Lesson 1: Overview - Appendix

Determining a Relative’s Specific Relationship to a Child and the Relative’s Degree of Consanguinity to That Child’s Parent or Stepparent

18 NYCRR 415.1 (h) (1) (iii). . . Relatives within the third degree of consanguinity of the parent(s) or step-parent(s) of the child include:

- the grandparents of the child;
- the great-grandparents of the child;
- the great-great-grandparents of the child;
- the aunts and uncles of the child, including the spouses of the aunts and uncles;
- the great-aunts and great-uncles of the child, including the spouses of the great-aunts and great-uncles;
- the siblings of the child; and
- the first cousins of the child, including the spouses of the first cousins.

The numbers attached to each relative in the consanguinity chart below represent that relative’s degree of consanguinity to the child’s parent. To understand how these numbers are derived:

- Locate on the chart, the child’s parent and the specific relative who is providing the child care.
- Determine the relative’s degree of consanguinity to the child’s parent, by starting with the “child’s parent” and following the arrows.
- Count upwards to the common ancestor shared by the parent and other relative, and then downwards to the specific relative, (if the relative is a direct descendant of the child’s parent, such as the child’s brother, you will not need to count upwards.)
- Count a degree for each relative you pass through to get to the specific relative, meaning those between the parent and relative. Do not count the starting point, which for determining “relative care” is the child’s parent.
- The degrees they stand from each other is the degree of consanguinity by which they are related.

Thus, from the child’s “parent” to the child’s grandparent, 1 degree; child’s parent to the child’s aunt/uncle, 2 degrees; child’s parent to the child’s great grandfather, 2 degrees; child’s parent to the child’s first cousin, 3 degrees.

Start counting here

Note that if you were counting degrees of consanguinity from the child, you would start at the child and ascend through the parent. Each of the relatives would be one degree further removed from the child than from the parent. For example, the child’s first cousin is a 3rd degree relative to the child’s parent and a 4th degree relative to the child.