Resources for Caregivers of Children

Birth Certificates

The PA Department of Health issues birth certificates. A birth certificate costs $20 and can be obtained online at http://www.health.pa.gov/, through the mail (an application can be obtained from the website), or at one of the following six Pennsylvania Department of Health locations:

- Pittsburgh Public Office
  - Division of Vital Records
  - 411 Seventh Ave., Suite 360
  - Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1973
  - 412-565-5113

- Scranton Public Office
  - Division of Vital Records
  - Scranton State Office Bldg., Room 112
  - 100 Lackawanna Ave.
  - Scranton, PA 18503-1928
  - 570-963-4595

- Philadelphia Public Office
  - Division of Vital Records
  - 110 N. Eight St., Suite 108
  - Philadelphia, PA 19107-2412
  - 215-560-3054

- Erie Public Office
  - Division of Vital Records
  - 1910 W. 26th St.
  - Erie, PA 16508-1148
  - 814-871-4261

- Harrisburg Public Office
  - Division of Vital Records
  - Forum Place Building
  - 555 Walnut St., First Floor
  - Harrisburg, PA 17101-1914
  - 717-772-3480

- New Castle Public Office
  - Division of Vital Records
  - 105 Nesbitt Rd.
  - New Castle, PA 16105
  - 724-656-3100

Social Security Cards

The Social Security website (https://www.ssa.gov/) provides information about obtaining Social Security cards. You will need the child’s birth certificate and additional documentation, such as school or daycare records. Any child age 12 and older must appear in person to apply for a Social Security card.

To locate a Social Security Office, call 1-800-772-1213
Resources for Caregivers of Children

Human Services Assistance Programs and Services

The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (http://www.dhs.pa.gov/) provides information about Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Benefits. You may be eligible for cash assistance, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), help with child care, health care coverage (Children’s Health Insurance Program, also known as CHIP) for your grandchildren, home heating assistance (LIHEAP), or school meals, while raising your grandchild.

Following are the contact numbers for additional services through the Department of Human Services:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Autism Services</td>
<td>1-866-539-7689</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefits Helpline (for Cash Assistance, SNAP, MA, etc.)</td>
<td>1-800-692-7462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children’s Health Helpline (CHIP)</td>
<td>1-800-986-KIDS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability Services</td>
<td>1-800-753-8827</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacy Services</td>
<td>1-800-537-8862, option 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

School Information

The Education Law Center (https://www.elc-pa.org/) ensures equal access to education for all children and has free services and publications which may help resolve issues, including a School Enrollment Guide for how to enroll a child living with someone other than their parent. The Educational Law Center can also be contacted at 215-238-6970.

Head Start (http://paheadstart.org/) is a program for eligible low-income children, age birth through five years. Head Start provides children with a developmentally appropriate early childhood education, ensures that young children get health checkups and treatment, oral health screenings, and ensures that children are fed a nutritious, hot meal every day. The PA Head Start Association can be reached at 717-526-4646.
Resources for Caregivers of Children

Other Resources

• The Statewide Adoption Network (SWAN – http://www.adoptpakids.org/) offers Post-Permanency Services to Pennsylvania families to ensure that families are provided the support they need for the long term to encourage a positive life-long experience. Eligibility requirements include: If you live in Pennsylvania and your child was: adopted from foster care, adopted privately, or adopted internationally; or if you live in Pennsylvania and you are a formal kinship family or a child’s permanent legal custodian. Post-Permanency Services include case assessment, case advocacy, support groups, and respite services. SWAN can be contacted via phone at 1-800-585-7926 Monday – Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., or via email at swanhelpline@diakon-swan.org.

• The Boys and Girls Clubs of America (https://www.bgca.org/) offer recreation in addition to multiple other programs that help children and youth build character and leadership, ensure graduation from high school and prepare for college, and develop life skills. They also offer resources for parents and caregivers, from homework tips to bullying information.

• Big Brothers Big Sisters of America (http://www.bbbs.org) offers a one-to-one supportive relationship, pairing an adult with a child or youth. Big Brother Big Sister relationships positively impact relationships, lifestyles and schoolwork.