

Washoe County Human Services Agency has custody of children who are placed with relatives while birth parents work with the agency to reunify with their children. Sometimes, during the life of the birth parent's reunification case, a decision needs to be made by the relative care givers as to what permanency option they believe they can provide to the child(ren).

This brochure is intended to provide relative care givers the information needed to make the best educated decision for their family and the children in question.

Please find below the advantages of both Guardianship and Adoption.

Adoption	Guardianship
1. Prior to the Adoption, Washoe County Human Services Agency Will complete all legal avenues to free the child for adoption. There is no financial charge to you for legal work.	1. If in the future, you decide you want to pursue Adoption; all legal activities Will be at your expense as Washoe County Human Services Agency Will no longer be involved.
2. After an Adoption is finalized, birth parents cannot petition the Courts for custody of a child. The Adoption is final and irrevocable.	2. Anytime during an open Guardianship, birth parents may petition the Courts requesting the child be placed with them. All legal expenses for these review hearings Will be your responsibility.
3. Unless there is a Post Adoption Contact Agreement with birth parents, the adoptive family is under no obligation to provide visitation, cards, letters, etc. to the birth parents.	3. Under a guardianship, the birth parents maintain their parental rights, therefore, they can request visitation, etc. which may include court hearings to make those determinations. All expenses Will be yours.
4. After the Adoption finalizes, the child may be eligible for both a financial and/or medical benefit until the age of 18 years of age.	4. Once Guardianship is granted there Will be no financial or medical assistance given on behalf of the child by Washoe County Human Services Agency.
5. Adoption subsidies MUST be negotiated and agreed upon PRIOR to the Adoption finalizing.	5. There Will be NO opportunity to negotiate a subsidy if you later decide to adopt.