

I would never say to her that she is different cause I have tried to bring her up in a normal and loving environment as much as possible but the truth is she is different, she doesn't live in a happy home with her mum and dad, she lives with her gran.



Kinship Care

Children cared for by family and friends

A definitive guide to responsibilities...legal rights...financial rights...support...



Protecting Children in Scotland from Alcohol and Drugs

Statement from Mentor

This resource has been produced so that kinship carers can gain a clearer outline of their roles and responsibilities when they become a carer of a close relative or friend's child. This guide will aim to inform the kinship carer of each step of the process that they will be involved in, what support they may receive from their Local Authority and their financial and legal rights.

While presenting this information for kinship carers Mentor would like to stress that these details should be used as a guide only, as this is the best information that Mentor can provide and it is therefore not legally binding. Each kinship carer case is individual to the needs of the child, the parents and the carer and so it has been impossible to account for all scenarios.

Mentor would urge kinship carers to contact their Local Authority to confirm that all details apply locally.

Emergency Numbers

If you need advice or information quickly contact:

KINSHIPCARE Kinship Care Helpline **0800 028 2233**

- For help with emotional and practical issues



Kinship Care Helpline

0808 800 0006

- For help with financial and legal issues

Mentor

0131 552 8660

- For help with training, support and resources

Please also find a list of support agencies and kinship care support groups in your area in Section 4 of this guide

Kinship carers

Are you thinking about or are you currently caring full time for a close relative or friend's child?

Are you confused, worried, scared, and unsure about what is happening?

Do you understand the process that you are about to or are currently going through?

Do you know that there is support out there for you and the child you care for?



You are not alone...

Thousands of people care for children because their birth parents are unable to do so. These people are grandparents, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles and even close family friends. Are you one of these?

Kinship carers continued

You may have chosen to become a carer already or you are in the process of becoming one but your main priority is the best interests of the child/ren. This can sometimes blind you to the roles, responsibilities and pressures that you will have as a carer.

Alternatively a child who is a close relative may be looked after by a foster carer or is placed in a care home and you wish to take over the care of that child. What do you do?

There is much confusion around the area of kinship care with many Local Authorities dealing with carers differently. There are differences in financial payments, assessment processes and support packages which in turn leaves kinship carers very confused.

This guide has been set out to help kinship carers have a better understanding of what is involved in taking on the care of a child. This guide cannot be precise as it cannot cover all the differences, however it will:

- **Tell you what your Local Authority's responsibilities are**
- **Tell you what your responsibilities are**
- **Inform you of your legal rights**
- **Inform you of your financial rights**
- **Detail the support services that are out there to help you**
- **Explain complicated legal terms**
- **Describe case studies to present the experiences of carers and the children in kinship care arrangements**

This guide is then divided into easy chapters so that you can find the section that relates to you. However to do so we must ask the question, what kind of kinship carer are you?

Once you find the answer to this question you must then go to your appropriate colour coded section.

Glossary

These terms will be popping up within this guide and so we have provided you with a list of terms and their explanations to help you understand, especially if you are unfamiliar with them.

TERM OR PHRASE	ABBREVIATIONS IN FULL	MEANING
CAB	Citizens Advice Bureau	Independent, local charities that are members of Citizens Advice Scotland. Bureaux in Scotland provide advice and information to people in need in over 200 locations
Child's Plan		The plan is developed for any child or young person whenever there is a concern that they might not be as safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included as they should be
CHP	Children's Hearing Panel	Meetings that are held in front of a panel to provide help for children who may be having problems in their lives and may require compulsory measures of care
CMS	Compulsory Measures of Supervision	Section 52(3) Children (Scotland) Act 1995) These are measures taken for the protection, guidance, treatment or control of a child. They may have conditions attached such as stating where the child should live, requiring contact with parents be supervised or attendance at a school/family centre
CPCC	Child Protection Case Conference	A meeting held following a child protection investigation which allows professionals involved to assess relevant information & plan to safeguard the child
CPO	Child Protection Order	A short term emergency order granted by the Court which protects a child from an immediate risk of harm

Continues on next page...

Glossary continued

TERM OR PHRASE	ABBREVIATIONS IN FULL	MEANING
DWP	Department for Work and Pensions	A Government department responsible for welfare and employment issues (formerly the DSS)
FGC	Family Group Conferencing	Where all family members come together to find solutions for problems affecting the children in the family
GIRFEC	Getting it Right for Every Child	This Scottish Government approach makes sure that all Scotland's children, young people and their families have consistent, co-ordinated support to ensure a bright future for every child
GoR	Grounds of Referral	Section 52(2) Children (Scotland) act 1995 These are the reasons why a child could be referred to a Children's Hearing. They include offences committed by the child, non school attendance and lack of parental care. The grounds of referral have to be accepted by the child and their parents and/or 'established' by the Sheriff
HMRC	Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs	A Government department that collects and administers direct and indirect taxes and also pays and administers Child Benefit, Tax Credits and Child Trust Fund
KC	Kinship Carer	The Looked After Children (Scotland) Regulations 2009 defines a potential kinship carer as a person who is related to the child or who is known to the child and with whom the child has a pre-existing relationship. A local authority has the power to decide whether to approve such a relative or person as a kinship carer for the child
KFC	Kinship Foster Carer	In England and Wales, kinship care is sometimes referred to as kinship foster care. Similarly, kinship carers are sometimes referred to as kinship foster carers

Continues on next page...

Glossary continued

TERM OR PHRASE	ABBREVIATIONS IN FULL	MEANING
LA	Local Authority	One of the 32 councils in Scotland
LAC	Looked after and accommodated	Where a child is looked after and housed through an arrangement by the Local Authority
PFC	Private Foster Carer	Where a child is looked after by a family member or friend. This is a private arrangement and the carer needs to register as a private foster carer
PO	Permanence Orders	An order granted by the Court allowing a local authority to determine a child's residence and those who are responsible for providing guidance to the child. This can move responsibilities and rights to the carers. It may also grant authority for a child to be adopted
PVG	Protection of Vulnerable Groups Scheme	A new membership scheme introduced by the Government to replace & improve disclosure of people who work with vulnerable groups.
Regs	Looked after Children (Scotland) Regulations 2009	Regulations which are an addition to the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 and Adoption & Children (Scotland) Act 2007
RO	Residence Order	A Residence Order is an order from the Court to say who the child should live with. If this is granted through the Court parental responsibilities will automatically be granted to that person. Also known as Section 11 Order
S11	Section 11 of Children (Scotland) Act 1995	A section of this Act which describes Court orders specific to parental responsibilities and rights
S22	Section 22 of Children (Scotland) Act 1995	This section imposes a duty on Local Authorities to provide a range of services to children who are "in need"

Continues on next page...

Glossary continued

TERM OR PHRASE	ABBREVIATIONS IN FULL	MEANING
S25	Section 25 of Children (Scotland) Act 1995	This section imposes a duty on Local Authorities to provide accommodation for Children. They need parental consent in doing so
S50	Section 50 of Children Act 1975	This section details payments by a local authority to assist with the maintenance of a child where they are being cared for by someone other than the parent (does not include Foster Care)
S70	Section 70 of Children (Scotland) Act 1995	The section of this Act which details a Supervision Requirement through the Children's Hearing Panel
S80	Section 80 of Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007	A section of this Act which explains the role of Permanence Orders
S110	Section 110 of Adoption & Children (Scotland) Act 2007	This section details payments for kinship carers who have been placed under Looked after Regulations
Safeguarder		A person who has been appointed to undertake a report of the child who is attending the children's hearing to assess the child's best interests
SGO	Special Guardianship Order	SGO is an alternative legal status in England and Wales for non-parents who are caring for a child in a long-term, secure placement
UC	Universal credit	Universal Credit will create a single household allowance (called a personal allowance) which combines the help currently given in working-age benefits such as jobseekers' allowance into a single streamlined payment

How to use this guide

Step 1

Go to the next page which asks the question, **what kind of kinship carer are you?**
Follow the flow chart on page 0.08 and identify what kind of kinship carer you are.
Are you a carer for:

1) A “looked after” child

2) A “non looked after” child

3) A child whose care has been agreed with the parents

Step 2

Once you have identified what type of carer you are then please go to your appropriate section.

Each section is colour coded.

Step 3

Within your selected section you will find:

- A step by step process of the support you should receive from your Local Authority
- Information on your legal rights
- Information on benefits you may receive
- Case studies

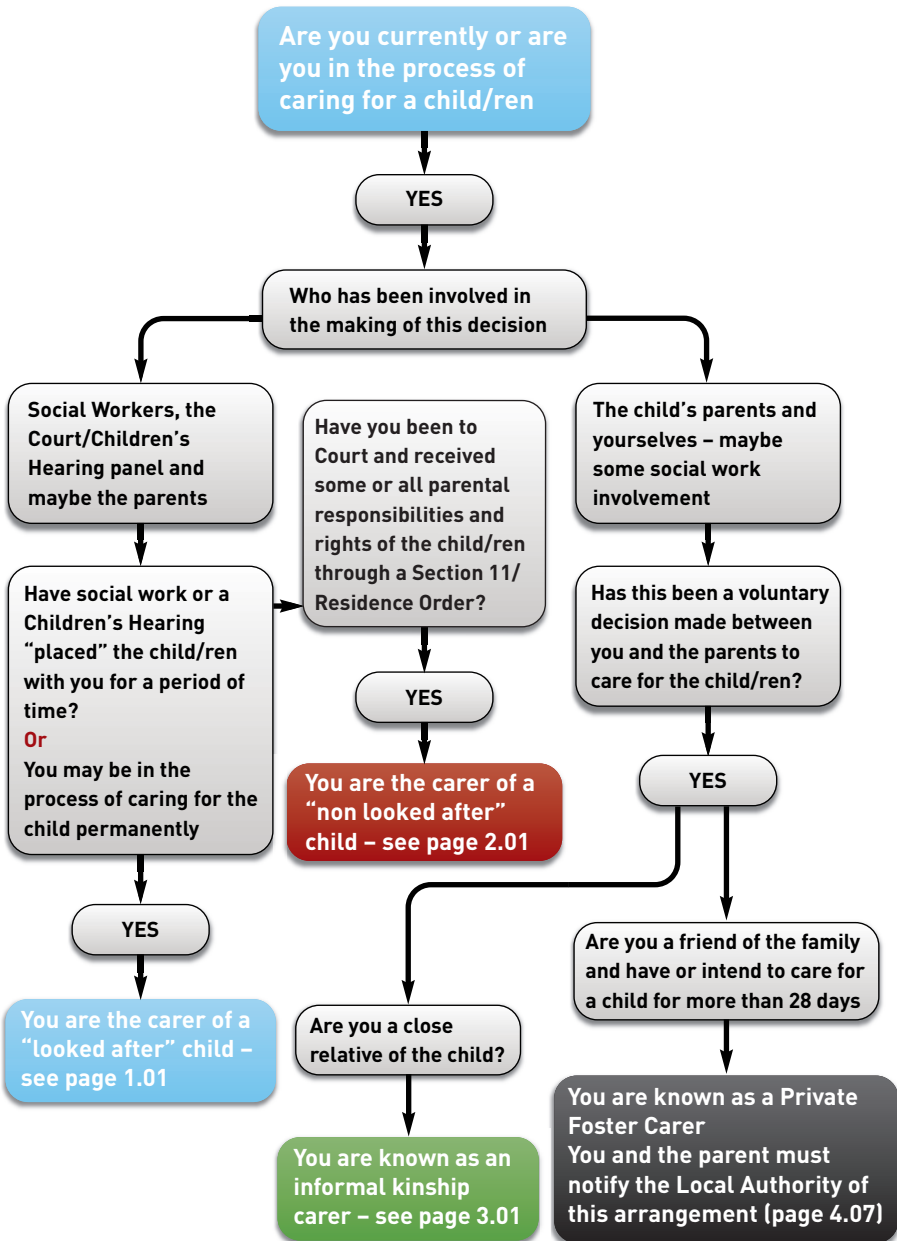
Step 4

There is then a section which will provide you with important information areas such as legal aid and Children’s Hearings.

Step 5

Finally there is a section listing national support agencies and kinship care support groups in your area that you can contact to help you with any concerns that you have.

What kind of kinship carer are you?



“I am desperate for my granddaughter to grow up and become a beautiful, bright young woman with so many opportunities at her fingertips; she deserves it following the life she has had so far. Let’s just hope social work sees that and ensures that this can happen for her.”



I am six years old. I only have
a granny and grandad and uncle.

I think my mummy lives in a
different house. I stayed
with my mummy when I was a
baby boy. My mummy was
being bad. She came to see
me but she doesn't any more.
This makes me sad but I don't
want to live with mummy.

Granny gives me fizzy juice, I
like me granny. I love my
granny, love never ends.
Grandad gives me rows. I
feel safe. I have nice
toys. Mummy didn't buy me
toys. I am happy. I don't want
to go to the shops with granny
and granddad, my uncle looks
after me. I have a happy
home.

Boy aged 6

“Looked after” children

Welcome! You have chosen the section for “looked after” children.

You may have chosen this section because you are, or are about to become, a kinship carer for a child.

This section will explain how this will happen and what process you will go through.

Follow the flow chart and it will explain what route you may take in becoming a carer for a child.

The charts will then tell you how you will be assessed and what your long term options are.

Finally you will be given some information on your benefits and legal rights.

Please find a list of support agencies and kinship care support groups at the back of this guide in Section 4 if at any time you need help when caring for a child.

Case Study

SHIRLEY

Shirley a 68 year old widow has been caring for her two grandsons Simon 8 and Rhys 7 for the past six years. Her daughter died from an overdose and Shirley was given her grandsons and a small bag of clothes from a police officer and social worker at 1.00am.

Endless meetings were held, assessments conducted, Shirley lived in a daze. She couldn't sleep. She was caring for her grandchildren, mourning the death of her daughter and trying to control the anger she felt towards her. She felt alone. All her savings and pension went on beds, clothes and toys for her grandsons – she had to spoil them to compensate for her daughter's behaviour and death.

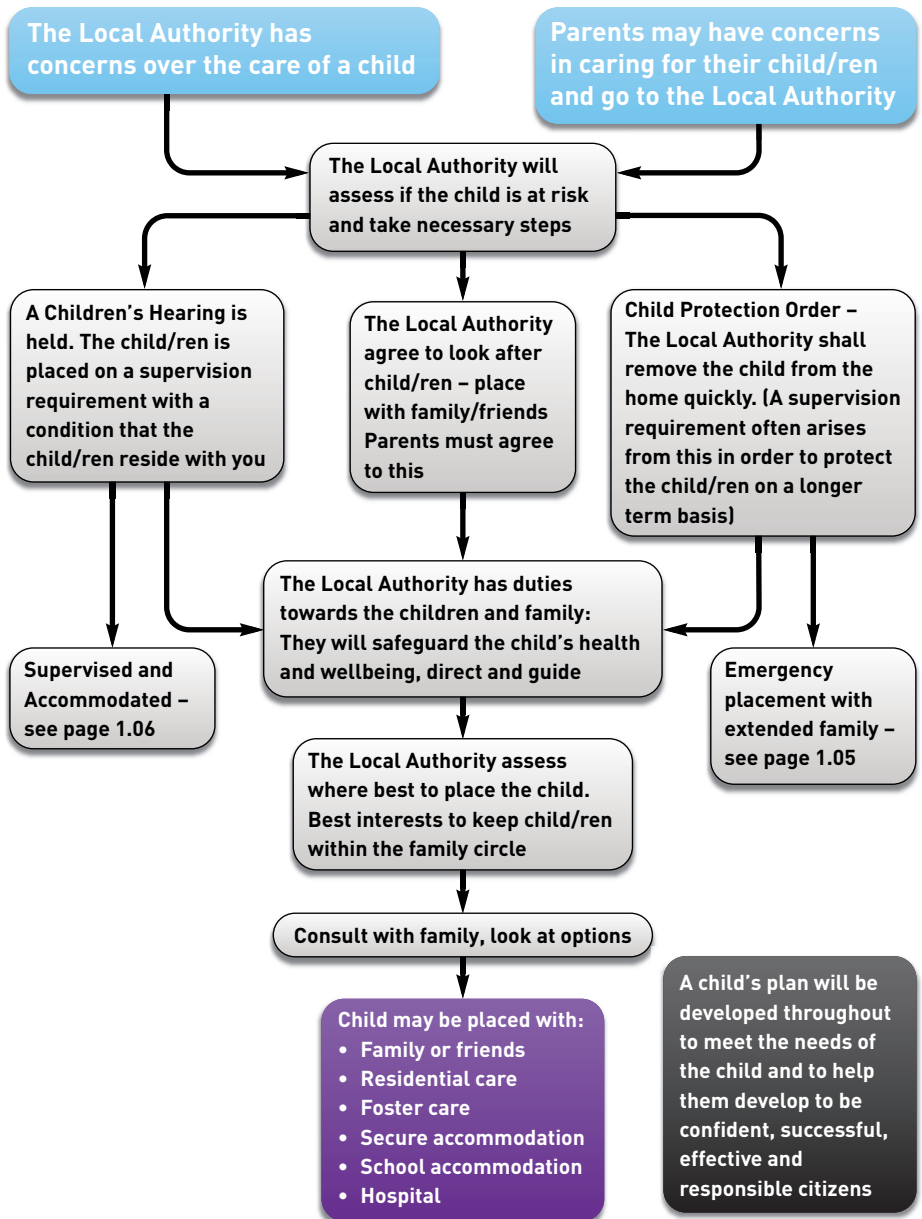
Then the boys started to act up. Simon would hit his brother and Shirley, throw temper tantrums, smash things. Shirley did not know what to do or where to turn. Shirley phoned her social work office and demanded help. They referred her to specialists for help for Simon and they suggested a kinship support group for her.

After much dilemma Shirley attended a support meeting near her home. She was nervous but the group made her very welcome and she soon opened up. The support group changed her life. She found a group of people who understood, supported and gave practical help.

Things are good now. Simon is receiving specialised help from a psychologist and Shirley's a committed member of her local kinship care group. Now she offers help and advice to others and hopes it can make a difference to their lives too.

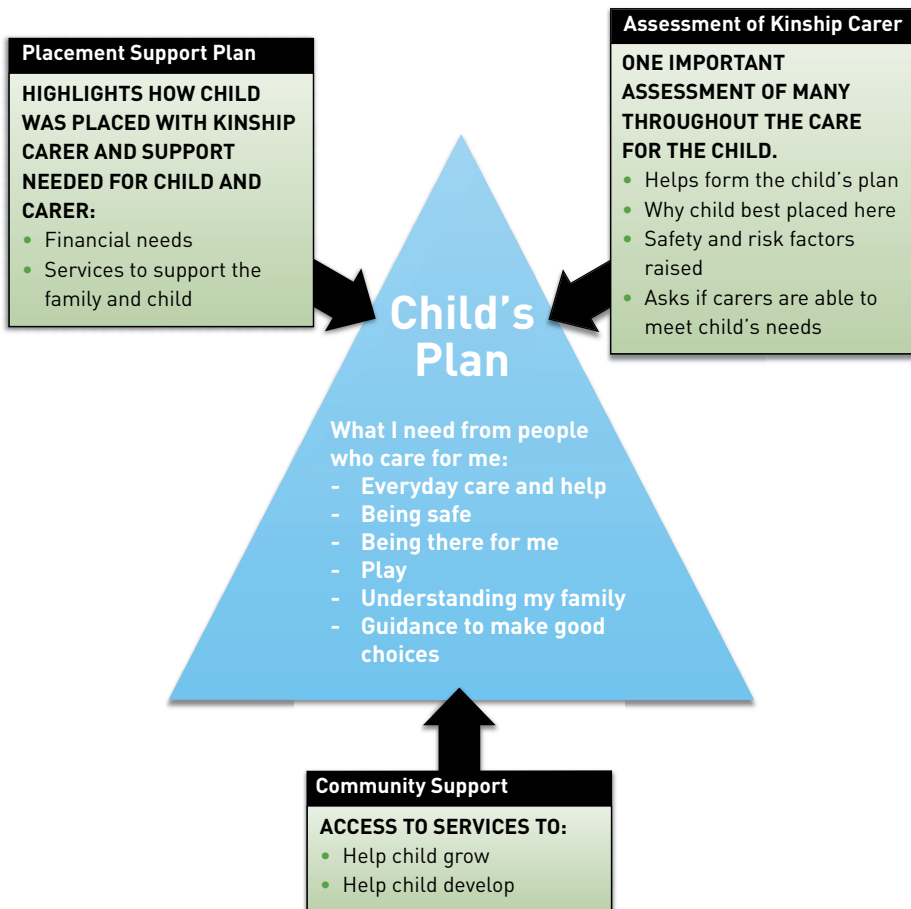


“Looked after” children continued

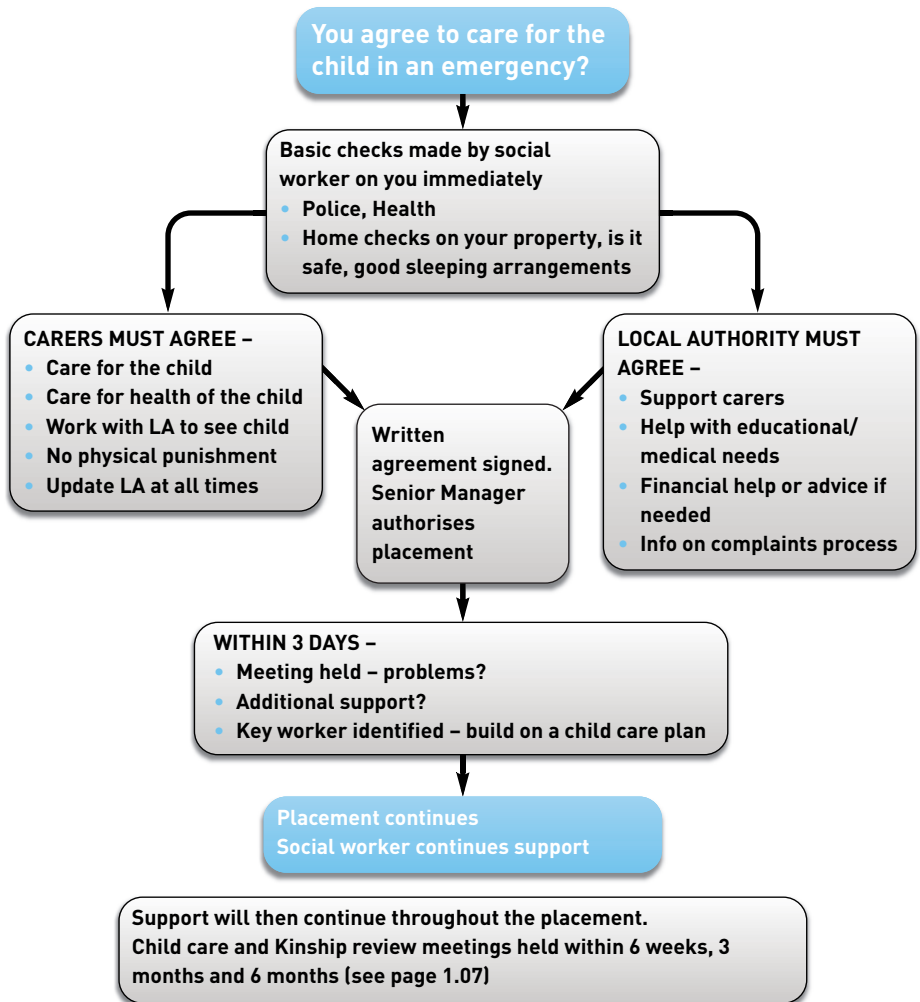


Child's Plan

The child's plan is a tool which is developed by social workers, the child and family members to help form a structured plan which meets the needs of the child. This plan will help the child to become a successful learner, confident individual, effective contributor and responsible citizen. This is the basis for the child's plan:



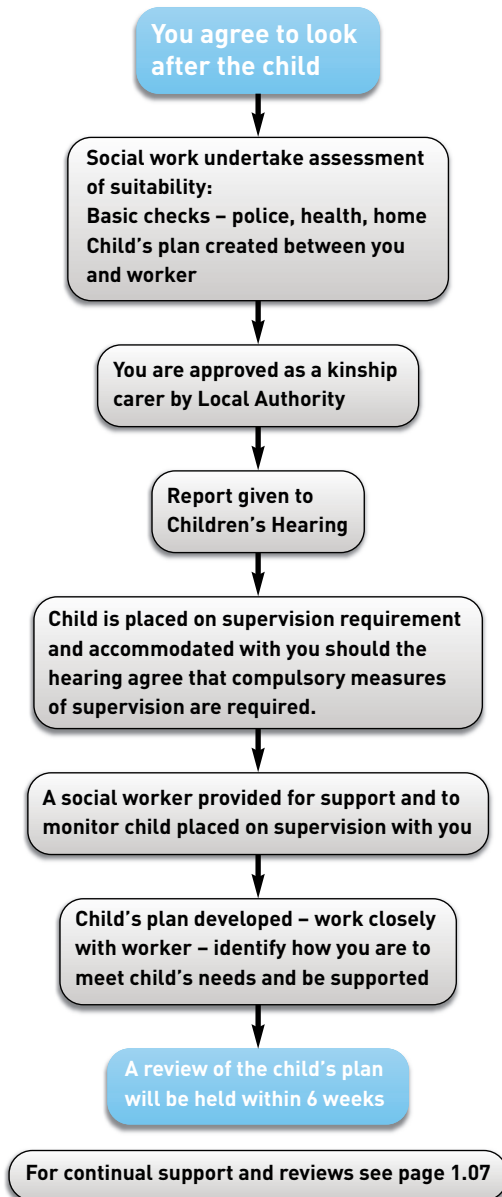
Emergency placement



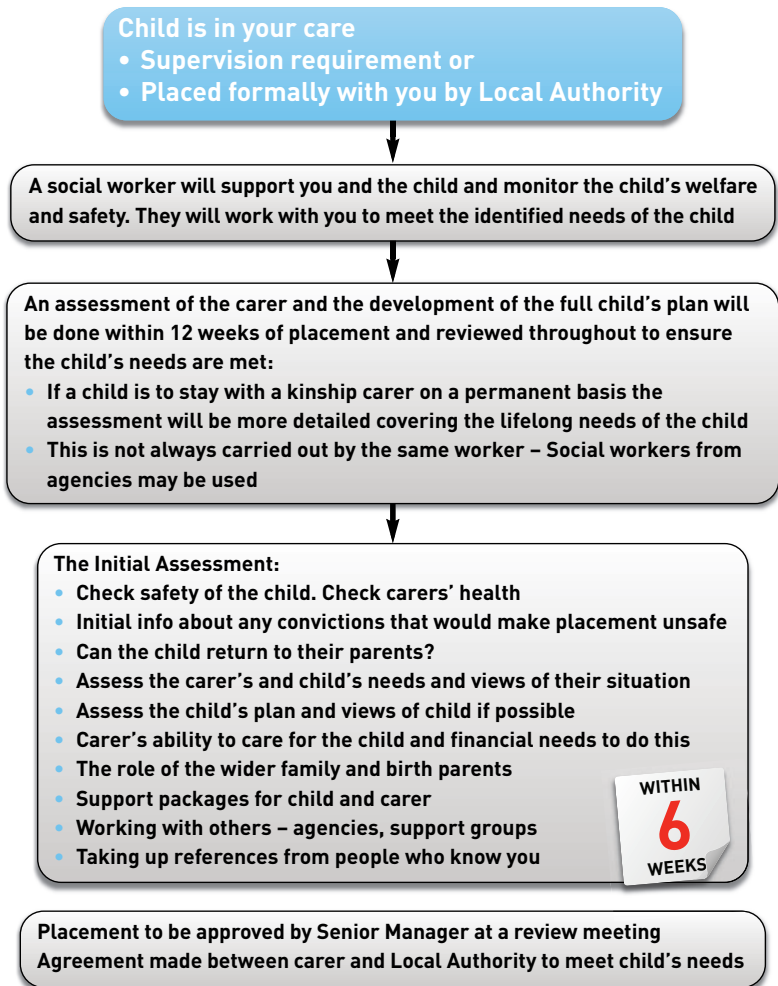
If this process is not being followed by your Local Authority then contact them ASAP

If at any time you are unsure of this process seek advice from agencies listed in the last section (page 4.08)

Supervised and accommodated



Continual support and reviews



Continues on the next page...

Continual support and reviews continued

Detailed Assessment – this will look towards long term care of the child:

- Assess all points from above
- Full PVG checks on carers and enhanced disclosures on remaining adults in carer's household
- Look at a full family history – look at family dynamics and support networks
- Links to community support
- Working with external agencies – education, health, social work, advice agencies
- Meeting the child's developmental needs, sexual, physical, psychological
- Drug and alcohol issues
- Practical needs – housing and financial needs
- Working with support agencies

WITHIN
3
MONTHS

Placement to be approved at a formal meeting with Senior Officer and Review Officer and maybe some support agencies

Original Agreement reviewed and updated. Agreement signed by LA and carer. Placement continued

Social worker continues to provide support visiting child and carer

Placement terminated

Child returns to parents or another place of care

Within 6 months – review held:

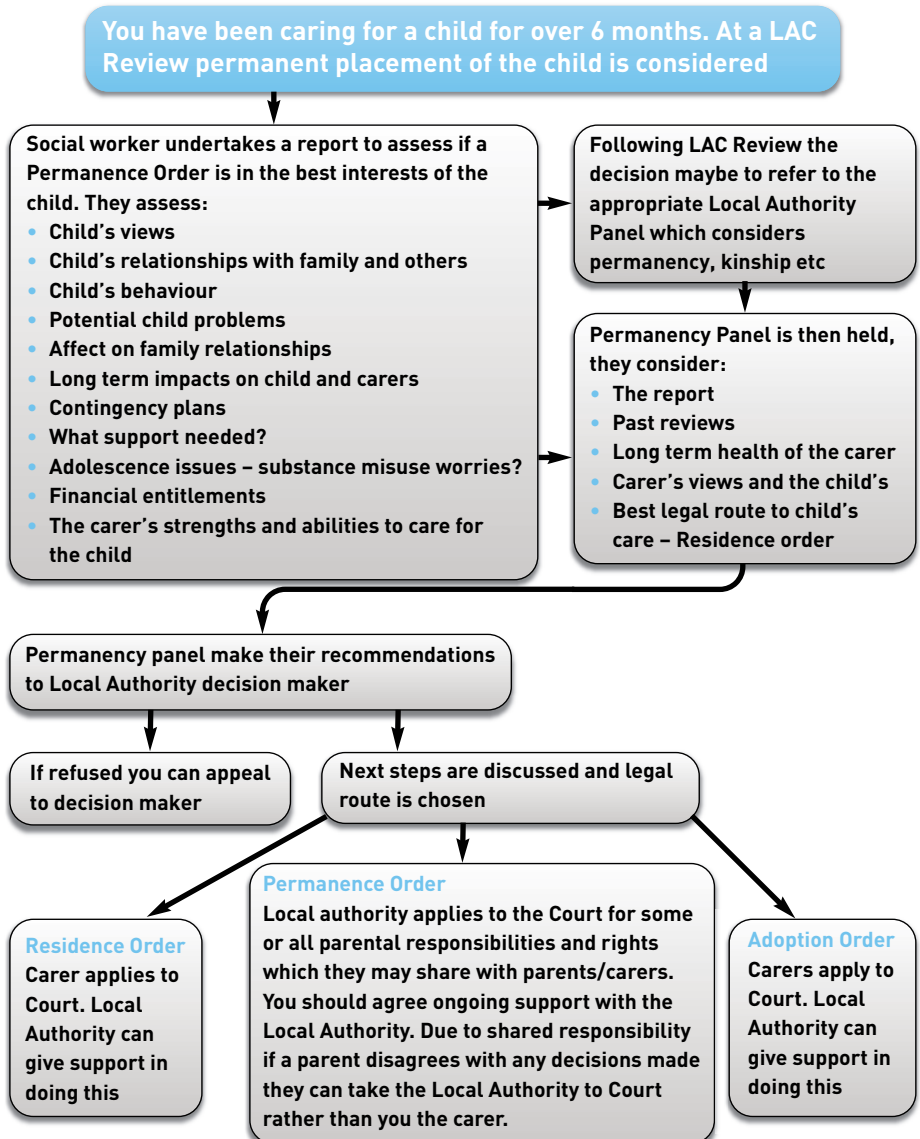
- looks at child's care and plan
- long term planning of the child for the future – may review legal status or possibly return to parents
- Contact arrangements for child and parents
 - Ongoing reviews of child and capacity of carers to continue to meet child's needs
 - If a child has been placed through a supervision requirement a Children's Hearing will be held at least once a year
 - A carer can look to apply for a Residence Order through the Court

If this process is not being followed by your Local Authority then contact them ASAP

If at any time you are unsure of this process seek advice from agencies specified in the last section of this guide (page 4.08)

Permanent placement of child with carers

This does not happen in all Local Authorities – please speak to your social worker for details.



Seeking parental responsibilities and rights

We strongly recommend you seek advice before seeking parental responsibilities and rights from the Court. This advice could be from the Citizens Advice Bureau, a law centre or a solicitor. If you need a solicitor's advice you may be eligible for Legal Aid.

Would you like more of a say over decisions about the child in your care?

When caring for a "looked after" child you have limited rights on how the child/ren is brought up

- The child's parents still have all parental responsibilities and rights

AND/OR

- The Local Authority may have some parental responsibilities and rights

If you would like to have more of a say over the child in your care you will:

- Have to go to Court to apply for some or all parental responsibilities and rights
- This is known as obtaining a Section 11 or a Residence Order
- Discuss with Local Authority about a Permanence Order

Seeking parental responsibilities and rights *continued*

So why would you like to do this?

Here are some advantages and disadvantages of obtaining, or not obtaining, some or all parental responsibilities and rights:

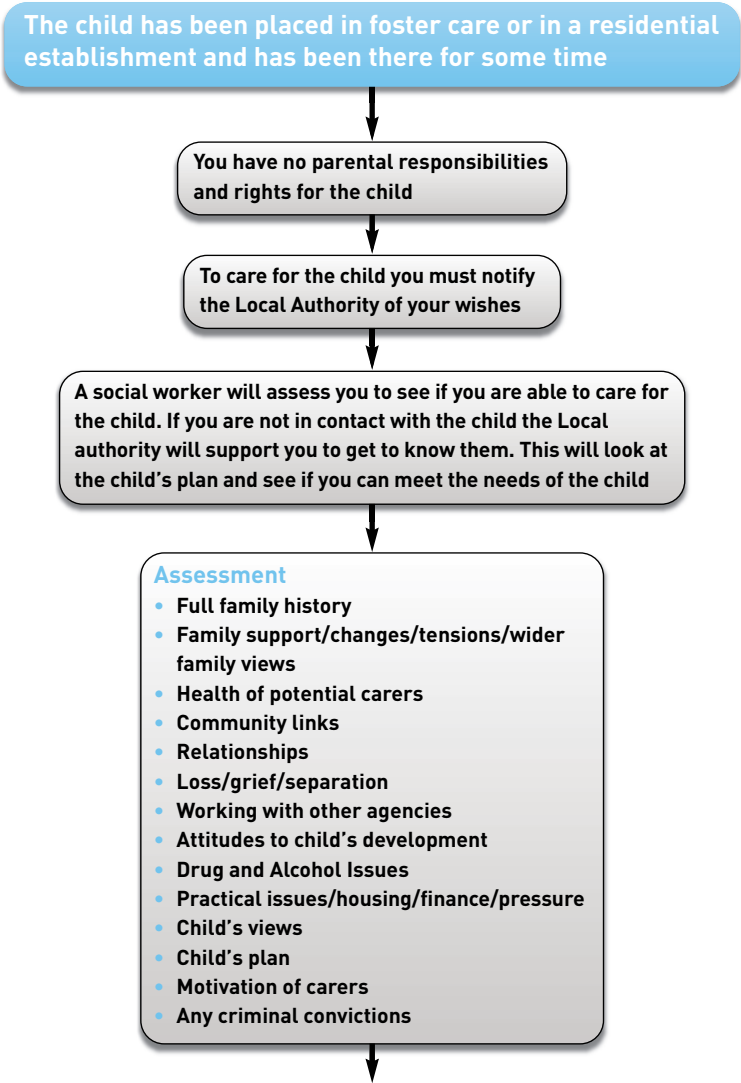
ADVANTAGES OF HAVING PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND RIGHTS

- The Birth parents will have reduced rights of the child depending on court decision
- You can apply for a passport and take the child out of the country
- You can consent to all medical and dental treatment
- You can access and control the child's money or property
- You can make decisions on where or how the child is schooled
- You can consent to special education or support for the child
- Disciplining the child
- Choosing the religion for the child
- Agreeing to the renaming of the child
- Allowing confidential information to be disclosed about the child
- It gives a greater sense of security for the child, a feeling that they belong.

DISADVANTAGES OF NOT HAVING PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND RIGHTS

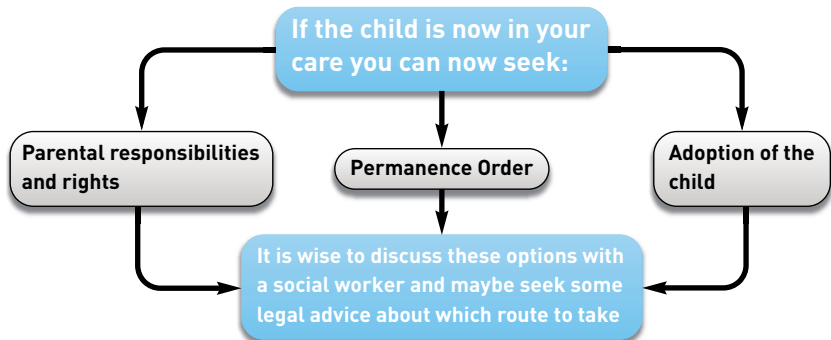
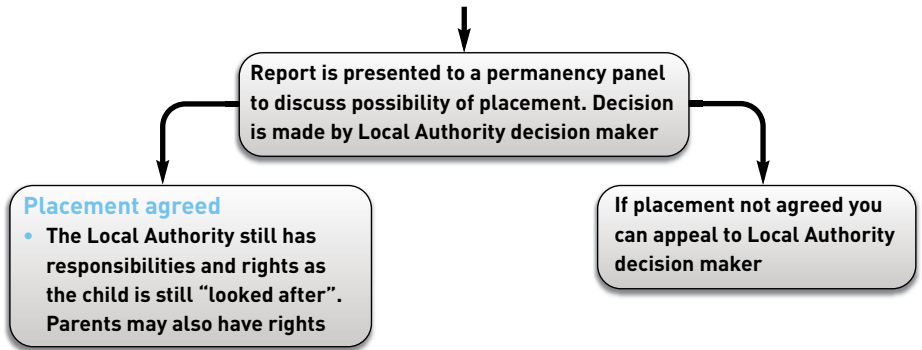
- You cannot apply for a passport for the child
- Need permission to take child away
- You cannot consent to medical treatment
- You cannot access any money or property which belongs to the child
- You cannot decide where the child is schooled
- You may not be consulted about the child's rights to special education or support for the child
- You cannot appeal against any decisions made about the child unless deemed "relevant person"
- Local Authority or parents will have the overall say

Offering permanent care to child who is placed in foster care



Continues on the next page...

Offering permanent care to child who is placed in foster care **continued**



Not all Local Authorities use Permanence Orders if unsure please contact them ASAP

If at any time you are unsure of this process seek advice from agencies specified in the last section of this guide (page 4.08)

Your legal responsibilities and rights

A child is born

Mother has full parental responsibilities and rights

Father has responsibilities and rights if:

- 1) He is married to the mother when or since the child was conceived
- 2) He is named on the child's birth certificate (from 4 May 2006)
- 3) Mother can grant rights to father through a parental responsibility agreement
- 4) The father can apply to the Courts

- Both have a legal responsibility to keep the child safe and promote their health, development and welfare through direction and guidance.
- They act as the child's legal representative

Responsibilities of Carer for a “looked after” child

If you are caring for a child through an agreement with the Local Authority

- The parents will retain full parental responsibilities and rights for the child
- The Local Authority has a number of duties towards the child
- You have a duty to care for the child to safeguard and promote the health and development of the child's welfare through direction and guidance
- You must follow the child's plan and ensure that all their needs are met

If and when a child is ill and may need to go into hospital, carers need to be aware of the healthcare rights, needs and issues relating to the child in their care. Please visit Action for Sick Children (Scotland) for further information. Details can be found in Section 4

Your legal responsibilities and rights

continued

Prior to being a carer

Do you feel that the child is in danger or at risk?

Is the child in immediate danger, i.e. the child is left unattended?

If you have serious concerns contact the Police or social services about your concerns immediately.

You should not remove the child from the parent's home without consent.

How a child may be placed with you

- **S25 of The Children (Scotland) Act 95** – a child is placed by the Local Authority.

A Local Authority shall provide accommodation for any child who having been found in their area appears to need help because:

- He was orphaned
- He is lost or abandoned
- His carers have been prevented from providing accommodation for him

- **S70 of The Children (Scotland) Act 95** – Supervision Requirement

A child is referred to a Children's Hearing when compulsory measures of supervision may be necessary. This can be for many reasons-for example, the child is being neglected or harmed, not being looked after well, not going to school or committing offences.

The Children's Hearing places the child under a supervision requirement with a condition that he/she resides with kinship carers. – 'A supervision requirement lasts for one year after which it must be reviewed by a Children's Hearing. Supervision requirements can also be reviewed by a Children's Hearing during the year if it needs to be'.

Your legal responsibilities and rights

continued

- **S57 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 Child Protection Order** – Emergency placement

These are short term orders lasting only up to 8 days. A sheriff can make a Child Protection Order where he feels that the child is suffering or is at risk of suffering significant harm.

He can authorise:

- removal of the child from his home
- placement of the child in a place of safety
- specifying contact arrangements between the child and the parents.

The Local Authority shall be responsible for the placement of that child.

- **Transfers/Cross Bonundaries**

This is a complicated process where the child is “looked after” by a Local Authority which is different to the one in which you live. This may also include a child moving from England to Scotland which can involve a range of different practices and terminology which can be very confusing. Due to this there can then be issues around support and financial assistance between the authorities, which may impact on you. At some point the case should be transferred to the Local Authority in which you live.

If you are in this situation please speak to your Local Authority or alternatively seek legal advice.

You are caring for a child who is “looked after” by the Local Authority

- You should receive payments from the Local Authority to care for the child

Every Local Authority in Scotland makes its own arrangements on how they pay Kinship Care Allowance and the amount that they pay. Every situation is different. It is essential that you ask for advice that is relevant to you and your own circumstances.

IMPACT OF RECEIVING A PAYMENT FROM THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

It is **really** important that you understand that if you accept an allowance from your Local Authority it may make a difference to the Social Security benefits or Tax Credits you are entitled to receive. You have to establish if you are better or worse off – but don't worry, the CAB can help you with this.

Any child/ren related benefits or tax credits you receive for your own child will not be affected.

If you accept Local Authority Kinship Care Payments you must tell the relevant departments eg. DWP/ HMRC that you have had a change of circumstances and that you are now receiving an allowance.

We recommend that you seek a benefits check from a CAB or Benefits Adviser to help you be clear as to your benefit entitlement.





If you contact a Citizens Advice Bureau you will be asked key questions in order to work out your entitlements

QUESTION 1:

They will ask you if you are caring for a “looked after” or “non looked after” child

ANSWER:

You have chosen the ‘looked after’ section of the guide. If you are not sure that the child you care for is ‘looked after’, go back and have another look at the flowchart on page 0.08. What kind of kinship carer are you?, or speak to your social worker or CAB adviser about it

QUESTION 2:

If the child is looked after then the advisor will want to know how this placement was made – please select from the 3 legal routes below.

ANSWER:

YOUR SITUATION	LEGAL ROUTE
Has there been a Children’s Hearing?	Section 70 Children (Scotland) Act 1995
Voluntary arrangements between you and social work which includes the parent’s consent	Section 25 Children (Scotland) Act 1995
If the arrangement may last for a long time	Section 80 Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007

QUESTION 3:

The advisor will then want to know if you are receiving any kinship care payments from your Local Authority.

If so, they will want to know what section of legislation the Local Authority is using to make the payment. Please select from the three possible sections below:

SECTION
Section 22 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995
Section 110 Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007
Section 50 of the Children Act 1975

Knowing the answers to these questions will help your adviser carry out a calculation which will allow you to compare:

- a) What you would receive if you relied only on your current income/benefits with additions for any child/ren you start caring for
- b) What you would receive if you accept a kinship care allowance from your Local Authority in addition to any income/benefits you are entitled to



Remember each situation is different. It is essential that you ask for advice that is relevant to your own circumstances.

- If you are caring for a “looked after” child, but the Local Authority is not making any payment in respect of the child’s accommodation and/or maintenance then there are no special benefit or tax rules
- If the Local Authority is making regular payments for accommodation and/or maintenance then things can get complicated

Here are a list of benefits that you may be able to receive and contact details if you wish to gain further information

THE BENEFIT	WHAT IT MEANS	CONTACT DETAILS OF AWARDING BODY
Child Benefit (CB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If you are a kinship carer of a ‘looked after’ child you should be able to claim Child Benefit for that child.• The exception to this is if your Local Authority is making you payments of Kinship Care Allowance under S110 of the Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act – in these circumstances, HMRC might decide you are not entitled.• When you apply, state that the claim is for a ‘looked after’ child in kinship care and let HMRC know if/how the Local Authority is paying you Kinship Care Allowance. If you have any difficulty with your claim, contact a CAB for support• Kinship Care Allowance payments from the Local Authority will not affect the amount of CB you receive.	HM Revenue and Customs PO Box 1 Newcastle Upon Tyne NE88 1AA T: 0845 302 1444
Guardian’s Allowance (GA)	You may receive this in addition to child benefit but only in special circumstances	HM Revenue and Customs PO Box 1 Newcastle Upon Tyne NE88 1AA T: 0845 302 1444

Continues on next page...

THE BENEFIT	WHAT IT MEANS	CONTACT DETAILS OF AWARDING BODY
Child Tax Credit (CTC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you receive a Kinship Care Allowance payment from the Local Authority to cover the accommodation and maintenance of the child you care for, you will not be entitled to CTC for that child. Some people might be better off declining the Kinship Care Allowance from the Local Authority and claiming CTC instead. Your local CAB can help you decide what's best for you 	HM Revenue and Customs (Tax Credits) Tax Credit Office Preston PR1 0SB www.hmrc.gov.uk/taxcredits T: 0845 300 3900
Working Tax Credit (WTC)	If you are receiving a Kinship Care Allowance from the Local Authority, you may be able to claim WTC as a self-employed carer. If you do this, WTC payments could have an impact on other means-tested benefits, so be sure to seek advice.	As above (HM Revenue and Customs, Preston)
Income Support and Income based JSA (IS/IBJSA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligibility will depend on your income, savings and other circumstances. In almost all situations, payments of Kinship Care Allowance from the Local Authority will not affect the amount of IS/IBJSA you receive. The exception is if you are still getting amounts in your IS/IBJSA for a child and the Local Authority is paying you Kinship Care Allowance from S50 of the Children Act 1975. In this case, your Kinship Care Allowance will reduce your IS/IBJSA payments. 	Department for Work and Pensions T: 0800 055 6688 Text: 0800 023 4888 www.dwp.gov.uk

Continues on next page...

THE BENEFIT	WHAT IT MEANS	CONTACT DETAILS OF AWARDING BODY
Housing Benefit/ Council Tax Benefit (HB/CTB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligibility will depend on your income, savings and other circumstances. • The amount you receive will depend on whether or not the child you care for is considered to be part of the household. If you are told that the child you care for is not considered part of your household and your HB/CTB payments are reduced as a result of this, seek advice from a CAB. • Kinship Care Allowance payments from the Local Authority will not affect the amount of HB/CTB you receive 	Your Local Authority Office
Pension Credit (PC)	Any payments from the Local Authority will not affect your PC	The Pension Service www.pensionerservice.gov.uk T: 0800 99 1234 Text: 0800 169 0133
Disability Living Allowance (DLA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a child has a disability and is entitled to DLA, payments are made to the child's appointee. A kinship carer can apply to be the appointee for a child they care for • The amount of DLA paid depends on the nature of the disability • Kinship Care Allowance payments from the Local Authority will not affect the amount of DLA received 	Benefit Enquiry Line T: 0800 88 22 00 Text: 0800 24 33 55
Employment & support allowance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligibility will depend on your income, savings, health and other circumstances • Kinship Care Allowance payments from the Local Authority will not affect the amount of ESA you receive 	Department for Work and Pensions T: 0800 055 6688 Text: 0800 023 4888 www.dwp.gov.uk
Social Fund (SF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may be able to claim for emergency or particular needs through a crisis or budgeting loan or a community care grant • The grant is not repayable 	JobCentre Plus

We advise that you always check your local CAB office or your local authority for advice

Case studies

The following case studies are examples. Please note that not all Local Authorities pay in the same way. Always check with the appropriate body as listed on the previous pages.

Lois

Lois is a single pensioner. She receives:

- A state pension and an occupational pension
- Pension Credit

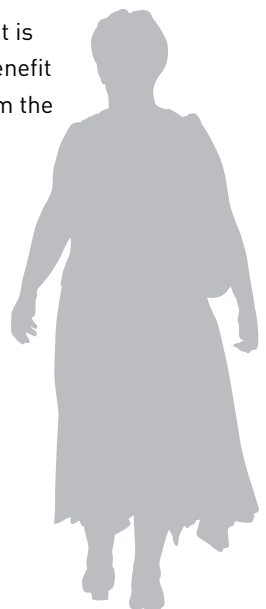
Lois agrees to care for her granddaughter, Susie, who is two years old. Susie has been placed with Lois by the local authority following a decision by the Children's Hearing to make Susie the subject of a Section 70 supervision order, with a condition of residence with Lois. She is therefore a 'looked after' child.

Now Lois receives:

- A kinship care payment from her Local Authority, paid through Section 50 of the Children Act 1975
- Child Benefit – should be payable in these circumstances (it is advised that Lois tells HMRC when she applies for Child Benefit that she is receiving a Section 50 kinship care payment from the local authority)
- Her state pension and occupational pension, as before
- Pension Credit, as before (the amount of Pension Credit is not affected by either the kinship care payments or the Child Benefit that Lois now receives)

Lois will not receive:

- Child Tax Credit – Section 50 payments are intended for maintenance of the child and this excludes Lois from being eligible for Child Tax Credit



Case studies

Peter and May

Peter and May are a married couple in their twenties, both working full time. They receive:

- No state benefits as their incomes are too high

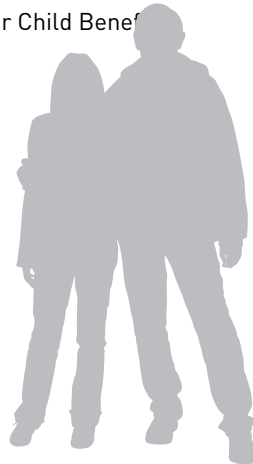
They agree to look after May's seven year old niece, Sally. She is placed with them by the local authority under Section 25 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 and is a 'looked after' child. May gives up her job because Sally is disabled and has significant care needs.

Now Peter and May receive:

- A kinship care payment from their Local Authority, paid through Section 22 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995
- Child Benefit – should be payable in these circumstances (it is advised that May tells HMRC when she applies for Child Benefit that she is receiving a Section 22 kinship care payment)
- Disability Living Allowance (for Sally, but paid to May as her appointee)

They will not receive

- Working Tax Credit or Child Tax Credit as Peter's income on its own is still too high



Case studies

Rachel

Rachel is unemployed and lives with her 15 year old daughter, Vicky. She receives:

- Jobseeker's Allowance
- Housing Benefit
- Council Tax Benefit
- Child Benefit
- Child Tax Credit

Rachel agrees to care for her four year old nephew, Dylan. He has been placed with Rachel by the local authority following a decision by the Children's Hearing to make Dylan the subject of a Section 70 supervision order, with a condition of residence with Rachel. He is therefore a 'looked after' child.

Now Rachel receives:

- A kinship care payment from her Local Authority, paid through Section 50 of the Children Act 1975
- Income Support – Rachel can now claim Income Support instead of Jobseeker's Allowance on the grounds of being a lone parent caring for a child under seven. This means she does not have to be actively seeking work.
- Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit, as before
- Child Benefit – Rachel's Child Benefit for Vicky will not be affected. Child Benefit should also be payable in these circumstances for Dylan (it is advised that Rachel tells HMRC when she applies for Child Benefit for Dylan that she is receiving Section 50 kinship care payments from the local authority)
- Child Tax Credit – Rachel's Child Tax Credit for Vicky will not be affected.

She will not receive:

- Child Tax Credit for Dylan – Section 50 payments are intended for maintenance of the child and this excludes Rachel from being eligible for Child Tax Credit for Dylan.



Always contact your local Citizens Advice Bureau for advice on what you are entitled to as a kinship carer. For more details see www.cas.org.uk

Notes

“
How could I ever give them up, they
are my grandchildren, my flesh and
blood, I would die for them.”

”

2 “Non looked after”
children



Girl aged 5

I am in primary one. I like school very much. I love my wee brother. I love nana so, so, so, so, so, so much. She kisses me, cuddles me up in bed. lucky me I got to sleep over at nana's.

Mummy doesn't know I'm here. She is mean to me. She doesn't play, only daddy plays. I hope she isn't angry with me today.

I wish I could stay at Disney in a Minnie mouse bed. I like staying at nana's best. I went in a boat to see my daddy's family in Ireland. I don't miss my mummy at all.

Case Study

TOM AND ANNE

Tom and Anne were a couple in their early forties who took over the care of their niece and nephew, Tim, age 2 and Courtney, age 3 as their mother had problems with alcohol. They were placed by the Local Authority until their mother was well enough to look after them again, Tom and Anne received a kinship allowance to help them do this.

Unfortunately their mother's problems increased and it was suggested that Tom and Anne play a more permanent role in their lives. Social workers suggested that they seek a Section 11 order through the Court as this would enable Anne and Tom to have parental responsibilities and rights and provide security for the children. With the backing of the children's mother Anne and Tom decided to do it.

After a few months, a lot of reports and visits to Court, Anne and Tom received some parental responsibilities and rights. For a fresh start they moved to a new area and enrolled the children in a new nursery. Their support and contact from social work then disappeared and all of a sudden their kinship payments were stopped, something which they relied on to help support the kids. They were told this was because the children were no longer the responsibility of the Local Authority.

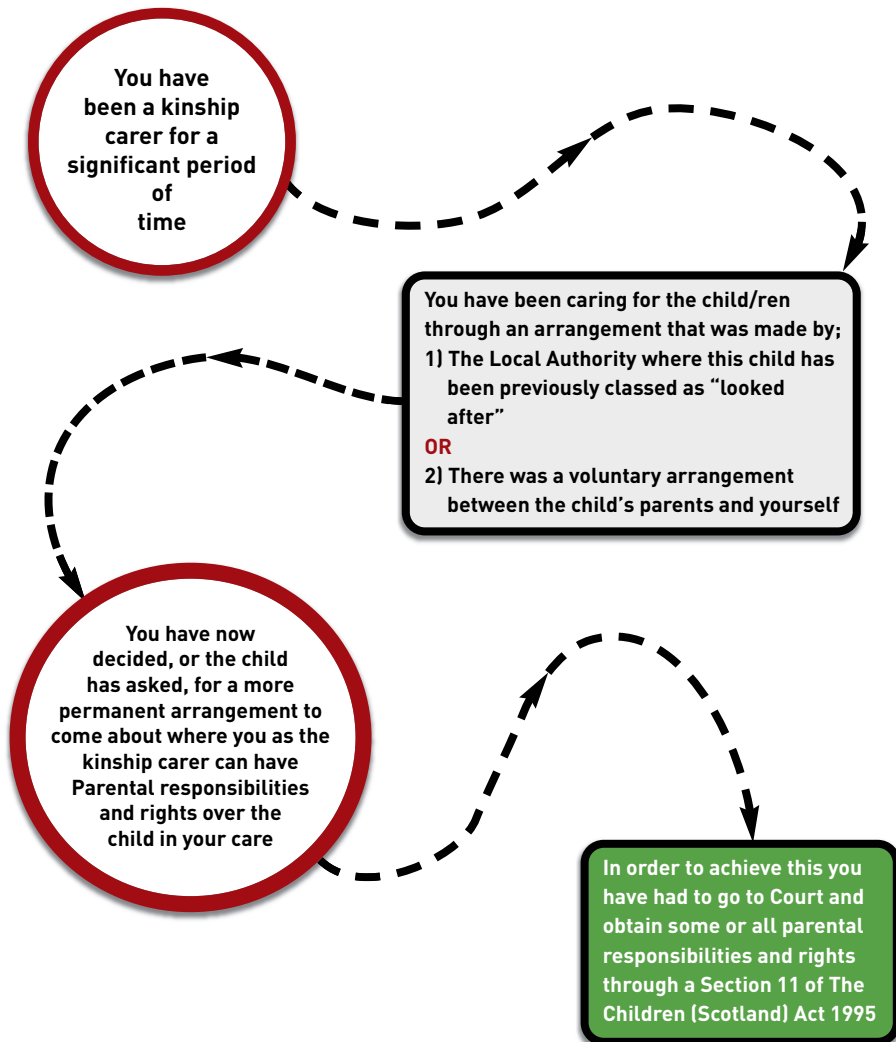
They received a letter from a solicitor on behalf of the mother, she stated that she did not agree with the children being taken away and placed in a nursery, she would take them to court to prevent this. This was a stressful time for Anne and Tom. They would have to go to Court and pay high legal fees while the mother received legal aid.

Anne called her social work office and asked for help, she was told that they could offer her support as Tim and Courtney had previously been "looked after" children. They received residence payments to support the children and they then held a family meeting with their mother who agreed to drop the case.

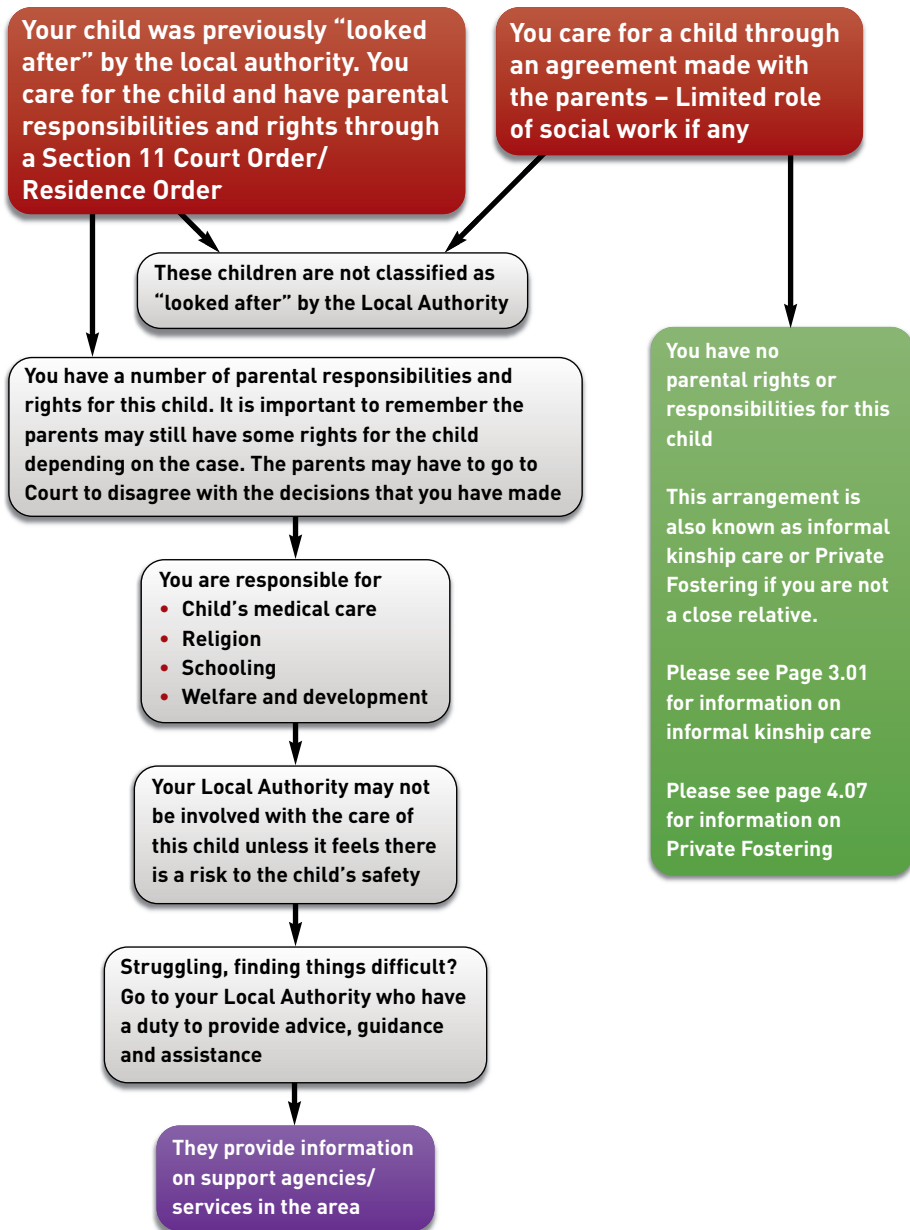


“Non looked after” children

Welcome! You have chosen the section for “non looked after” children. This section will explain your role and provide some information of your benefits and legal rights. Please find a list of support agencies in Section 4 of the guide if at any time you need help when caring for a child.



“Non looked after” children continued



Support provided by the Local Authority

You have now obtained parental responsibilities and rights for a child.

If that child was previously “looked after” by a Local Authority you are still entitled to support and guidance from them

- For the initial period this support will come from the Local Authority that “looked after” the child (this may be different from the Local Authority where you are living)
- This support should then be transferred to the Local Authority that is responsible for the area in which you live

The original and the new Local Authority will have discussions about their role and responsibilities in caring for the child. This can take some time and can be extremely difficult particularly if it involves a child moving from England to Scotland. The range of practice and terminology can be very confusing!

The support and guidance you should receive:

- A social worker who will ensure the child’s plan is maintained
- Assistance in finding support agencies in your area
- Some possible financial assistance
- Responsive support from all departments within the Local Authority
- Specific support in dealing with the child’s personal issues

If this process is not being followed by your Local Authority then contact them ASAP

If at any time you are unsure of this process seek advice from agencies specified in the last section of this guide (page 4.08)

Your legal responsibilities and rights

A child is born

Mother has full parental responsibilities and rights

Father has responsibilities and rights if:

- 1) He is married to the mother
 - 2) He is named on the child's birth certificate (since 4 May 2006)
 - 3) Mother can grant rights to father through a parental responsibility agreement
 - 4) The father can apply to the Courts
- Both have a legal responsibility to keep the child safe and promote their health, development and welfare through direction and guidance.
 - They act as the child's legal representative

Responsibilities of Carer for a “non-looked after” child

- You have gone to Court and obtained some or all parental rights and responsibilities for the child through S11 of The Children (Scotland) Act 1995
- A Residence Order can also be issued which states who the child should live with
- The child may no longer be classed as a “looked after” child (there may be an exception if the child was under a supervision requirement)
- The child is now your responsibility
- You must safeguard and promote the child's health, development and welfare through direction and guidance
- You may act as the child's legal representative

If and when a child is ill and may need to go into hospital, carers need to be aware of the healthcare rights, needs and issues relating to the child in their care. Please visit Action for Sick Children (Scotland) for further information. Details can be found in Section 4.

Your legal responsibilities and rights

continued

What is Section 11 of The Children (Scotland) Act 1995?

A Court can grant a person some or most parental responsibilities and rights in relation to a child. This includes arrangements for residence and contact. Anyone with an interest in the child can apply for a parental responsibilities order. Being subject to a Section 11 Order does not make a child “looked after.”

Areas to be aware of when looking for parental responsibilities and rights

- Under S11 of the Children (Scotland) Act the Court can also grant a Contact Order

Contact Order

This order regulates the arrangements for maintaining personal relations and direct contact with a child and a parent or others such as grandparent, aunt, uncle, siblings etc. Depending on the age of the child, his/her views will be considered by the court.

This may allow the parents of the child or other family members to maintain contact.

- As this is an order of the Court you have to observe it

When kinship carers obtain a Section 11 from the Court you must confirm with the Court what parental responsibilities and rights you will have. This order will not provide consent to adopt the child.

On some occasions the parents may still have some responsibilities and rights over the child. If they do they can interfere with the decisions you make about that child. This may mean that you have to return to Court.

This can be a very distressing experience and expensive for you.



You now have parental responsibilities and rights for the child in your care.

You may still receive payments from the Local Authority to care for this child

It is **important** to understand that when you gain parental responsibilities and rights for a child, this may affect your Social Security benefit or Tax Credit that you receive. Once you gain these rights the child is no longer “looked after” by the Local Authority and so any payments you received from them, for the care of that child may now **STOP or CHANGE**.

When contacting your CAB for advice they will ask you key questions in order to work out your entitlements.

QUESTION 1:

They will ask you if you are caring for a ‘looked after’ or ‘non looked after’ child.

ANSWER:

You have chosen the ‘non-looked after’ section of the guide. If you are not sure that the child you care for is ‘not looked after’, go back and have another look at the flowchart on page 0.08 (What kind of kinship carer are you?) or speak to your social worker or CAB advisor about it.



QUESTION 2:

The advisor will then want to know if you are receiving any kinship care payments from your Local Authority.

ANSWER:

If so, they will want to know what section of legislation the Local Authority is using to make the payment. Please select from the two possible sections below.

SECTION
Section 22 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995
Section 50 of the Children Act 1975

You should always inform the relevant authorities of any change to your circumstances.

Every situation is different and you should always ask for advice which is relevant to your own circumstances.

At any time you are unsure or confused about your benefit entitlements please contact your local Citizens Advice Bureau. For more details see www.cas.org.uk



Benefit entitlements for a “non looked after” child

You may still receive some financial support from your Local Authority because you are a kinship carer

For people caring for a “non looked after” child there are three issues that arise in relation to other benefits:

- 1) Who can claim
- 2) Some delays in getting benefits sorted out
- 3) How your Local Authority payments (if being made) affect your benefit/tax credits

THE BENEFIT	WHAT IT MEANS	CONTACT DETAILS OF AWARDING BODY
Child Benefit (CB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Only one person at a time can get CB for a child. If the child is living with you, you are likely to be entitled to CB• If someone else has been getting CB for the child when you make your claim, you will normally not become entitled to CB until three weeks after you make your claim• Make your claim for CB as soon as possible as some cases are taking many months to process• Kinship Care Allowance payments from the Local Authority will not affect the amount of CB you receive.	HM Revenue and Customs PO Box 1 Newcastle Upon Tyne NE88 1AA T: 0845 302 1444
Child Tax Credit (CTC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Only one person at a time can get CTC for a child. If the child is living with you, you are likely to be entitled to CTC.• The amount you receive is dependent on your income and other circumstances• Kinship Care Allowance payments from the Local Authority will not affect the amount of CTC you receive	HM Revenue and Customs (Tax Credits) Tax Credit Office Preston PR1 0SB www.hmrc.gov.uk/taxcredits T: 0845 300 3900

Continues on next page...

Benefit entitlements for a “non looked after” child **continued**

THE BENEFIT	WHAT IT MEANS	CONTACT DETAILS OF AWARDING BODY
Working Tax Credit (WTC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligibility and amount of benefit are dependent on your income, the number of hours you work and other circumstances • If you are responsible for a child, your WTC payments might increase if you have to pay childcare costs • Kinship Care Allowance payments from the Local Authority will not affect the amount of WTC you receive 	As above (HM Revenue and Customs, Preston)
Income Support and Income based JSA (IS/IBJSA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligibility will depend on your income, savings and other circumstances. You may claim IS as a lone parent if you are caring for a child under seven. • In almost all situations payments of Kinship Care Allowance from the Local Authority will not affect the amount of IS/IBJSA you receive. • The exception is if you are still getting amounts in your IS/IBJSA for a child and the Local Authority is paying you Kinship Care Allowance from S50 of the Children Act 1975. In this case, your Kinship Care Allowance will reduce your IS/IBJSA payments. Seek advice about claiming CTC instead of IS/IBJSA as you might be better off. 	Department for Work and Pensions T: 0800 055 6688 Text: 0800 023 4888 www.dwp.gov.uk
Employment and Support Allowance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligibility will depend on your income, savings, health and other circumstances • Kinship Care Allowance payments from the Local Authority will not affect the amount of ESA you receive 	As above
Housing Benefit/ Council Tax Benefit (HB/CTB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligibility will depend on your income, savings and other circumstances such as the number of children you are caring for • Kinship Care Allowance payments from the Local Authority will not affect the amount of HB/CTB you receive 	Your Local Authority Office

Continues on next page...

Benefit entitlements for a “non looked after” child **continued**

THE BENEFIT	WHAT IT MEANS	CONTACT DETAILS OF AWARDING BODY
Pension Credit (PC)	Local Authority payments will not affect your PC	The Pension Service www.pensionservice.gov.uk T: 0800 99 1234 Text: 0800 169 0133
Disability Living Allowance (DLA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a child has a disability and is entitled to DLA, payments are made to the child's appointee. A kinship carer can apply to be the appointee for a child they care for • The amount of DLA paid depends on the nature of the disability • Kinship Care Allowance payments from the Local Authority will not affect the amount of DLA received 	Benefit Enquiry Line T: 0800 88 22 00 Text: 0800 24 33 55
Social Fund (SF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may be able to claim for emergency or particular needs through a crisis or budgeting loan or a community care grant • The grant is not repayable 	JobCentre Plus

We advise that you always check your local CAB office and or Local Authority for advice

Case studies

The following case studies are examples. Please note that not all Local Authorities pay in the same way. Always check with the appropriate body as listed on the previous pages.

George

George is a thirty year old man who works full time and lives in a rented flat. He receives:

- Housing Benefit
- Council Tax Benefit
- Working Tax Credit

He takes over caring for his fourteen year old brother Malcolm, and is awarded a Section 11 Residence Order by the court. Malcolm is a 'non looked after' child.

Now George receives:

- Child Benefit
- Child Tax Credit
- Housing Benefit – paid at a higher rate as he is now responsible for Malcolm
- Council Tax Benefit – paid at a higher rate as he is now responsible for Malcolm
- Working Tax Credit – paid at a higher rate as he is now a lone parent and can claim some childcare costs

George does not receive:

- Kinship care payments from his Local Authority



Case studies

Anne

Anne is a 68 year old widowed pensioner. She lives in rented accommodation and has savings of £15,500. She receives:

- A state pension and an occupational pension

Anne agrees to look after her two grandchildren Alfie and Joe. She applies to the court for a Section 11 Residence Order. This is awarded and Alfie and Joe become 'non looked after' children.

Now Anne receives:

- Child Benefit
- Child Tax Credit
- Housing Benefit
- Council Tax Benefit
- Her state pension and occupational pension, as before

Anne does not receive:

- Kinship care payments from her Local Authority

Always contact your local
Citizens Advice Bureau for advice
on what you are entitled to as a
kinship carer. For more details
see www.cas.org.uk



Notes

“ They wonder why there is always kids hanging around street corners well it is because I can't afford to do anything else with them, a trip to the cinema will cost me £30 at least and then how are we meant to live for the rest of the fortnight? ”



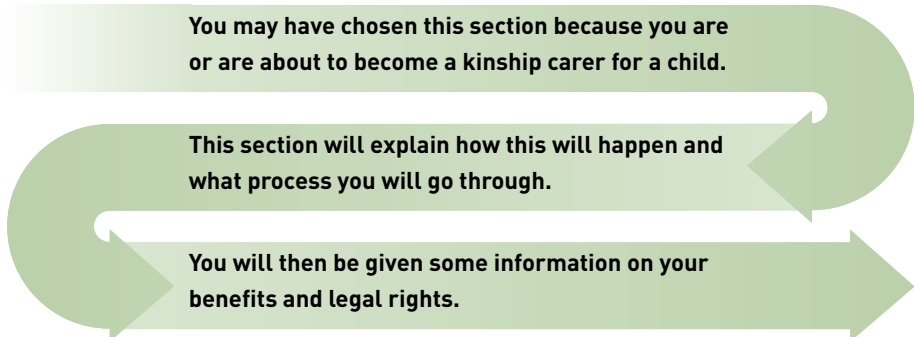
I went to stay with my gran
but my gran asks me to wash
myself, make my bed and brush
my teeth. She helps me do my
homework and makes me go into
the shower.

I don't miss my mum and dad.
I like gran because she gives
me cuddles and my gran takes
me to football.

Boy aged 8

Informal kinship carers

Welcome! You have chosen the section for informal kinship care arrangements.



You may have chosen this section because you are or are about to become a kinship carer for a child.

This section will explain how this will happen and what process you will go through.

You will then be given some information on your benefits and legal rights.

Please find a list of support agencies in Section 4 of the guide if at any time you need help when caring for a child.

Case Study

MARLENE

Marlene is a 70 year old pensioner and a kinship carer who looks after her 9 year old grandson Paul.

When her son Simon was made redundant things went downhill for him rapidly, culminating in Marlene's discovery that he and his wife Suzi were using drugs. Marlene was particularly concerned about Paul as he would shout and scream when it was time to go home from his grandparents.

In December 2001 Simon begged his mum to look after Paul as he realised he and Suzi couldn't cope. "Give us a few months to get back on our feet and then we will take him back." Marlene agreed to look after Paul with the belief that it would be for a short time and then Paul could return home.

Then a day later, double tragedy: Simon died from a heroin overdose and Suzi killed herself. Now Paul had no-one except his grandparents.

Marlene was utterly unprepared for her new role. She had no clothes, furniture or room for Paul. The strain of looking after him was considerable. She became depressed and tired. As he grew up, it was clear that Paul had issues – he would hit out at Marlene, cry and wet the bed. Marlene didn't know what to do or who to turn to. She needed help but didn't want to go to her friends as she was too ashamed of how badly things had turned out.



Case Study continued

Then one day while taking Paul to the dentist she noticed a poster on the wall from her local children and families social work team. Of course, why had she never thought of them before? But then she panicked, what if they would try and take Paul away, should she have contacted them when Simon and Suzi died, would they think that she should not be looking after Paul?

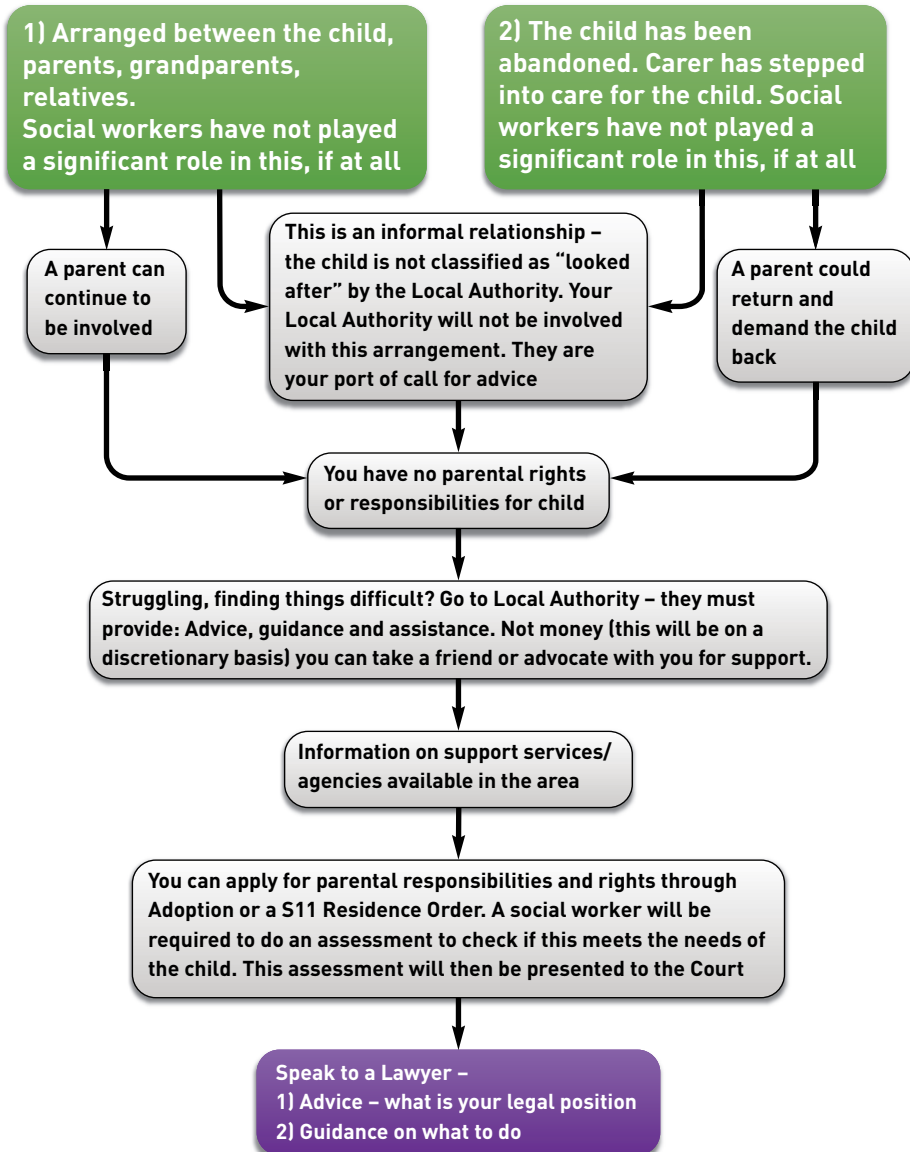
Finally Marlene decided that she had to seek help and visited her local social work office. She found that they were helpful and although they couldn't offer her concentrated support, as Paul was not classed as "looked after", they informed her that they would try and offer support as Paul could be classed as a "child in need". They also provided her with names of support groups which they said might help.

On the day of her first meeting at the support group she was at the end of her tether because of Paul's behaviour. She said nothing at first but sat back and listened, tears running down her face. For the first time in nine years Marlene could tell her story. She left a new woman, ready to face life again.

Marlene has become a committed member of the group. Paul still has problems but Marlene is more confident in challenging him and helping him to deal with them. She is determined to help others in the same situation and regularly supports other kinship carers so that they do not have to go through the same traumas as she did.

Informal kinship carers continued

A CHILD IS IN YOUR CARE –



Children in need

Some children live with relatives on an informal basis. Many carers manage without support from social and other services, however many in this situation may require assistance.

These are children who are particularly vulnerable due to:

- Previous family circumstances
 - Suffered bereavement or loss
 - Their carer is elderly or in poor health
 - Child is disabled or affected by disability
- These are children who may require greater than average help and support in school or through Health Services.
 - The carers of these children may require greater than average advice and support because of the length of time since they previously parented or because they have never parented.



- Contact your Local Authority about your concerns



- You will meet with a member of social work services who will discuss and review your position. This could also be concerns about the child's health or school

KiNSHIP CARE

Children in need continued

Step 3

- A plan should be drawn up by you and the social worker to highlight what needs are to be met and put in place. This will include:
 - What services will be provided
 - How long these services should last
 - What they hope will be achieved through this provision of service
 - What the role of the carer, the social services and the service will be

Step 4

- You may receive:
 - Advice, guidance and support – i.e. counselling
 - Help at home – regular visits or assistance through home help
 - Day care – childcare through nursery
 - Respite – day trips, holidays
 - Community services – bring family together through activities
 - Financial help or advice – cash payments (discretionary)

Your Local Authority may be able to offer you financial support so please contact them. Do not be afraid to ask for help



Your legal responsibilities and rights

A child is born. Mother has full parental responsibilities and rights.

Father has responsibilities and rights if:

- 1) He is married to the mother
 - 2) He is named on the child's birth certificate (since 4 May 2006)
 - 3) Mother can grant rights to father through a parental responsibility agreement
 - 4) The father can apply to the Courts
- Both have a legal responsibility to keep the child safe and promote their health, development and welfare through direction and guidance
 - They act as the child's legal representative

Your rights as an Informal kinship carer

If an agreement has been made between you and the parents:

- The parents retain full legal responsibilities and rights of the child
- You as a carer have a duty to safeguard and promote the health and development of the child's welfare through direction and guidance
- You are entitled to support and guidance from the Local Authority in your area

Potential Problems

- A parent must consent to any decisions you wish to make and so can intervene at any time.
- You cannot make major decisions about the child's health, schooling or travel
- A parent can return at any time and demand the return of the child
- You as carer will not have rights to attend meetings about the child's welfare

If and when a child is ill and may need to go into hospital, carers need to be aware of the healthcare rights, needs and issues relating to the child in their care. Please visit Action for Sick Children (Scotland) for further information. Details can be found in Section 4.

Your legal responsibilities and rights

continued

Solutions

- If the child is not going to return to the parents you may apply for some parental responsibilities and rights through the Court. You can contact your Local Authority for advice/support

The child's views should be sought at all times. You can contact your Local Authority for advice and support.

Please always contact the
Scottish Child Law Centre if
you are unsure or need advice

Benefit information

If you are caring for a child whose parents belong to another Local Authority – that Local Authority is responsible for the care of that child.

If you require support or assistance then you must contact that Local Authority

It is important to be aware of cross boundary issues where Local Authorities do not follow the same procedures in kinship care arrangements and this can therefore be very confusing for you. Please contact your own local authority for advice

It is really important that you understand that when caring for a child there are certain steps you must take in order to receive financial benefits to help you care for that child.

Every situation is different and you should always ask advice which is relevant to your own circumstances.

When a child comes to live with you it is important to let the DWP and HMRC know as soon as possible so as the right person claims the benefits and tax credits in respect of the child.

So...

- If the child is living full-time with you, you should be able to claim the appropriate benefits and tax credits in respect of the child. It is therefore important to be able to show that the child is living with you. This could be by showing who is the main contact or registered address for school or nursery, or for their GP
- Do it as quickly as possible – it can take several months to process the benefit claim if there are any issues
- Means tested benefits are based on your personal circumstances such as your income, savings etc

**Always contact your local Citizens Advice Bureau for advice on what you are entitled to as a kinship carer.
For more details see www.cas.org.uk**

Benefit entitlements for a child in an informal relationship

You are now caring for a child:

- You are not being paid a regular allowance from your Local Authority

THE BENEFIT	WHAT IT MEANS	CONTACT DETAILS OF AWARDING BODY
Child Benefit (CB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only one person at a time can get CB for a child. If the child is living with you, you are likely to be entitled to CB If someone else has been getting CB for the child when you make your claim, you will normally not become entitled to CB until three weeks after you make your claim Make your claim for CB as soon as possible as some cases are taking many months to process 	HM Revenue and Customs PO Box 1 Newcastle Upon Tyne NE88 1AA T: 0845 302 1444
Child Tax Credit (CTC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only one person at a time can get CTC for a child. If the child is living with you, you are likely to be entitled to CTC. The amount you receive is dependent on your income and other circumstances 	HM Revenue and Customs (Tax Credits) Tax Credit Office Preston PR1 0SB www.hmrc.gov.uk/taxcredits T: 0845 300 3900
Working Tax Credit (WTC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligibility and amount of benefit are dependent on your income, the number of hours you work and other circumstances If you are responsible for a child, your WTC payments might increase if you have to pay childcare costs 	As above (HM Revenue and Customs, Preston)
Income Support and Income based Job Seekers Allowance (IS/IBJSA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligibility will depend on your income, savings and other circumstances. You may claim IS as a lone parent if you are caring for a child under seven. 	Department for Work and Pensions T: 0800 055 6688 Text: 0800 023 4888 www.dwp.gov.uk

Continues on next page...

Benefit entitlements for a child in an informal relationship **continued**

THE BENEFIT	WHAT IT MEANS	CONTACT DETAILS OF AWARDING BODY
Housing Benefit/ Council Tax Benefit (HB/CTB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligibility will depend on your income, savings and other circumstances such as the number of children you are caring for 	Your Local Authority Office
Pension Credit (PC)	There are no additional payments for a child	The Pension Service www.pensionerservice.gov.uk T: 0800 99 1234 Text: 0800 169 0133
Disability Living Allowance (DLA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a child has a disability and is entitled to DLA, payments are made to the child's appointee. A kinship carer can apply to be the appointee for a child they care for The amount of DLA paid depends on the nature of the disability 	Benefit Enquiry Line T: 0800 88 22 00 Text: 0800 24 33 55
Social Fund (SF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may be able to claim for emergency or particular needs through a crisis or budgeting loan or a community care grant The grant is not repayable 	JobCentre Plus

We advise that you always check your local CAB office and or your Local Authority for advice

Case studies

Kevin and Kathryn

Kevin and Kathryn are both in their 70s, living in a flat that they own. They receive:

- Two state pensions and one occupational pension
- Pension Credit

They start to look after their two grandchildren, Lauren aged 13 and Jake aged 11, after their mother dies. The children's father is in prison. This is an informal arrangement made by the family so the children are 'non looked after'.

Now Kevin and Kathryn receive:

- Child Benefit, paid for each child
- Child Tax Credit, with amounts paid for each child
- Guardian's Allowance, paid for each child
- Their state pensions and occupational pension, as before
- Pension Credit, as before (the amount of Pension Credit is not affected by the Child Benefit or Guardian's Allowance they now receive)

They do not receive:

- Kinship care payments from their Local Authority



Case studies

Joan

Joan is a 55 year old single woman who was widowed two years ago. She is unemployed and lives alone. She receives:

- Income based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Housing Benefit
- Council tax Benefit

Joan's three year old grandson Billy comes to live with her. This arrangement was made between Joan and Billy's mum, with no social work involvement.

Now Joan receives:

- Income Support (which she can claim on the grounds of being a lone parent)
- Child Benefit
- Child Tax Credit
- Housing Benefit – paid at a higher rate as he is now responsible for Billy
- Council Tax Benefit – paid at a higher rate as he is now responsible for Billy


Joan does not receive:

- Kinship care payments from her local authority



Always contact your local Citizens Advice Bureau for advice on what you are entitled to as a kinship carer. For more details see www.cas.org.uk

Notes



I came here today feeling that I just wanted to give up and now that I have met these people here I have hope that things will change around for me.

Girl aged 7

I live with my auntie and my uncle, they are very nice to me, my mummy is not well she has gone to get well so I don't see her.

My auntie is a good cook, she makes yummy food and sometimes she gives me ice-cream.

I have a lovely warm bed in a bright pink room with stars on the roof, they glow at night. I love Living with my Auntie and uncle and I want to stay here forever especially as I get to play with Rex the dog. He gives me big licks and hits me with his waggly tail.

I am very happy.

Useful information and resources

Welcome! You have now come to the section that will provide you with information which may be of benefit to you when you are caring for a child. This section will also provide you with a list of local and national organisations which may support you or the child in your care.

- 1) **Children's Hearing** – this section contains information on the Children's Hearing system. This will explain the reasons why the Children's Hearing will take place and what will or can happen at each stage
- 2) **Legal Aid** – this section provides you with information on legal aid and how to apply for it
- 3) **Private Fostering** – this section will inform you about Private Fostering and the implications it can have on someone who cares for a child who is not a relative
- 4) **Benefit Information** – this section will explain the benefit system and what you have to do if you wish to make a claim when caring for a child
- 5) **Local and National Support Agencies** – this directory will help to direct and support you to agencies throughout Scotland. It does not contain an exhaustive list but the agencies should be able to signpost you to appropriate places where you can get help and advice
- 6) **Kinship Care Support Groups Across Scotland** – this section details a list of kinship care support groups across Scotland which you can contact for help and advice. These can be run through a Local Authority or they may be run independently by kinship carers. These are a valuable resource and can provide fantastic support to all kinship carers.

Children's Hearings

What are Children's Hearings?

- They are meetings which are held to provide help for children who may be having problems in their lives and they may require compulsory measures of supervision

What are these problems?

A child may have a number of issues such as:

- The child may suffer harm due to abuse or lack of parental care
- The parents can't control them
- Child may be misusing drugs, alcohol or solvents
- The child may have committed an offence
- Child may not be attending school
- The child may be being hurt, either physically or emotionally

Why does the child go to a hearing?

- A referral will be made by someone who has concerns about a child to the Children's Reporter for your area. The Reporter will look at your child's case and will decide if the child needs to attend a children's hearing to help address the issues they have. A kinship carer can call for a hearing and can contact the Reporter at any time who may then arrange a hearing

How does the Reporter make the decision to refer your child to a hearing?

- The Reporter gathers information about the child such as information from school, police, health agencies and details of family circumstances. Usually a social worker will meet the child, parents and or carers to prepare a Report (known as an **IAF Integrated Assessment report** or **SBR a Social Background Report**) on the child and his circumstances
- The Reporter will consider all the information carefully and will have decided that your child may need compulsory measure of supervision which can be arranged by the Children's Hearing

Children's Hearings continued

Who can attend?

- The child, although sometimes the child is excused from attending
- The parent
- A relevant person who has responsibility for the child: this is often the carer (A kinship carer needs to be recognised as a relevant person. If they are not then they have no right to attend, receive papers, request reviews and appeal.)
- The child and the relevant person can attend with a representative who can give them support or help them give their views i.e. minister, teacher
- If you cannot attend you must notify the reporter immediately as there may be penalties
- A legal representative if one has been appointed for the child

What will happen at the hearing?

- At the hearing there are three panel members, a mix of male and female trained volunteers
- There may be social workers or teachers who will be questioned
- Panel members will have reports from professionals involved with the child, including a social background report written by a social worker. The child (if over 12 years) and the relevant persons will also receive copies of these reports
- The child and relevant person will be called into the hearing and informed why you are there
- A statement called 'grounds of referral' will be read out to the child and relevant person. Grounds of referral are a legal statement setting out the reasons for the child being referred to a Children's Hearing
- Before a full discussion can take place the relevant person and child need to understand and agree with all or some of the grounds of referral

Children's Hearings continued

What happens if I don't agree with the reasons for the hearing?

- Inform the panel
- They will stop and decide not to proceed

OR

- The Reporter will arrange for the case to be heard in front of the Sheriff who will make a decision on whether the grounds of referral have been established and if there should be a hearing

What happens next?

- If grounds of referral are established the Reporter will convene a hearing on how to proceed
- Discussions will take place with the child and parent or carer
- Sometimes the hearing asks for another report to be written and this will be undertaken by a person called a **SAFEGUARDER**
- This report will contain recommendations which are presented to the panel
- A decision will then be made about how to proceed

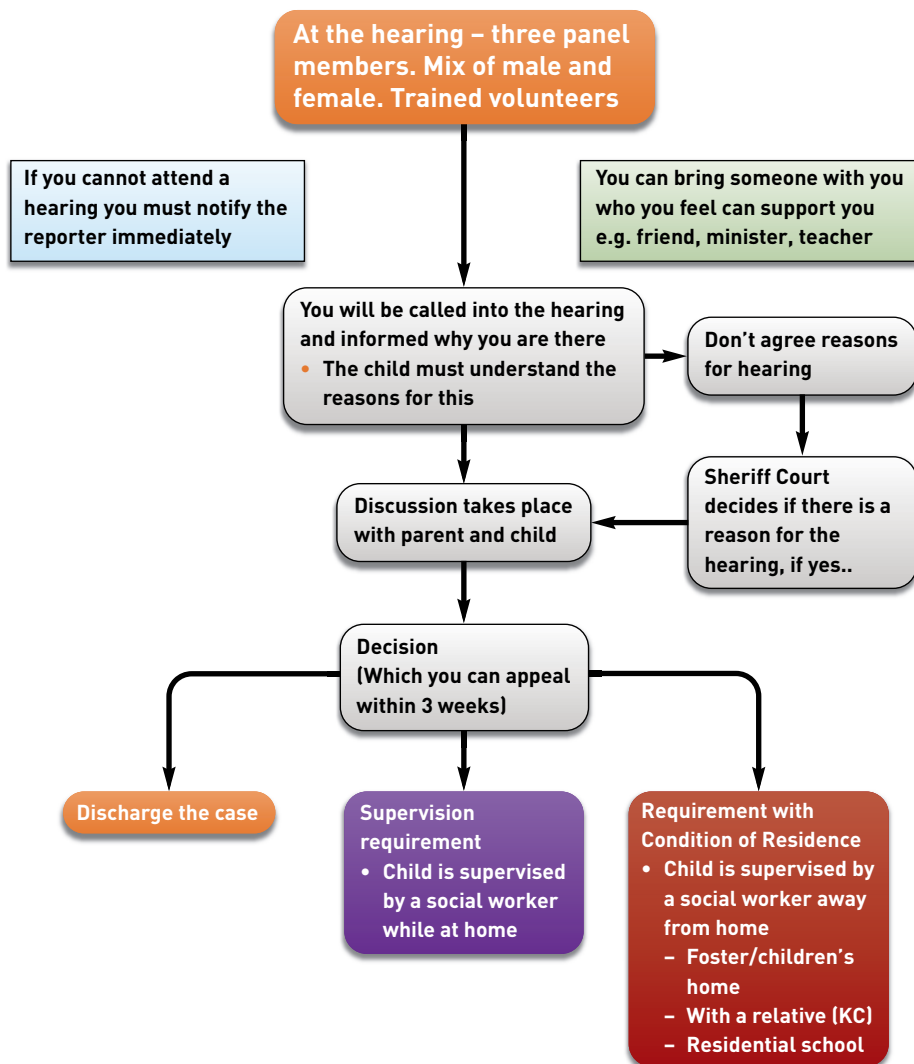
What if I don't agree with the decision?

- The relevant person, the child and the safeguarder can appeal the decision to the Sheriff
- Any appeal must happen within three weeks
- You should speak to a solicitor who will advise you what to do

What the Children's Hearing can decide?

- They can dismiss the case
- Supervision Requirement: where the child is supervised by a social worker within their home
- Supervision Requirement with a condition of residence that the child reside outwith the family home; the condition must name a specific place and not be general
- They can agree contact arrangements

Children's Hearings continued



Am I entitled to Legal Aid?

- Since April 2009 more adults are entitled to Legal Aid to ensure all have more “Access to Justice”
- If you meet the financial qualifications, Legal Aid allows people to access help for their legal problems by providing funding
- If you wish legal advice or representation from a solicitor you will need to apply for Civil Legal Aid and Assistance

What to do...

- Go to a solicitor with your case – explain circumstances
- The solicitor will inform you what steps he would have to take:
 - a) provide advice and assistance – civil legal assistance
 - b) represent you in Court – civil legal aid
- Your solicitor will then inform you what legal aid you require – civil legal assistance, civil legal aid or both

CIVIL LEGAL ASSISTANCE:

- Helps pay for advice from a solicitor on a Scots Law matter
- Involves writing letters or advice on whether to take the case to Court
- Solicitor decides if you meet criteria for financial help

CIVIL LEGAL AID:

- This funds a solicitor to put someone’s case in court
- It funds preparation, the hearing and possible expert witnesses or advocates
- Your opponent can oppose your legal aid

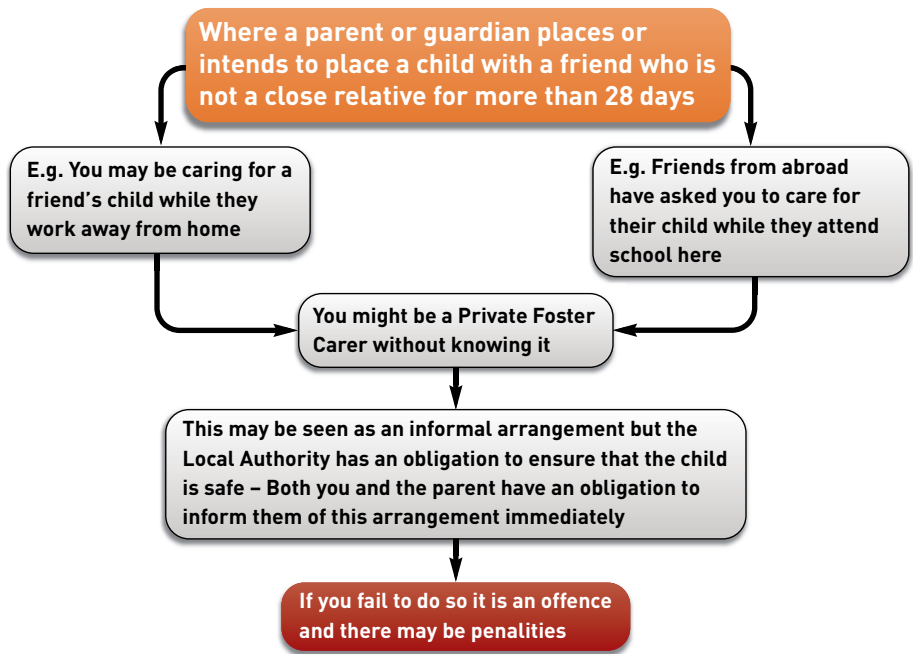
- Your solicitor will give you forms to fill in which detail your financial income
- They will ask for information on your savings or income
- The Scottish Legal Aid Board will consider if there is a legal basis to your case or your likelihood to win the case

Legal Aid granted?

- You and your solicitor will be notified in writing – if you are denied legal aid you can appeal against the decision
- You may still have to pay some contribution towards your case – you can discuss this with your solicitor

**If you need help contact
Legal Aid Helpline on:
0845 122 8686
7 days a week:
7am-11pm**

Private fostering



RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

- They must determine if the placement is right for the child
- They will visit the child & parent within 2 weeks of being informed
- Visit parents/ Guardian and Private foster carers
- Obtain a full medical assessment of the child
- If possible ask the child on their view of the placement
- Regularly visit where the child is staying
- Obtain a medical certificate of carers to assess their ability to care for the child
- Write a report stating if placement is appropriate and give to carer & parent
- Visit the child every 3 months up to 1yr after that every 6 months until deemed necessary

RESPONSIBILITIES OF CARERS

- A parent should contact the Social Work department at least 2 weeks prior to you caring for the child and you should also do the same. It should be done in writing.
- If the child is placed in an emergency situation contact SW within 7 days
- You must allow Social Work to visit and interview in order to ensure that the child is safe and cared for
- If you change address while caring for the child you must inform SW and what area you are moving to
- Inform SW within 48 hours if the child dies or is removed from your care.

Organisations that can support kinship carers

Aberlour Trust

A leading children's charity providing a range of services, support and advice for vulnerable children, young people and families in Scotland.

Aberlour Child Care Trust
36 Park Terrace
Stirling
FK8 2JR

T: 01786 450335

F: 01786 473238

Email: enquiries@aberlour.org.uk

Web: www.aberlour.org.uk

Action for Sick Children

Promotes and campaigns for the highest possible standards of healthcare for all children and young people in our healthcare system which includes raising awareness of the health needs and rights of children and young people in and leaving care.

22 Laurie Street
Edinburgh, EH6 7AB
T: 0131 553 6553

Web: www.ascscotland.org.uk

Barnado's

Whatever the issue from drug misuse to disability; youth crime to mental health; sexual abuse to domestic violence; poverty to homelessness; Barnardo's believes we can bring out the best in every child.

T: 0131 334 9893

Web: www.barnardos.org.uk

Please see website for more contact details.

Capability Scotland

Scotland's leading disability organisation provides flexible services which support disabled people, their families and carers.

Capability Scotland
Head Office, Westerlea
11 Ellersly Road
Edinburgh
EH12 6HY

T: 0131 337 9876

Textphone: 0131 346 2529

Fax: 0131 346 7864

Web: www.capability-scotland.org.uk

Organisations that can support kinship carers **continued**

Carers Scotland

Carers Scotland is the voice of carers. Carers provide unpaid care by looking after an ill, frail or disabled family member, friend or partner.

CarersLine: 0808 808 7777

Web: www.carerscotland.org

Please see website for more contact details.

CHAS (Childrens Hospice Association Scotland)

Children's Hospice Association Scotland (CHAS) is a Scottish charity that provides the only hospice services in Scotland for children and young people with life-limiting conditions.

Canal Court
42 Craiglockhart Avenue
Edinburgh EH14 1TL

T: 0131 444 1900

F: 0131 444 4001

Email: info@chas.org.uk

Web: www.chas.org.uk

ChildLine

Get help and advice about a wide range of issues, talk to a counsellor online. send ChildLine an email or post on the message boards.

3rd Floor, Ruby House
8 Ruby Place, Aberdeen AB10 1QZ

T: 0844 892 0200

Email: Visit our site to send us an email

Web: www.childline.org.uk

Child Poverty Action Group

Charity committed to ending child and family poverty in the United Kingdom through research, campaigning and publications.

Unit 9 Ladywell
94 Duke Street
Glasgow, G4 0UW

T: 0141 552 3303

F: 0141 552 4404

Email: staff@cpagscotland.org.uk

Organisations that can support kinship carers **continued**

Circle supporting families in Scotland

Provides holistic, community based support to marginalised children and families. They provide services throughout Edinburgh, West Lothian, Lanarkshire & Cornton Vale.

18 West Pilton Park
Edinburgh EH4 4EJ

T: 0131 552 0305

F: 0131 551 3976

Web: www.circlescotland.org

Children 1st

Charity supporting families under stress, protecting children from harm and neglect, helping children recover from abuse and promoting children's rights.

Web: www.children1st.org.uk

Please refer to website for more details.

Children 1st Kinship Care

The national training, outreach and helpline service which aims to improve children's lives through supporting kinship carers. Sign up for our newsletter to find out more about support, policy and events.

T: 0131 446 3983

Email: policy@children1st.org.uk

Children in Scotland

Children in Scotland is the national agency for voluntary, statutory and professional organisations and individuals working with children and their families in Scotland.

5 Shandwick Place
Edinburgh EH2 4RG

T: 0131 228 8484

Web: www.childreninscotland.org.uk

Email: info@childreninscotland.org.uk

Organisations that can support kinship carers **continued**

Cl@n Childlaw

Deliver free legal advice & representation to children and young people in Edinburgh and the Lothians, who would otherwise have found it very difficult or impossible to access the legal help that they require. Help Children & Young People up to the age of 18, or 21 if they have been Looked After Children

Norton Park, 57 Albion Road,
Edinburgh EH7 5QY

Web: www.clanchildlaw.org

T: 0131 475 2567 or 075 275 66682

Email: info@clanchildlaw.org

Citizens Advice Bureau

Provides free, confidential and impartial advice on a wide range of issues.

Edinburgh Office
1st Floor, Spectrum House
2 Powderhall Road
Edinburgh EH7 4GB

T: 0131 550 1000

F: 0131 550 1001

Local CAB offices available on website:

Web: www.cas.org.uk

Kinship Care Helpline: 0808 800 0006

CRIN – Child Rights Information Network

The Child Rights Information Network (CRIN) is a network of child rights organisations that work to improve the lives of children.

Child Rights Information Network (CRIN)
East Studio
2 Pontypool Place
London SE1 8QF

T: 020 7401 2257

Email: info@crin.org

Web: www.crin.org

Cruse Bereavement Care

A registered charity which offers support to people who have experienced the loss of someone close.

National Phoneline: 0845 600 2227

Web: www.crusescotland.org.uk

Organisations that can support kinship carers **continued**

Enquire

National independent advice and information service for parents who have a child with additional support for learning needs.

Children in Scotland
5 Shandwick Place
EDINBURGH EH2 4RG

T: 0845 123 2303

Web: www.enquire.org.uk

Families Outside

Voicing the needs of families affected by imprisonment in Scotland.

Freephone: 0500 83 93 83

Email: support@familiesoutside.org.uk

Web: www.familiesoutside.org.uk

LGBT Youth Scotland

LGBT Youth Scotland is a national youth organisation working towards the inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender young people in the life of Scotland. We provide a range of services and opportunities for young people, families and professionals.

T: 0131 555 3940

Email: info@lgbtyouth.org.uk

Web: www.lgbtyouth.org.uk

Use these contact details to get in contact with a worker, make an appointment or find out more about our services.

One Parent Families Scotland

Information, links and resources for single parents in Scotland.

Headquarters
13 Gayfield Square
Edinburgh EH1 3NX

T: 0131 556 3899

Email: info@opfs.org.uk

Web: www.opfs.org.uk

Organisations that can support kinship carers **continued**

ParentLine Scotland

The free confidential helpline and email service for anyone caring for a child to contact about any problem, big or small. Factsheets offering helpful tips can be downloaded from our website on a range of issues. ParentLine Scotland provides support to kinship carers as part of the national Kinship Care service.

The helpline is available 7 days a week;

Call: 0800 028 2233

Email:

parentlinescotland@children1st.org.uk

Web: **www.parentlinescotland.org.uk**

Quarriers

Provide the most diverse range of services in Scotland through more than 100 projects. Our highly trained, professional staff have the expertise and experience to support and care for:

- Adults and children with a disability
- Children and families
- Young people
- Young people with housing support needs
- People with epilepsy
- Carers

Quarriers Head Office

Quarriers Village

Bridge of Weir PA11 3SX

T: 01505 612224/616000

F: 01505 613906

Web: **www.quarriers.org.uk**

Samaritans

Provides confidential emotional support 24/7 to those experiencing despair, distress or suicidal feelings.

Samaritans

PO Box 9090

Stirling FK8 2SA

T: 08457 90 90 90

Email: **jo@samaritans.org**

Web: **www.samaritans.org**

Organisations that can support kinship carers **continued**

Save the Children

We are working flat out to ensure children get proper healthcare, food, education and protection. We're saving lives in emergencies, campaigning for children's rights, and improving their futures through long-term development work.

Save the Children Scotland
Prospect House
2nd Floor, 5 Thistle Street
Edinburgh EH2 1DF

T: 0131 527 8200

F: 0131 527 8201

Email:

supporter.care@savethechildren.org.uk

Web: www.savethechildren.org.uk

SCCYP – Scottish Commissioner for Children and Young People

Tam Bailie is Scotland's Children's Commissioner for Children and Young People and his job is to make sure that all children and young people in Scotland have their rights respected.

85 Holyrood Road, Edinburgh, EH8 8AU

Young person's freephone:

0800 0191179

T: 0131 558 3733

Email: inbox@scryp.org.uk

Web: www.scryp.org.uk

Scottish Alliance for Childrens Rights

SACR works to promote the full implementation in Scotland of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights (SACR)

c/o Save The Children
Prospect House, 2nd Floor,
5 Thistle Street
Edinburgh EH12 1DF

T: 0131 527 8200

F: 0131 527 8201

Email: info@sacr.org.uk

Web: www.sacr.org.uk

Organisations that can support kinship carers *continued*

Scottish Child Law Centre

Independent charity which promotes knowledge and use of Scots law and children's rights for the benefit of children and young people in Scotland.

54 East Crosscauseway,
Edinburgh EH8 9HD

Freephone for under 18s: 0800 328 8970

T: 0131 667 6333

Text: text 'SCLC' and your question to 80800

F: 0131 662 1713

Email: info@sclc.org.uk

Web: www.sclc.org.uk

Shelter Scotland

Shelter is a charity that works to alleviate the distress caused by homelessness and bad housing.

Shelter Scotland,
4th Floor, Scotiabank House,
6 South Charlotte Street,
Edinburgh EH2 4AW

Free helpline: 0808 800 4444

Web: scotland.shelter.org.uk

SFAD – Scottish Families Affected by Drugs

We understand the devastating effects drugs can have on families and are here to provide support and information to individual family members and family support groups.

SFAD

Suite 2E

Ingram House
227 Ingram Street
Glasgow G1 1DA

T: 0141 221 0544

F: 0141 243 2777

Helpline: 08080 10 10 11

Email: helpline@sfad.org.uk

Web: www.sfad.org.uk

Organisations that can support kinship carers **continued**

The Princess Royal Trust for Carers

Information, advice, discussion and support for carers.

Glasgow Office
The Princess Royal Trust for Carers
Charles Oakley House
125 West Regent Street
Glasgow G2 2SD
T: 0141 221 5066
F: 0141 221 4623
Email: infoscotland@carers.org
Web: www.carers.org

Venture Scotland

Venture Scotland is a unique mix of skilled volunteers and young adults with limited opportunities.

Venture Scotland, Norton Park,
57 Albion Road,
Edinburgh EH7 5QY
T: 0131 475 2395
F: 0131 475 2396
Web: www.venturescotland.org.uk

Who Cares Scotland

Who Cares Scotland is a voluntary organisation working with and for children and young people.

11 Castle Street
Dundee DD1 3AA
T: 01382 202 888
Web: www.whocarescotland.org

Young Scot

Offers information for 12-16 year olds; includes arts, jobs and careers, housing, sport and leisure.

Infoline: 0808 801 0338
(Mon to Fri 10am – 6pm)
Text: 'callback' to 07781 484 317
Email: infoline@youngscot.org
Web: www.youngscot.org

YouthLink Scotland

YouthLink Scotland is the national agency in Scotland for youth work.

Rosebery House
9 Haymarket Terrace
Edinburgh EH12 5EZ
T: 0131 313 2488
F: 0131 313 6800
Web: www.youthlink.co.uk

Kinship Care Support Groups

ABERDEEN

GAP – Grandparents as Parents

Meet every 2nd Friday 10am-12pm

Northfield Community Centre
Byron Square
Aberdeen AB16 7LL
T: 01224 712236/685402

ABERDEENSHIRE

Kinship Kids

Meet monthly

Porthlethen Family Resource Centre
Rowanbank, Portlethen
T: 07597 195086

Kinship 4 Kids (k4k)

Meet every Tuesday 10.30-12.30pm

Community Room 1
Peterhead Leisure Centre
Balmour Terrace
Aberdeenshire AB42 1EP
T: 07708 666001

Heart of the Kinship

Meet every Tuesday 10.30-12.30pm

Community Room 1
Peterhead Leisure Centre
Balmour Terrace
Aberdeenshire AB42 1EP
T: 07708 666001

ANGUS

Kinship Care Support Group

Meeting 16th January & 13th February
Tea & coffee provided

Bruce House, Wellgate
Arbroath, DD11 3TP
T: 01224 435103
Jackie: 07763 842449

Angus Carers

3 Fishacre
Arbroath, DD11 1LE
T: 01241 439157

ARGYLE & BUTE

North Argyll Carers Centre

Albany Street, Oban
Argyll PA34 4AL
T: 01631 566 277

Kinship Care Support Groups **continued**

Crossroads, Dalriada and the Isles

Offer short term respite to carers

T: 01546 603082

Email: maki@btconnect.com

Dochas Carers Centre

Run support groups for all carers

50 Campbell Street,
Lochgilphead PA31 8JU

T: 01546 600022

Web: www.dochasfund.org.uk

CLACKMANNANSHIRE

Clacks Kinship Carers

Meet last Thursday of every month

c/o CVS, Primrose Street, Alloa

T: 01259 217852 or

Kathleen: 01259 219439 or
07748 238445

Email: info@cvsclocks.org.uk

DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

Kindred Spirits

Kinship Care Service

6 Buccleuch Street
Dumfries DG21 2AH

Tulip Rippingale: 01387 256408

DUNDEE

Kith & Kin

Meet every Tuesday morning for drop in
from 9.30am

Unit 2, Benvie House, Benvie Road
Dundee, DD2 2LN

T: 01382 667450 or

Jackie: 07717 535901

EAST AYRSHIRE

Lighthouse Foundation

40A Portland Road
Kilmarnock, KA21 2DJ

T: 01563 521 343

Web:

www.lighthouse-foundation.co.uk

EAST DUNBARTONSHIRE

Carers Link

Milngavie Enterprise Centre
Ellangowan Road, Milngavie
Glasgow, G72 8PH

T: 0800 975 2131

EAST LoTHIAN

Kin Carers

Meet every 2nd Friday from 9.30-
11.30am

Haddington Road, Musselburgh

T: 07563 758223

Kinship Care Support Groups **continued**

EAST RENFREWSHIRE

East Renfrewshire Carers Centre

Eastwood Park, Rouken Glen Road

Giffnock G46 6UG

T: 0141 638 4888

Email:

enquiries@eastrenfrewshirecarers.co.uk

Web:

www.eastrenfrewshirecarers.co.uk

East Renfrewshire Kinship Care Group

For carers of “looked after” children

Meet monthly evening and or daytime

For information please contact

Kinship Care Social Worker

T: 0141 577 3367

EDINBURGH

Kinsfolk Carers

Meet every Thursday 10am-12pm

Leith Community Centre

New Kirkgate, Leith EH6

24hr Helpline: 07990 795635

Web: www.kinsfolkcarers.co.uk

Vocal

8-13 Johnston Terrace

Edinburgh, EH1 2PW

T: 0131 622 6666

Web: www.vocal.org.uk

FALKIRK

Falkirk

Falkirk has a kinship support group which has just started.

For details please contact:

Kinship Care Social Workers

Grangemouth office, Oxbang Road

Grangemouth FK3 9EF

T: 01324 504343

Email:

grangemouth.swk@falkirk.gov.uk

FIFE

Time 4 U

Kinship Care Support

Meet fortnightly

3rd Floor, West Bridge Mill,

Bridge Street

Kirkcaldy KY1 1TE

T: 01592 591 501

Email: time4u@aberlour.org.uk

Kinship Care Support Groups **continued**

GLASGOW

West Glasgow Grandparent Support Group

Meet every 2nd Thursday from 10am-12pm

St Simon's Church, Partick, Glasgow

24hr Helpline: 07950 229384

Email: secretary@wggg.org.uk

Web: www.wggg.org.uk

FASS

Help carers access respite services via the partnership role of Geeza Break, along with advice, information, signposting and support

West Street Centre, 123 West Street
Glasgow G5 8BA

T: 0141 420 2050

Web: www.fassglasgow.org

The New Fossils

Grandparent Support Group

Newlands Centre, 871 Springfield Road
Glasgow G31 4HZ

T: 0141 565 0100

Kinship for the future (North) Group

Emmaus House, 101 Ellesmere Street,
Hamiltonhill, Glasgow, G22 5QT

T: 0141 353 3903

Drumchapel 3D Project

1 Hecla Avenue, Drumchapel,
Glasgow G15 8NA

T: 0141 353 3903

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Helensburgh and Lomond Carers

17e East King Street
Helensburgh G84 7QQ

T: 01436 673 444

Web:

www.helensburgh-carer-support.org

Highland Kinship Care support Service

Killen, Avoch IV9 8RQ

T: 01381 620 757

Email: killen@children1st.org.uk

Kinship Care Support Groups **continued**

INVERCLYDE COUNCIL

Family Ties

Meets Thursdays from 5.30-7.30pm
although changes to meet
Carer's needs.

Contact:

Liz: 01475 714038

Janet: 01475 714183

Enterprise Childcare

Focused groups for kinship carers i.e
Parenting Again

Strathclyde Business Park

Pottery Street, Greenock

T: 01475 745552

Web: www.enterprisechildcare.co.uk

Inverclyde Carers Centre

A drop in Centre

Cathcart Street, Greenock

T: 01475 735180

Web:

www.inverclydecarerscentre.org.uk

MIDLOTHIAN

Grandparents Parenting Again and Kinship Carers

Meet every Thursday 9.30-11.30am

Gorebridge Parish Church

Hunterfield Road, Gorebridge EH23 4TX

T: 0131 654 9492

MORAY

Quarriers Carers Support Service (Moray)

25 Batchen Street, Elgin IV30 1BH

T: 01343 556 031

Email:

wcarersmoray@quarriers.org.uk

NORTH AYRSHIRE

There is currently no support groups in
North Ayrshire. However they are
planning to set one up in the new future.

For further information please contact:

Family Placement Team

West Road, Irvine

North Ayrshire KA12 8RE

T: 01294 311505

Kinship Care Support Groups **continued**

ORKNEY ISLANDS

Looked after kinship carers can attend:

Foster Care Support Group

Also support for informal kinship carers

For more information please contact:

Orkney Health & Care

Children Services

Fostering and Adoption

School Place, Kirwall

Orkney KW15 1NY

T: 01856 873535

PERTH AND KINROSS

Perth and Kinross Council

Meetings are an adhoc basis

Children and Families Team

Jill Bruce

T: 01738 783 450

RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

Kinship and Grandparent Carers Support Group – for grandparents caring for their grandchildren

Meets on the last Tuesday of every month 11.30a.m. – 1.00p.m.

Renfrewshire Carers Centre

Unit 55 Abbey Mill Business Centre

The Embroidery Mill, Seedhill,

Paisley PA1 1TJ

Linwood Carer's Group

Meets on the 2nd Monday of every month 1.15p.m. – 3.15p.m.

Linwood Health Centre,

Ardlamont Square, Linwood

Paisley Carers Group

Meets on the 3rd Tuesday every month 1.00p.m. – 3.00p.m.

Renfrewshire Carers Centre

Unit 55 Abbey Mill Business Centre

The Embroidery Mill, Seedhill,

Paisley PA1 1TJ

Tannahill Carers Support Group

Meets last Wednesday. 11.00a.m. – 12.30p.m.

Tannahill Centre, Blackstoun Road, Paisley

Glenburn Carers Support Group

Meets on the 3rd Tuesday every month 10.30a.m. – 12.30p.m.

Glenburn Community Centre,

Fairway Avenue, Paisley

Kinship Care Support Groups **continued**

Parents Support Group – for parents of children with disabilities

Meets on the 2nd Wednesday every
Month 12.00p.m. – 2.00p.m. and on the
1st Wednesday every month 7.00p.m. –
9.00p.m.

Renfrewshire Carers Centre
Unit 55 Abbey Mill Business Centre
The Embroidery Mill, Seedhill,
Paisley PA1 1TJ

SOUTH AYRSHIRE Kinship Support Group

Meets every 4 months

181 Whitletts Road,
Ayr KA8 0JQ
T: 01292 267675

STIRLING

There is no group at present however
there aims to be one in the very near
future.

For further information please contact
Kinship Care Social Work Team,
Drummond House, Wellgreen Place
Stirling FK8 2EG
T: 01786 471177

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE Kinship Care Support Group West Dunbartonshire

They arrange meetings are various
locations

For more information please contact:

Anne: 07817 538463

Email:

kinshipcarewestdunbartonshire@gmail.com

WEST LOTHIAN

There is a group however it meets
ad hoc.

For more details contact:

Children and Families Team
Lomond House, Beveridge Square
Livingston EH54 6QF
T: 01506 775959

WESTERN ISLES

No group as yet but for advice please
contact:

Children and Families Dept
T: 01851 822 749



This pack was designed by The Fourth Crow

T: 0131 313 2456 **E:** design@fourthcrow.com **W:** www.fourthcrow.com

Acknowledgement

Mentor would like to thank everyone who has helped to produce the second instalment of this resource guide. We would particularly like to thank the Scottish Government who has commissioned the production of this resource.

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Mentor is a registered charity. Our mission is to focus on the prevention of drug misuse in our efforts to promote the health and wellbeing of children and young people. We believe that prevention begins with the healthy development of the child in a nurturing family and supportive community that offers both protection from risk and opportunities for young people to develop and achieve their full potential.

FOR ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THIS RESOURCE GUIDE, CONTACT

Mentor,
235 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh
Tel: 0131 334 8512
Web: www.eukinshipcarers.eu
www.mentoruk.org.uk

Children 1st,
83 Whitehouse Loan, Edinburgh
Tel: 0131 446 2300
Web: www.children1st.org.uk
Parentline: 0800 028 2233

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