



# IMPORTANT UPDATE

for Child Welfare Professionals:

think of **us**

## Federal Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP) Eligibility Guidance



A recent policy update (June 2026) clarifies how the 6-month foster care residency requirement works for children seeking title IV-E kinship guardianship assistance payments.

**This is good news for families.**

### HERE IS WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:



#### Paperwork delays will not penalize families.

If a prospective guardian has met all licensing requirements but is waiting on the government to issue the actual license, up to **60 days** of that waiting period can still count toward the 6 months.



#### The 60-day clock starts at full compliance,

specifically the day the agency receives all required documentation, *not* when the process began.



#### Partial months count.

During this 60-days, long standing guidance also applies that if a child meets eligibility requirements for even one day in a given month while living with a prospective relative guardian, that entire month counts toward the 6-month requirement.



#### WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

Children in kinship care situations often face bureaucratic delays that are completely outside their family's control. This guidance ensures those delays **do not disqualify children from the financial support their guardians need to care for them.**



If you work in child welfare, foster care, or family law, please **SHARE THIS** with your network.

