Seniors raising relatives under the age of 18 need to protect their own well-being as well as the well-being of children in their care. Common legal issues that affect their well-being include:

### **Family Security**

(Protecting children in your care if something happens to you.)

The Senior Citizens' Law Office can help protect your family by providing legal documents.

- Caregiver Affidavits to help enroll children in school and obtain medical care.
- Special Powers of Attorney appointing someone to care for the child in case you become incapacitated.

#### **Economic Security**

(Ensuring you can afford to raise the children.)

The Senior Citizens' Law Office can help you apply for new or additional benefits and help protect your assets.

- Public benefits
  (Social Security Retirement, SSI, SNAP and Utility
   Assistance
- Healthcare benefits (Medicaid, Medicare, VA)
- Prioritize expenses
- Debt collection defense to protect retirement income and certain assets

#### **Housing Security**

(Ensuring you can provide a safe and secure home.)

The Senior Citizens' Law Office can help protect the safety and security of your home by assisting with the following:

- Landlord and Housing Authority approval of additional tenants
- •Age restricted 55+ communities
- Eviction due to noncompliance with lease or community rules
- Repairs and maintenance of your leased property
- •Home Foreclosure

## Seniors caring for relatives under the age of 18:

Are you facing legal problems related to caring for minor relatives?

# If so, Senior Citizens' Law Office may be able to help!

Senior Citizens' Law Office provides a range of quality, *free* legal services to seniors age 60 and older who reside in Central New Mexico in Bernalillo, Sandoval, Valencia, and Torrance counties.

The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Project was created with funding from the New Mexico Access to Justice Commission; This project is continued under funding by the City of Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Area Agency on Aging, the New Mexico Civil Legal Services Commission, and NM Aging & Long-Term Services Department. We thank our funders for allowing us to perform this very important work! For legal assistance with the issues listed in this brochure, please contact: Senior Citizens' Law Office 1240 Pennsylvania St. NE Suite A Albuquerque, NM 87110 (505) 265-2300 www.sclonm.org

> For assistance with Kinship Guardianship, contact: Pegasus Legal Services for Children (505) 244-1101 www.pegasuslaw.org

For assistance with **Grandchild** Adoptions, contact: Advocacy, Inc. (505) 266-3166 <u>www.nmadvocacy.org</u>



## GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN



Common legal issues when raising younger relatives and where to get help.

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