

## *What am I required to do if I receive guardianship subsidy?*

The permanent guardian must cooperate with the department in the annual review process, and notify the department of any changes.

## *How long does guardianship subsidy last?*

The department will discontinue guardianship subsidy if:

- the permanent guardianship terminates,
- the child dies or does not reside with the permanent guardian, or
- the child reaches age 18.



## *How can I apply for guardianship subsidy?*

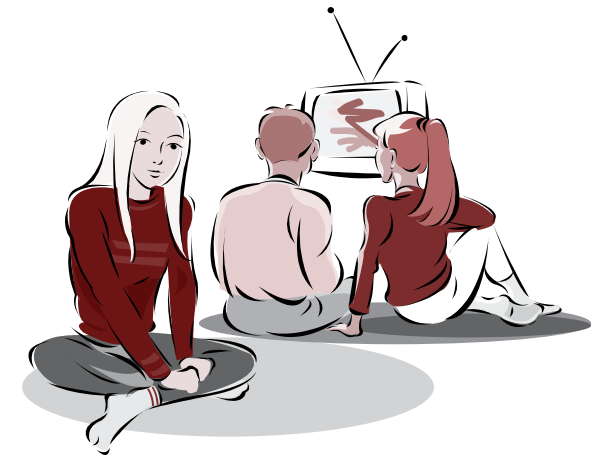
Applications for guardianship subsidy can be obtained through the Department.

If you have questions about guardianship subsidy, please call the Guardianship Subsidy Specialist at 602-771-6470.

Department of Child Safety  
Guardianship Subsidy  
4000 N. Central Avenue, Suite 2100  
Phoenix, AZ 85012

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# *Title 8 Guardianship Subsidy*



*Financial Assistance  
for Permanent  
Guardians of Children  
Leaving Foster Care*

**G**uardianship Subsidy is available to those caregivers who have been appointed as the permanent guardian of a child who is a ward of the court and in foster care pursuant to A.R.S. § 8-872. These are children who cannot return home to birth parents and for whom adoption has been ruled out as a possible alternative.



### ***How is guardianship different from adoption?***

Adoption requires the complete termination of the birth parents' rights. Guardianship generally allows birth parents to maintain reasonable visitation with the child (unless the court will not allow visitation).

Guardianship is a decision that concerns the whole family. Guardianship should be considered only when the alternatives of returning home or adoption are not in the best interests of the child. Discuss this decision with the DCS Child Safety Specialist, family, friends, and—most importantly—with the child.

### ***What decisions can a guardian make for the child?***

A guardian is assigned the care, custody and supervision of a child by the court.

This means the guardian has rights and responsibilities in making important decisions affecting the life, education and development of the child. A guardian may make decisions in the child's best interest regarding marriage, adoption of the child, consent to medical treatment or other professional care.

### ***Why a guardianship subsidy?***

Guardianship subsidy helps a child's legal guardian care for the child. It enables the child to remain or be placed with caregivers who are committed to that child's well-being. It offers an alternative when adoption is not an option.

### ***Who is eligible for guardianship subsidy?***

Those who wish to participate in the guardianship subsidy program must be appointed as the permanent guardian of a child who is a ward of the court and in foster care pursuant to A.R.S. § 8-872. The application process may begin prior to the appointment of guardianship by the court.

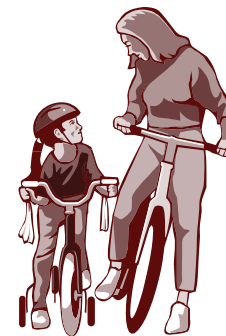


Subsidy payments cannot start until:

- the Letter or Order appointing the guardian has been received, and
- the guardian has applied for any state and federal benefits for which the child may be eligible.

### ***How much is the subsidy?***

Guardianship subsidy is a monthly payment to the caregiver to assist with the expenses of caring for the child. The department shall determine the amount of the subsidy the child will receive, which shall not exceed the maintenance allowable for adoption subsidy.



If the child receives state or federal benefits, the amount of those benefits received will be deducted from the subsidy rate.

### ***What about medical care?***

Guardianship subsidy is strictly a monthly payment to the guardian. There are no other services provided. Medical and dental care for the child may be available through AHCCCS. To apply for AHCCCS benefits for a child, contact your local DES office. For AHCCCS eligibility information call 1-800-352-8401 (statewide) or 602-542-9935 (Phoenix), or visit [www.azdes.gov](http://www.azdes.gov)