



Advocacy

Many groups that advocate for children and families in Virginia concentrate some of their efforts on improving the foster care system. These organizations provide analysis and other supports to help pass legislation that benefits foster care youth. Some also develop initiatives in partnership with other nonprofit groups on issues such as permanency, kinship care, and older foster youth transitioning to adulthood.

Major advocacy groups in Virginia that support foster care youth include:

Voices for Virginia's Children

Voices for Virginia's Children is a child policy and advocacy organization focused on the areas of early childhood, foster care and adoption, health and mental health, and family economic security. Its foster care advocacy work includes promoting permanency for youth who have entered foster care, increasing support for kinship care, coordinating health and mental health services, promoting successful adoptions, and supporting the transition to productive adulthood. For more information, contact Allison Gilbreath, Policy Analyst, at allison@vakids.org

NewFound Families

NewFound Families provides educational, advocacy, and support services to families caring for children unable to live with their birth parents. It advocates in support of foster, adoptive, and kinship families; provides resources and information; and builds partnership with public and private agencies. NewFound Families also provides the Kinship Navigator tool, a web-based tool that helps kinship caregivers find resources in their communities. For more information, contact Cate Hawks, Director, at info@newfoundva.org

The Virginia Poverty Law Center

The Virginia Poverty Law Center (VPLC) is committed to leading and coordinating efforts to seek justice in civil legal matters for low-income Virginians. Advocacy efforts in the area of foster care include improving the foster care system, supporting kinship care, and maintaining familial connections for adopted children. It also produces "Learn Your Rights," a guide for youth in foster care to help navigate through some of the most commonly asked questions about what to expect while in foster care in Virginia. For more information, contact Valerie L'Herrou, Esq., Staff Attorney – Center for Family Advocacy, at valerie@vplc.org