

Kansas Guardianship Program Newsletter



Legal advocacy with
dignity and respect

January 2022



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ANNUAL COURT REPORTS

For many of you, the annual Report of Guardian or Conservator's Accounting is set on a calendar year basis covering the period of January 01 through December 31 each year. The documentation is due to the court by January 31st. It is filed with the district court in the county in which the guardianship or conservatorship was established.

Be sure and send a copy of the report(s) to the KGP, as the agency is to have a copy on file in the KGP records.

The annual report becomes a permanent part of the court file. It is reflective of both the person served and the person serving.



One kind word
can warm three
winter months

Japanese proverb

Phone Call blockage

Anyone with a cell phone or home phone is subject to the numerous robocalls and texts that seem to come daily. Many people are drawn into scams through these calls.

Prevention of these calls can occur by registering for the national DO NOT CALL list online at do-notcall.gov or by phone at 1-888-382-1222 (voice)

or 1-866-290-4236
(TTY).



Kansas Medical Assistance Fact Sheet: Medical Coverage Basic Eligibility Requirements

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Division of Health Care Finance (DHCF) offers medical assistance to help cover health care costs. We have three major programs for individuals and families who qualify:

KanCare under the Medicaid plan - Our largest program. It covers people with limited income, which may include pregnant women, children, persons aged out of foster care, persons with disabilities and senior citizens. We provide Medicaid through many special programs.

KanCare under the CHIP plan - Our Children's Health Insurance Program. It covers children up to age 19 who don't qualify for Medicaid.

MediKan - Is funded entirely by state funds. It covers people who are trying to get Social Security disability benefits.

Medical assistance covers people who meet certain rules. Some rules apply to all medical assistance programs. Other rules apply just to particular programs. Most medical programs also have income or asset limits. We have listed the general rules below. These rules apply to all programs.

Covered Groups: Medical assistance is only available to certain groups of people. If people do not fall into one of these groups, they do not qualify. The groups are listed below:

- Children up to age 19, including those who are in foster care or who get adoption support payments
- Persons under age 26 who have aged out of Kansas Foster Care
- Pregnant Women
- Persons who are blind or disabled by Social Security rules
- Persons age 65 or older
- Persons receiving inpatient treatment for tuberculosis
- Low income families with children
- Persons screened and diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer through the Early Detection Works program

General Rules: These rules apply to all medical programs.

Kansas Residency – You must live in Kansas.

Citizenship and Immigrant Status – You must be a citizen or immigrant with a certain status. Some immigrants must wait 5 years before they can get coverage. Verification of citizenship and identity is required for some individuals. See the [Citizenship and Identity Requirements](#) fact sheet for more information.

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Household—The people included in your medical assistance plan may be different for different medical assistance programs. On the application, list each person who is living in your home. The eligibility worker will decide who must be included in your household for your medical assistance plan.

Other Health Insurance - If you have other health insurance, you must use it first. Be sure to have all bills submitted by providers to Medicaid.

Coverage Date - Medical assistance usually starts with the month of application. Sometimes you can receive coverage for the three months before the month you apply.

Reviews – Medical assistance is reviewed each year. If you move, be sure to tell us your new address so that you receive your review form and any other communications. Your coverage could end if we don't have a current address for you.

Income Rules: Each medical program has different income rules. Your household's income must be less than the maximum income level for the program you apply for. Both earned income and unearned income may be counted. Earned income is the money that you or others in your household get from jobs. Unearned income is the money you or others in your household get from Social Security, child support, unemployment, VA, pensions, etc. Please remember that we use the gross income (amount before taxes) and subtract deductions such as qualifying pre-tax, federal deductions, etc.

Resources and Assets: Examples of resources are bank accounts, cars, property, and stocks that are owned by you or someone in your household. Most plans for the elderly and persons with disabilities limit the amount of resources you may have. Plans for families and children do not have a limit on the amount of resources a household can own.

Other Rules: In addition to the general rules, each medical program has its own set of rules. You and all the persons you are applying for must meet all of the general rules and any particular rules for the program you are applying for.

Medical Benefits: All medical assistance programs provide prescription drugs, mental health services and medical (doctor) coverage. Inpatient hospital, hearing, dental, and eye-wear coverage is also included for most persons.

How to Apply for Medical Coverage: You must complete and submit an application to receive medical coverage.

To apply for medical coverage, use any of the following choices:

Apply Online, [Apply for KanCare](#)

Call the KanCare Clearinghouse at 1-800-792-4884 to request an application. Interpreter services are available.

Applications can be downloaded from [for KanCare](#) website

Knowledge is Power—RESIDENT RIGHTS

An estimated 1.4 million older adults and people with disabilities live in nursing homes, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. If a nursing home participates in Medicare or Medicaid – and most do – it must meet requirements “to promote and protect the rights of each resident.”

This means nursing homes are required to care for their residents in a way that enhances the quality of life for residents, respects their dignity and ensures they are able to make choices for themselves.

Established by federal law, the “Residents’ Bill of Rights,” states if you live in a nursing home, you are entitled to rights including:

The right to be fully informed in a language you understand of all aspects of your residency.

The right to participate in all aspects of your care.

The right to make independent choices based on your needs and preferences.

The right to privacy and confidentiality.

The right to safe and appropriate transfer and discharge, including the right to appeal decisions.

The right to visits from friends, family, providers and other people of your choosing.

The right to participate in social, religious and community activities.

The right to organize and participate in resident groups, often called resident councils.

The right to complain without fear of repercussions.

The right to be free from discrimination.

The right to be free from abuse, neglect and restraint.

The right to adequate medical care and treatment.

The right to get information about alternatives to nursing homes.



REMINDER OF CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT FOR KGP VOLUNTEERS

I will hold in the strictest confidence all personal and business information I receive or have access to regarding the person under guardianship or conservatorship. Such information will be provided only to those directly connected with the person, and then only on a need to know basis in the furtherance of the wishes and/or in best interest of the person. I will discuss these matters only with people directly involved or those consulted for their professional knowledge and expertise.

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and TikTok can be a fun way to show others what is going on in your personal life. Social media is a part of the above confidentiality you afford the individual you serve. It is important **NOT to include them and their personal information on the various forms of social media.**

**Kansas
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We are on the web

www.ksgprog.org



*Laughter is the
sun that drives
winter from
the human
face.*

Victor Hugo

HELP with COVID TESTS

On January 14, the [White House announced a new initiative](#) to help ensure Americans have COVID-19 tests on hand in case they are needed. The [website to order at-home testing kits](#) -- at no cost -- is now live and accepting orders. People who do not have Internet access or who need additional assistance with ordering can call 1-800-232-0233 (TTY 1-888-720-7489) to place their orders.

The [Eldercare Locator](#) and the [Disability Information and Assistance Line \(DIAL\)](#) also can assist older adults and people with disabilities with placing orders if they need additional help, connect people to accessible instructions, and help with administering the tests. Both phone lines are staffed Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. (Eastern).

Older adults can call the Eldercare Locator at 800-677-1116 Monday-Friday or [visit the website](#) to chat live or browse resources. People with disabilities can contact DIAL by calling 888-677-1199 or by emailing DIAL@usaginganddisability.org. The DIAL information specialists are trained to work with people of various communications abilities, including spending as much time as needed to understand callers. Deaf and hard-of-hearing people can reach DIAL using the 711/Video Relay Service (VRS). To use this free service, simply dial 711 to be connected via text with a communications assistant. (For people who do not communicate through speech, sign language or VRS, email is the best option to communicate with DIAL.)

There are enough kits to fill orders for every residential address in the country.

Critical Blood Shortage Impacting Kansas Hospitals -KDHE
release 1.18.22

TOPEKA – The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and the Kansas Trauma Program (KTP) continue to highlight the importance of blood donation amid increasingly critical blood shortages experienced across the state and nation. Blood shortages can pose risks to hospitals in performing necessary patient care. As January is National Blood Donor month, KDHE and KTP encourage those able to schedule an appointment to donate blood. In recent weeks, the Red Cross has [declared](#) this the worst blood shortage in over a decade, with less than a one-day supply of critical blood types. The Community Blood Center for our region is at a 1-2 day [supply](#).

“We encourage Kansans who can donate blood to schedule an appointment today,” Janet Stanek, Acting Secretary, said. “Blood donation helps ensure our hospitals can continue their operations and has the ability to save lives.”

Updated policies and practices allow for safe donation during the pandemic. [Donation centers provide specific guidance](#) on the blood donation process and safety measures taken within their centers. The National Institutes of Health have [found](#) blood donations to be safe under current COVID-19 screening guidelines.

Locations for blood donation can be found at organization websites such as savealifenow.org, AmericasBlood.org, or redcrossblood.org.