



Minnesota Department of Human Services

Letter 1 to
Relative Custodian

March 02, 2015

Relative Custodians Named
Address
AURORA, MN 55705

Dear Relative Custodians Name

This is to notify you that the Minnesota Department of Human Services is transitioning Child's Name from Relative Custody Assistance (RCA) to Northstar Kinship Assistance, part of Northstar Care for Children. Minnesota is slowly phasing out RCA and is replacing it with Northstar Kinship Assistance. We think this is good news for you and the child in your care.

To take advantage of this opportunity, you must sign a new Benefit Agreement. If you do not act, benefits for your child will end.

Northstar Kinship Assistance has these advantages:

- * The monthly net payment for the child in your care will be higher (see accompanying commissioner transition worksheet for details).
- * The monthly payment will increase each year to reflect cost of living.
- * Payments are not reduced for child support and most other child income offsets, although a few remain (see worksheet).
- * No annual RCA affidavit.
- * No annual application for MFIP (Minnesota Family Investment Program, the cash payment) and SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, food support), since those programs will no longer be involved.
- * Your child will be eligible for extensions beyond age 18, if specific conditions are met.

There should be no change in your child's eligibility for Medical Assistance.

To ensure that benefits continue without interruption, **you must act now.**

To get these new benefits started effective June 1, 2015, or to ask questions, please contact:

Molly Koehler
Carver County
952-361-1692
mkoehler@co.carver.mn.us

As part of this commissioner transition, your child's Relative Custody Assistance benefit will end
PO Box 64944 * Saint Paul, Minnesota * 55164-0944 * An equal opportunity and veteran-friendly employer

on May 31, 2015. To ensure that there is no interruption in benefits for your child, you must sign the new Benefit Agreement by May 1, 2015.

If you do not sign the new Northstar Kinship Assistance Benefit Agreement by August 31, 2015, your child will no longer be eligible for a monthly benefit.

Remember, Relative Custody Assistance is ending soon and you must sign a new Benefit Agreement. We are confident that you will find Northstar Kinship Assistance a better support for *Child's Name* and your family.

Sincerely,

Charissa Jones
Minnesota Department of Human Services

cc:
Molly Koehler
Carver County



Minnesota Department of Human Services

Commissioner Transition Worksheet

Comparing Old Relative Custody Assistance to New Northstar Kinship Assistance

For: *Name of child*

Date Relative Custody Assistance Ends: May 31, 2015

Date Northstar Kinship Assistance can start if new Benefit Agreement is signed: June 01, 2015

Date Northstar Kinship Assistance expires if new Benefit Agreement has **not** been signed: August 31, 2015

Comparing Benefits	Relative Custody Assistance	Northstar Kinship Assistance	Increase (Decrease)	Percent Increase (Decrease)
Northstar Monthly Basic Payment	NA	\$670.00	NA	NA
Northstar Monthly Supplemental Payment	NA	\$400.00	NA	NA
Monthly Total Payment	\$677.00	\$1,070.00	\$393.00	58.05%
LESS: MFIP Offset (received separately)	\$116.00	NA	(\$116.00)	(100.00%)
LESS: All Other Child Income Offsets	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0%
Monthly Net Payment	\$561.00	\$1,070.00	\$509.00	90.73%
PLUS: Estimated SNAP (Food Support)	\$100.00	NA	(\$100.00)	(100.00%)
Monthly Comparison Amount	\$661.00	\$1,070.00	\$509.00	77.00%

Your child will receive the full rate (school rate equivalent), which means that the monthly payments will be the same as they would have received in Northstar Foster Care if they were in a foster home.

The **Northstar Monthly Basic Payment** is based on the child's age (birth-5, 6-12, or 13 and older). The monthly basic payment will automatically increase if the child ages into the next higher rate.

The **Northstar Monthly Supplemental Payment** is based on an assigned level. In the case of your child, the assigned level is: F. This level could potentially be increased if you request a reassessment a year or more after the transition date. However, because this commissioner transition has already built in an automatic benefit increase, it will be less likely that your child will qualify for an additional increase due to a reassessment.

The **Monthly Comparison Amount** compares the three current sources (RCA, MFIP, and SNAP) and compares them to the single payment through Northstar Kinship Assistance. Notice that the new Northstar Kinship Assistance total is higher.

For further information, please ask your county staffer or see Commissioner Transition at:
<https://bip.dhs.mn.gov/bip>



Minnesota Department of Human Services

Letter 2 to
Relative Custodian
Note: Letters 2-b are
the same w/ the
exception of the
notice number.

March 30, 2015

Relative Custodians Named
Address

Dear Relative Custodians Name

This is the **SECOND NOTICE** that the Minnesota Department of Human Services is transitioning *Child's Name* from Relative Custody Assistance (RCA) to Northstar Kinship Assistance, part of Northstar Care for Children. Minnesota is slowly phasing out RCA and replacing it with Northstar Kinship Assistance. We think this is good news for you and the child in your care.

To take advantage of this opportunity, you must sign a new Benefit Agreement. If you do not act, benefits for your child will end.

Northstar Kinship Assistance has these advantages:

- The monthly net payment for your child will be higher (see accompanying commissioner transition worksheet for details).
- The monthly payment will increase each year to reflect cost of living.
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- No annual RCA affidavit.
- No annual application for MFIP (Minnesota Family Investment Program, the cash payment) and SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, food support), since those programs will no longer be involved.
- Your child will be eligible for extensions beyond age 18, if specific conditions are met.

There should be no change in your child's eligibility for Medical Assistance.

To ensure that benefits continue without interruption, **you must act now.**

To get these new benefits started effective June 01, 2015, or to ask questions, please contact:

Molly Koehler
Carver
9523611692
mkoehler@co.carver.mn.us

As part of this commissioner transition, your child's Relative Custody Assistance benefit will end on May 31, 2015. **To ensure that there is no interruption in benefits for your child, you must sign the new Benefit Agreement by May 01, 2015.**

If you do not sign the new Northstar Kinship Assistance Benefit Agreement by August 31, 2015, your child will no longer be eligible for a monthly benefit.

Summary: Relative Custody Assistance is ending and being replaced by the improved Northstar



Minnesota Department of Human Services

Kinship Assistance. You must sign a new Benefit Agreement to continue your child's benefits.
We are confident that you will find Northstar Kinship Assistance a better support for
Child's name and your family.

Sincerely,

Charissa Jones
Minnesota Department of Human Services

cc:
Molly Koehler
Carver



Minnesota Department of Human Services

Commissioner Transition Worksheet

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