

The Grandparent's Difficulty

It's time for school to begin, so Tutu brings little Pono to the doctor for his shots. When they arrive, the nurse explains that because Tutu isn't Pono's legal guardian, she can't sign the paperwork to authorize the immunization. She sends Tutu home, explaining that only Pono's parent(s) can sign. Tutu then goes to register Pono for school. The school office has the same story: only Pono's parent(s) can register him for school. She doesn't know where Pono's parents are living. What can Tutu do?



Laws to Help Hawai'i Families

Thanks to laws passed in 2003 and 2005, grandparents and family caregivers who are caring for a child but do not have legal custody can now register the child in school and authorize medical care. Here's how they work.

Act 99, Affidavit for Caregiver Consent (for Education)

The "Affidavit for Caregiver Consent" allows a grandparent (or other relative) who has a child living with him/her for at least 6 months to enroll the child in school and authorize participation in school activities. All Department of Education offices should have copies of this Affidavit. If the school office staff do not know about this form, ask to speak with the principal or school administrative services assistant (SASA).

1. Get and complete the Affidavit for Caregiver Consent form.
2. Notarize the form and keep a copy for your files.
3. Give the completed Affidavit to the school.

Act 208, Affidavit of Caregiver Consent for Minor's Health Care

The "Affidavit of Caregiver Consent for Minor's Health Care" allows a grandparent (or other relative) who has a child living with him/her for at least 6 months to authorize medical and dental care. This includes care that is provided by a physician, advanced practice nurse, dentist, or mental health professional licensed to practice in Hawai'i. You may be able to get the Affidavit from your medical offices, or you can contact the Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i for the form.



Legal Aid Society

MAUI: (808) 244-3731, ext. 1231

LANA'I: (808) 565-6089

MOLOKA'I: (808) 553-3251

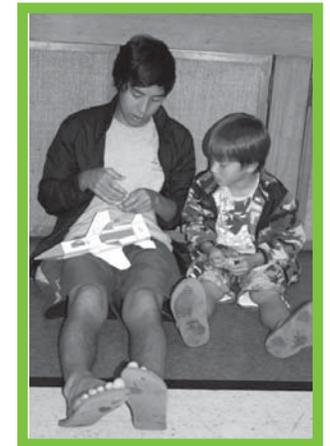
HILO: (808) 934-0678

KONA: (808) 329-8331

KAUA'I: (808) 245-7580

O'AHU: (808) 536-4302

Thanks to Acts 99 and 208, now Tutu can enroll Pono in school and have him immunized—even without legal custody!



What is the Hi'i Na Kupuna Coalition and how can it help grandparents?

Hi'i Na Kupuna Coalition provides resources and support to grandparents and other relatives raising children on the island of Maui. The Coalition includes grandparents and professionals working with grandparents. It is always seeking new coalition members. To learn more or to receive the Hi'i Na Kupuna Coalition newsletter, send an email to hiinakupuna@gmail.com.