org](mailto:bbynum@kcsli.org).

## Healthy Relationships Project

KFAPA is pleased to announce a partnership with the Children's Alliance of Kansas in the development of a training for families about healthy relationships. This curriculum is part of the Children's Alliance Healthy Life Choices Project, a five year grant. The ultimate goals of this project are to delay sexual activity of children and reduce teen pregnancy. The target population is foster children from age 10 to 15.

Every foster/adoptive parent is eligible for this training. Every home

that completes the course will receive a free membership to KFAPA. The children working through the course with their foster/adoptive parents will receive a Wal-Mart gift card.

Spread the news about this exciting opportunity for the families of Kansas! The expected release date of the training is November 2011. For more information, contact Sandra Hiller at [Sandra-hiller@fhrd.net](mailto:Sandra-hiller@fhrd.net).

## Horatio Alger Scholarship Program

The Horatio Alger Association is accepting applications from foster families' high school seniors of the Class of 2012 for the 2012 Horatio Alger College Scholarships. To apply for the Horatio Alger Scholarship Program, you must complete the online application process (including submitting required documentation) at <https://www.horatioalger.org/scholarships/apply.cfm> by October 30, 2011.

### Internet Resources

#### [CalletoFoster.com](#)

resources and encouragement for foster parents

#### [Care.com](#)

babysitting resources

#### [Family Strategies Publishing](#)

Printable PDFs for transitioning children

#### [Foster Parent College](#)

Training hours for agency requirements

## OnlineColleges.org Student Scholarship for Single Parents

The Scholarship for Single Parents was created to financially assist single parents enrolled in a college degree program with an online learning component.

The winner, who will be announced on December 1, 2011, will be awarded \$10,000 toward non-tuition related living expenses for the January 2012 academic year including:

- Rent
- Childcare
- Books and School Supplies
- Utilities – Gas and Electric
- Utilities – Internet
- Groceries

Any single parent enrolled in a degree program with a significant online component is eligible to apply. The applicant must also be receiving some other type of financial aid. The scholarship, with further information, can be found at: <http://www.onlinecolleges.org/scholarship>. Deadline to apply is November 1, 2011.



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