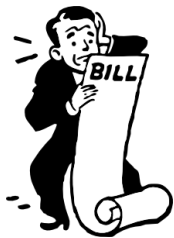


In New Mexico, more than one in ten children live with a grandparent.¹ Many also live with other adult relatives. As a senior raising children under the age of 18, it is important for you to be aware of legal issues that could arise—so that you can protect both your own well-being, and the well-being of the children entrusted to your care.

Bringing children into your home could raise a number of legal issues. Common ones to be aware of include:



Economic Security
– *ensuring you can afford to raise the children*

- Is your family receiving all the public benefits and

healthcare benefits it is entitled to?

- Raising children brings added expenses. What expenses should you prioritize if you are unable to pay your debts? Can you protect your income and property?

Housing Security –
ensuring you can provide a safe home



- Does your landlord have to approve the children as tenants?
- Do you live in an age-restricted (Senior or adult) community?
- If you receive a housing subsidy, did you get approval from the Housing Authority to add children to the home?

- Do the children have behavioral problems that may put you at risk of eviction?
- Has the landlord maintained the home so that its condition is safe and livable for the children?



Family Security –
protecting the children if something happens to you

- Do you have a Caregiver Affidavit in place to allow you to enroll the children in school and obtain medical care for the child?
- Do you have Powers of Attorney in place in case you become incapacitated?
- Do you have a Last Will & Testament in place to provide for the children when you pass away?

¹ Con Alma Health Foundation, 2017.

Are you a senior caring for relatives under the age of 18?

Are you facing legal problems related to your caring for those relatives?

Do you want to make sure you have done all you can to protect the relatives you are caring for?

If so, SCLO may be able to help!

Senior Citizens' Law Office provides a range of legal services to elders age 60 and up who reside in the following counties: Bernalillo, Sandoval, Valencia, and Tarrant.



The Senior Citizens' Law Office is funded by the City of Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Area Agency on Aging, New Mexico Civil Legal Services Commission, and New Mexico Access to Justice Commission.

For legal matters like those discussed in this pamphlet, contact:

Senior Citizens' Law Office
(505) 265-2300
www.sclonm.org

For seeking guardianship of minor children, contact:

Pegasus Legal Services for Children
(505) 244-1101
www.pegasuslaw.org

For seeking adoption or uncontested guardianship of minor children, contact:

Advocacy, Inc.
(505) 254-2559
www.nmadvocacy.org

For information on other services available, contact:

Kinship Navigator Hotline
1-855-546-1212
www.sharenm.org/kinship-navigation



GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN



Common legal problems when raising younger relatives and where to get help