

UNACCOMPANIED IT DOES NOT WORK

ÚSMEV AKO DAR

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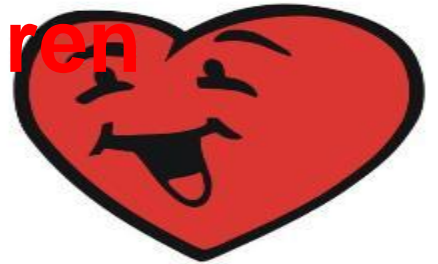


- **together we form the largest and oldest network** in Slovakia operating in the field of work with **children and families in need, in the preparation and accompaniment of surrogate families**
- we have branches throughout Slovakia
- we are a group of 60 professionals and more than 300 volunteers with a wide network of collaborating experts, institutions and organizations
- more about our organization www.usmev.sk

To make families for the child what they are supposed to be



- The family saves the children
- Professionals teach
- parents to be parents





1. BIOLOGICAL



2. KINSHIP



4. INSTITUTIONAL



3. FOSTER

PRIDE IN SLOVAKIA



- **PRIDE has been in Slovakia since 2002**
- we prepare people interested in various forms of foster care, professional parenting, professionals working with children and families
- since 2006 we have accreditation for training and accompaniment - since then PRIDE has become one of the options for the training of foster or adoptive parents in Slovakia - without financial support from the state

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KINSHIP CARE CARE IN SLOVAKIA /NOS/



- is defined in the Family Act
- when entrusting a minor child to kinship care, the court shall give priority to the relative (kinship care)
- can only arise by a court decision / without the obligation to complete training /
- IN PRACTICE:
- most often children are entrusted to kinship care by grandparents, relatives of parents, older siblings
- outside the family, the person must have a demonstrable relationship with the child before kinship care is established

IN KINSHIP CARE



In 2020, 947 children in 670 families were entrusted to kinship care - of which:

577 children to grandparents

232 other relatives

138 close ones

For comparison, for example, 194 children were adopted in 2020 and the process of adoption started for another 96 children, 68 children went into foster care in 2020.

KINSHIP CARE IN NUMBERS



- the number of children in kinship care by 12/31/2020 was 6879 children in 5269 families
- the number of children in foster care by 12/31/2020 was 1183 children in 970 families

The most common reason for the entrustment of children to Kinship care was the neglect of biological family.

The NOS was most often discontinued due to age or due to changes in the form of care.

SUPPORT FOR KINSHIP CARERS



Financial support is regulated by law – the person caring for the child in KINSHIP CARE is entitled to both the child's allowance and financial care other than grandparents

Who can support and help KINSHIP CARERS:

- Social Workers of the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (UPSVaR)
- Staff of the Centre for Children and Families (CDR)
- accredited entities

SUPPORT FOR KINSHIP CARERS



Forms:

**field social work, accompanying /psychological, social.../, counselling,
self-help groups – need for acceptance and acceptance**

Lack of support:

- when adapting to a new situation in the family – a very fast placement process
- processing of generation gap
- Child welfare services workers – it is more about control than support
- education in this area – and the possibility of supporting and accompanying

OUR EXPERIENCE WITH KINSHIP CARE



- Kinship carers are not obliged to undergo training and therefore often only receive care when there is a problem
- in particular, grandparents perceive any support very positively, but often do not know or are ashamed to ask for it – they process various traumas (child, own "failures" as a parent, change of roles in the family, anger/apology to the child's biological parent.....) where PRIDE skills and techniques are also very helpful.
- self-help groups – kinship carers need contact with other kinship families – mutual sharing of experiences, support, humor, lightening, ventilation

OUR EXPERIENCE WITH THE KINSHIP CARERS – WHAT BOTHERS THEM



- adaptation to a new home (if the children lived elsewhere)
- Working with losses parents – own failure or disappointment, children, "comfort"/established way of life,...), which they often do not understand at all and at the same time already need to operate in a new situation
- educational problems – especially for school-age children
- educational problems – especially grandparents are often no longer able to help children to learn
- assistance in handling and communicating with different institutions
- financial problems – contributions are often not enough to cover increased expenditures of changing relationships in the wider social environment....

OUR EXPERIENCE WITH KINSHIP CARE – WHAT HELPS/ AND COULD HELP MORE



- be there for them – if it is possible to establish contact with the NOS directly in their home environment
- engaging in contact with other kinship or foster families, where they can feel understanding, acceptance, ...
- motivation to attend PRIDE education, even if they do not have it as a compulsory pre-training, in particular the processing of losses
- contact with experts who will be "on their side"
- if the accompanying was automatic (mandatory) since the establishment of kinship care, as this would also be a precautionary
- appreciate – it is often not a voluntary decision and is taken for granted (when it comes to direct family), the entitlements are much greater

IMPACT OF PANDEMIC ON KINSHIP CARE



- social isolation – living outside the city, providing basic needs, contact with friends,...
- school – distance learning (lack of assistance in explaining the curriculum at home), communication with the school...
- lack of technical equipment and skills – especially for older kinship carers who did not use active online space and could not solve or control their activity and time spent on the Internet/on PC/mobile
- increased health risks and associated higher concern/anxiety
- deaths in the family
- Non-stop care (increased tension in families...)
- deterioration of the financial situation

DOES THAT MAKE SENSE?



- the child has the chance to stay with someone he knows without having to go through the CDR or any other form of separation
- despite the change, the child often stays or moves to a more/less-known environment
- Kinship care (compared to other forms of NRS) often have a wealth of information about problems that make a child need a change of care
- in the family (kinship care) the child does not lose his/her cultural/ethnic environment, roots

ZÁVER



Úsmev ako dar
aby rodina
zostala spolu

Thank you for your attention