

	Adoption	Allocation of Parental Responsibility (APR)	Relative Guardianship Assistance Program (RGAP)	Guardianship
Initiating Option	File petition for adoption in Juvenile/District Court	District Court through a Domestic Relations (DR) Case  Can be started in an open D&N case, then certified to a DR case	Subsidized APR or guardianship option for permanency out of an open D&N case in Juvenile Court	File petition in Probate Court  Can be started in an open D&N, then certified to a Probate case
Timeframe	Months to a year pending appeal	Months	Months	Months
Ease	Once child is legally free, easy with DHS assistance	Easy to difficult, if contested	Process requires foster placement certification for a minimum of 6 months and subsidy in place 60 days before final order	Easy unless contested although some required forms can be difficult for caregivers to track down
Cost to Obtain	Cost is case dependent and is more with legal assistance	Cost is case dependent and is more with legal assistance	Low to no cost and may result in subsidy for child from DHS	Minimal expense and filing fee may be waived, more cost with legal help
Caregiver Level Of Authority	Complete decision making authority	Sole or joint decision making related to daily care, health, education, and religion	Sole or joint decision making related to daily care, health, education, and religion	Decision making authority over support, care, education, health, welfare, marriage, adoption  *Guardian does not have to live with the child

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Ongoing Court Involvement	No	DR court will entertain a parent's motion to modify once every two years. Modification will be considered earlier if there is an emergency in the caregiver's home	Court may order periodic reports  Guardian, Parent, or Child over 12 may file a motion to vacate	Court may order periodic reports  Guardian, Parent, or Child over 1 may file a motion to vacate
Modification	No, unless adoptive parents petition to relinquish parental rights	Yes, if the caregiver consents or there is an allegation that the caregiver's home is a dangerous environment	Request by minor, guardian, or parent	Request by minor, guardian or parent
Medical Coverage For Child	Medicaid – if provided in adoption subsidy; if child eligible for Colorado Works child-only grant and child is with person of the 5 <sup>th</sup> degree kinship; CHIP – may qualify for Child Health Insurance Plan if not Medicaid eligible; Private Health Insurance Must cover as if biological child	Medicaid - if child eligible for Colorado Works child-only grant and child is with person of the 5 <sup>th</sup> degree kinship; CHIP – may qualify for Child Health Insurance Plan if not Medicaid eligible; Private Health Insurance Court may order parent or caregiver to take responsibility for medical care/needs	Medicaid - – if provided in subsidy; if child eligible for Colorado Works child-only grant and child is with person of the 5 <sup>th</sup> degree kinship; CHIP – may qualify for Child Health Insurance Plan if not Medicaid eligible; Private Health Insurance Court may order parent or caregiver to take responsibility for medical care/needs	Medicaid - if child eligible for Colorado Works child-only grant and child is with person of the 5 <sup>th</sup> degree kinship; CHIP – may qualify for Child Health Insurance Plan if not Medicaid eligible; Private Health Insurance May or may not accept guardianship for coverage of a child as a family member

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<b>Mental Health Coverage For Child</b>	Subsidy – additional mental health funding may be provided in subsidy depending on the needs of the child; Medicaid – if provided in adoption subsidy; if child eligible for Colorado Works child-only grant and child is with person of the 5 <sup>th</sup> degree kinship; CHIP – may qualify for Child Health Insurance Plan if not Medicaid eligible; Private Health Insurance Must cover as if biological child	Medicaid - if child eligible for Colorado Works child-only grant and child is with person of the 5 <sup>th</sup> degree kinship; CHIP – may qualify for Child Health Insurance Plan if not Medicaid eligible; Private Health Insurance Court may order parent or caregiver to take responsibility for medical care/needs	Subsidy – additional mental health funding may be provided in subsidy depending on the needs of the child; Medicaid – if provided in subsidy; if child eligible for Colorado Works child-only grant and child is with person of the 5 <sup>th</sup> degree kinship; CHIP – may qualify for Child Health Insurance Plan if not Medicaid eligible; Private Health Insurance Must cover as if biological child	Medicaid - if child eligible for Colorado Works child-only grant and child is with person of the 5 <sup>th</sup> degree kinship; CHIP – may qualify for Child Health Insurance Plan if not Medicaid eligible; Private Health Insurance May or may not accept guardianship for coverage of a child as a family member
<b>Financial Assistance For Child</b>	If an adoption subsidy is provided, financial assistance may be included  Family may qualify for TANF/Colorado Works if income eligible	Court may order child support  Child may be eligible for Child-Only Colorado Works	Caregiver may be eligible for subsidy similar to adoption if statutory requirements are met  Child may be eligible for Child-Only Colorado Works	Caregiver may be eligible for subsidy similar to adoption if statutory requirements are met  Child may be eligible for Child-Only Colorado Works

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<b>Birth Parent Rights Following Legal Permanency</b>	Biological parent is considered a legal stranger following termination of parental rights	Birth parent may have parenting time and decision making, depending on the Court's order	Birth parent may have parenting time and decision making, depending on the Court's order	<p>Parental involvement is at the discretion of the caregiver</p> <p>Parents may file to dismiss current guardianship or obtain own guardianship at a later time</p>
<b>Other Rights/Assistance For Child</b>	Inheritance - Full inheritance rights of adoptive parents	<p>Inheritance – Child's inheritance rights from biological parent remain intact; caregiver may opt to include child in a will</p> <p>Chafee if child is 16 and RGAP under APR is in place</p>	<p>Inheritance – Child's inheritance rights from biological parent remain intact; caregiver may opt to include child in a will</p> <p>Chafee if child is 16 and RGAP is in place</p>	<p>Inheritance – Child's inheritance rights from biological parent remain intact; caregiver may opt to include child in a will</p> <p>Chafee if child is 16 and RGAP is in place</p>