



**Children's Law Center**  
of Los Angeles

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **CLCLA Commends Obama Administration Decision Regarding Federally Subsidized Guardianship Program**

**LOS ANGELES** – CLC and child advocates across California are commending the Obama Administration's decision to reverse course and allow states to receive funding for children in the foster care system placed with relative guardians. These new instructions will allow foster children in California, one of 27 states with an existing subsidized guardianship program, to now receive financial support through the federally subsidized program created by the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008. Previously issued instructions by the outgoing Administration had unfortunately precluded states from transferring existing relative guardianship cases into the new federal program. In California, this extremely welcomed reversal will save our state up to \$60 million annually, and will allow children placed with relatives to remain in those placements without disruption.

“On behalf of the thousands of children in Los Angeles placed with loving relatives under the very successful state funded Kin-Gap program, CLC is extremely relieved that President Obama recognizes how critical it is to support these families,” stated Leslie Starr Heimov, Executive Director. “Under the old rules, California was being punished for having the political will and foresight to use state funds to provide needed services to children being raised by extended family. This rule change will ensure that California can fully embrace important new reforms without jeopardizing proven programs.”

Children's Law Center of Los Angeles is a nonprofit, direct legal services provider acting as the voice in court for close to 100% of Los Angeles County's 24,000 abused and neglected children. CLC's committed attorneys and social work investigators are tireless advocates for these vulnerable youth, guiding them through the complicated and often overwhelming foster care system and accompanying court process. Appearing at every hearing, often with their young clients beside them in the courtroom, the child's attorney is the only person in the courtroom speaking exclusively on behalf of the child to ensure that their needs are met.

Community members may learn more about CLC and make donations to support CLC's efforts to help vulnerable children and families by visiting [www.clcla.org/donate.htm](http://www.clcla.org/donate.htm). All donations are tax-deductible.