

Contact us to find out more - we are here to help:

For further information please visit www.kinshipcarersliverpool.co.uk where you will find a range of further guidance, information leaflets and resources related to:

- Local Legal Advice Services including free Law Clinics & specialist legal advisers in Liverpool.
- Our Activities Programme for Kinship Carers, Kids & Families
- Information & Links about Legal Orders related to Kinship Care
- Money & Benefits Advice & Links
- Early Help & Wellbeing Information
- Schools and Learning Resources & Links
- Signposting to national Kinship Websites & Guidance

Contact Details

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Kinship Carers Liverpool

Access to Legal Aid - A Guide for Kinship Carers

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Q: What is Legal Aid?

A: Legal aid is a government means tested benefit to help you to pay for legal advice and help, family mediation and representation. Sometimes it can also pay for things like an expert's opinion or court fees. Whether or not you can get legal aid depends on what legal problem you have, how much money you earn, what property you own, and your chances of success.

Q: How do I check whether I can access legal aid?

A: You can find out if you are financially eligible for legal aid by using this online tool: www.gov.uk/check-legal-aid. Legal aid is only available for certain types of family problems. You may be able to get legal aid if, for example:

- Your case involves a child - perhaps you are trying to make arrangements for a Child Arrangements Order or a Special Guardianship Order.
- You may want Family Mediation to help sort out practical issues between you and your kin child's parent about contact arrangements or finances.
- Children's/Social Services are involved in the care, supervision or protection of a child. In cases involving an application for a care order, a supervision order, a child assessment order or an emergency protection order, any child who is the subject of the application and their parents or other people with parental responsibility for them will automatically qualify for legal aid.

Q: Who can I contact to discuss this?

A: You apply for legal aid through a solicitor. The rules about what solicitors can and can't advise on and help with paid for by legal aid are often quite complicated and there is a risk, because of this complexity, that you get incorrect advice. For this reason it's important that you speak to a solicitor who specialises in kinship family law.

Please see our [Liverpool Kinship Network Solicitors List \(including pro bono \(free\) Law Clinics\)](#) on our website [Kinship Carers Liverpool](#) or give us a call to discuss this further. We can signpost you to solicitors specialising in kinship care issues or link you up with free Law Clinics in the city that can advise you.

We strongly advise you to seek specialist legal advice at the earliest stage possible. Please be aware that there is very high demand for these services and you may have a wait to access support.

The legal aid regulations are complex and subject to change. We have provided a very basic overview of the eligibility criteria in this leaflet. Please note that the regulations set out in this leaflet are as they stood at the date of publication