

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

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Kinship Carers Liverpool

Kinship Foster Care - A Guide for Prospective Carers

We advise you to take specialist legal advice at the earliest possible stage about your options & implications related to becoming a kinship carer. Not doing so may have far-reaching implications in terms of the financial & support services you can access at a later stage.

Q. What is Kinship Foster Care?

A. Kinship foster care is where a child cannot be cared for by their parents and, as a result, is “looked after” by the local authority (in care). This child goes to live with a relative, family friend or a person connected to the child, who then needs to be approved by the local authority.

Kinship foster care is also known as Family and Friends foster care. This is the case in Liverpool City Council.

Q. How are the arrangements made for kinship foster care?

A. Child protection agencies can recommend that children are ‘looked after’ (come into care) because they fear that parents may not be looking after them safely.

In some situations, the child’s social worker, together with the parents, will approach relatives and friends to see if they are able to look after the child. A Family Group Conference may be held to help families work out how children can be kept within their extended families when they aren’t able to live at home.

Social workers undertake Viability Assessments to check the suitability of prospective carers to take on this role.

If a looked after child goes to live with a relative, friend, or connected person, this person will become the child’s kinship foster carer. A kinship carer will be looking after the child on behalf of Liverpool City Council Children’s Services Department. They will need to be approved as a kinship foster carer: this assessment is carried out by a social worker.

Questions

Kinship Foster Care

Do arrangements have to be approved?

If the child is looked after by a local authority you must be assessed and approved as a foster carer even if you are a relative. Temporary approval is sometimes given in an emergency.

How long does arrangements last?

As long as the local authority decides it is in the child’s best interests, & you agree to go on caring.

Are arrangements supervised & reviewed?

Regular visits to the child by a social worker, and reviews of their care plan. Foster carers supervised by a social worker and approval reviewed annually.

What are the responsibilities of kinship carers?

Never have parental responsibility (PR) & responsibility for planning the child’s care remains with local authority. Responsibilities set out in foster care agreement and placement plan.

What are the rights and responsibilities of parents?

Parental responsibility remains with birth parents unless child is subject to a care order, in which case local authority also has parental responsibility & can limit the decisions which are made by parents.

What support is there?

Support to meet child’s needs, including PP+ in schools. Young person may be entitled to leaving care support services.

Is there any financial support?

Training, advice & practical support for foster carers. You cannot claim child benefit, child tax credit or guardian’s allowance. Fostering allowance to meet the costs of caring for the child.