



## Grandparents and Relatives Legal Options To Care For a Child

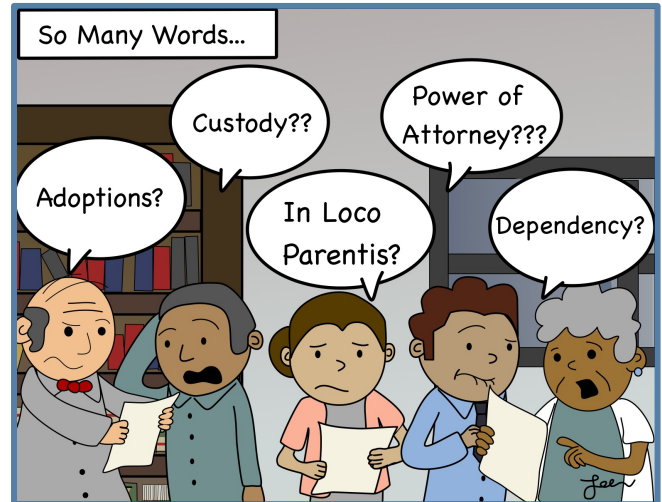
If you are caring for a child and you are not the biological parent you will need to seek legal authority from the parent or, through the court, to make medical and other important decisions for the child.

**Power of Attorney:** A parent of a minor, may delegate responsibility to another person, for a period not exceeding six months, care, custody or property of the minor child. A.R.S §14-5104.

**Guardianship Title 14:** A guardian of a minor has the powers and responsibilities of a custodial parent regarding the child's support, care and education.

A Guardian may be appointed in a Will or by consent of the parents. The Guardian must be a fit and proper person. A.R.S. §14-5201et. seq.

**Custody by a Non -parent:** A person acting as the parent who has had a meaningful parental relationship with the child for a substantial period may petition for custody. The court assumes the biological parents should have custody unless the Petitioner can show the court that it is not in the child's best interests. A.R.S. §25-415



**Filing a Dependency Petition:** Any interested person may file a Dependency Petition to take temporary custody of a child if they are at risk of abuse, neglect or abandonment. CPS will investigate the allegations and may offer the parents services. CPS will have legal custody and the relative placement will have physical custody. A.R.S. §8-841

**Termination of Parental Rights/ Consent for Adoption:** A parents rights may be terminated for if they are unfit. A.R.S. §8-533. Severance of a parent's rights must be established by clear and convincing evidence. The court must also find that the termination is in the child's best interests usually, so the child can be adopted. A parent may also consent to the adoption. A.R.S §8-106.

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