

The Children's Advocates Roundtable



When Grandparents are the parents.

When grandparents step in to raise their grandchildren, they take on the unexpected role of primary caregiver due to family crises like substance abuse, incarceration, mental health issues, or the death of a parent. Millions of households across the United States operate as "grandfamilies," requiring older adults to navigate major lifestyle changes later in life. While this arrangement aims to provide vital stability and love for the child, it introduces a unique set of multi-dimensional challenges for the caregivers. For example, financial strain on a fixed retirement income; fatigue and age-related health conditions; and navigating digital technology needed for school work and other custodial issues. In fact, some circumstances make it necessary for grandparents to seek legal help. If there's been a divorce, death of one parent, estrangement, or the suspicion the grandchildren are undergoing neglect or abuse, grandparents may need to consult legal help to clarify their legal rights and ensure access to their grandchildren. Join the discussion to learn where to find support and resources for the grandchildren in their care.

Thursday, September 17, 2026 from 3 to 4:30pm
Hosted by Ascend Behavioral Health, 1781 E. Fir Avenue, Fresno



**Presentation by: Jason Christopherson, PsyD, MSCP, ABPP,
Vice President of Pediatric Clinical Services, Ascend Behavioral Health**

Dr. Christopherson is a Board Certified Child/Adolescent Clinical Psychologist and a neuropsychologically trained clinical psychologist. He has spent over 15 years working with children, teens, and their families. He has been working with victims of child abuse throughout his career and continues to support the health and well-being of the families in our community. He worked previously at the Sullivan Center for Children and is currently the Vice President of Pediatric Services and Clinical Training at Ascend Behavioral Health in Fresno, California.

Please RSVP to Jennifer Webb: preventioncoord@fccap.org by Sept. 11th.

We appreciate your assistance in helping us update our email database by forwarding this information. **Thank You!**

The mission of the Child Abuse Roundtable is to address current issues affecting children and families in Fresno County primarily through multi-disciplinary collaborative discussion and implementation of change within the systems of child abuse prevention, intervention and treatment. Your feedback is crucial, so please contact us with suggestions for future presentations.



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