

# KINSHIP CARE

## Regulation 24

**A family and friends Kinship Carer is a relative or other closely linked person who is looking after a Looked After child who cannot live with their parents.**



## What is Regulation 24 Kinship Care according to the legislation

*“Temporary approval of relative, friend or other person connected with Child*

*Reg 24. —(1) Where the responsible authority is satisfied that—*

- (a) the most appropriate placement for Child is with a connected person, notwithstanding that the connected person is not approved as a local authority foster parent, and*
  - (b) it is necessary for Child to be placed with the connected person before the connected person’s suitability to be a local authority foster parent has been assessed in accordance with the 2002 Regulations, they may approve that person as a local authority foster parent for a temporary period not exceeding 16 weeks (“temporary approval”) provided that they first comply with the requirements of paragraph (2).*
- (2) Before making a placement under paragraph (1), the responsible authority must—*
- (a) assess the suitability of the connected person to care for Child, including the suitability of—*
    - (i) the proposed accommodation, and*
    - (ii) all other persons aged 18 and over who are members of the household in which it is proposed that Child will live, taking into account all the matters set out in Schedule 4,*
  - (b) consider whether, in all the circumstances and taking into account the services to be provided by the responsible authority, the proposed arrangements will safeguard and promote Child’s welfare and meet Child’s needs set out in the care plan, and*
  - (c) make immediate arrangements for the suitability of the connected person to be a local authority foster parent to be assessed in accordance with the 2002 Regulations (“the full assessment process”) before the temporary approval expires.*
- (3) In this regulation “connected person” means a relative, friend or other person connected with Child”.*



## What does this mean?

This means the child is placed by the Social Worker with the “Kinship Foster Carer” or “Connected Persons” for a temporary period of 16 weeks whilst the assessment is being undertaken. This can be extended under exceptional circumstances by a further 8 weeks if agreed by Fostering Panel and Head of Service.

The child’s social worker will visit you to carry out a Viability Assessment. This will include assessing the suitability of your home and anyone over the age of 18 living in your home.

At this point you are temporarily approved as a Kinship Foster Carer. It is vital that you work in partnership with the Local Authority whilst the child is in your care.

Within the 16 weeks a full Kinship Assessment will need to be completed by an Assessing Social Worker. During this time the Kinship Carer will need to demonstrate an ability to safeguard and promote the child’s welfare as set out in the Child’s Care Plan. (Be aware Court timetabling on average provides even shorter timescales than the 16 weeks for the assessment to be completed in).

## How does the Reg 24 work?

Although you have been granted temporary approval as a kinship foster carer the full kinship assessment is potentially looking at this being a permanent, forever home for the child/ren until they are 18 years old.

Therefore it is vital that you have considered all the implications of the needs of the child/ren that is/are placed with you and you are fully able to commit to raising this child/ren until independence and beyond.

## What support should I get?

The child’s social worker will have completed a viability assessment with you and passed this onto the kinship Assessment Team within the Fostering Service. The Kinship Assessment Team will contact you in order to ensure you have the support and information you need.

An Assessing Social Worker from the Kinship Assessment Team or a commissioned Social Worker will make contact with you to work in partnership with you to complete your full kinship assessment. The Fostering Service will provide support during the time the child is placed with you. If the case is in Court up and until the final order is granted discussions will occur about the Child’s Final Care Plan and the support you may need.



A 72 hour meeting should take place following the Child's placement with you. This meeting will look at Delegated Responsibility. This means looking at the specific responsibilities of the carer and the Department.

## What financial support do I get?

### Basic fostering allowance for Looked After children

The Fostering Allowance is an allowance for the children in your care, this will increase with the child's age;

#### *Minimum weekly allowance – 2019 to 2020*

	0-4	5-10	11-15	16-17
London	£152	£171	£193	£226
Rest of the UK	£132	£146	£167	£194

All carers will be expected to complete a BACS form (Bank details form), please request this from your Assessing Supervising Social Worker.

## Additional allowances

### Equipment

Various equipment may be required for the child. These are normally one-off payments for items such as beds/ chest of drawers/ bedding / baby care items/ safety equipment /resources. There may be equipment this budget does not cover please liaise with fostering to clarify.

### Clothing Allowance

The regular fostering allowance will include day to day expenses for the child including clothing. However, there is a clothing allowance available which can be used for emergency clothing when the child is first placed or for additional clothing eg. school uniform. This additional allowance is at the discretion of management thus you should liaise with your Assessing Supervising Social Worker from fostering.

### Mileage

The Fostering Allowance should cover normal day to day travel costs. There is a mileage form to claim additional costs. This is for travel costs for transporting child/ren to hospital/medical appointments and for long distance contacts for the child/ren. (There is a mileage form accessible from fostering request).



## Birthday Allowance

This is equivalent to 1 week's fostering allowance, depending on the age of your child which will increase with age. This allowance is automatically paid into your account prior to the child's birthday.

## Holiday Allowance

As a Kinship Carer you are entitled to two weeks of holiday allowance which is the equivalent to 2 weeks of fostering allowance per child a year (this runs from April to March annually). Please liaise with Assessing Supervising Social Worker from fostering regarding applying for this.

## Festival Allowance

This is equivalent to 1 week's fostering allowance.

This allowance will automatically go into your account during the month of December, however if you specifically require this at another time of year for a festival you celebrate please advise fostering.

## Leisure Fund- For clubs and activities.

If your child participates in leisure activities there may be an opportunity to fund costs. It is necessary to liaise with fostering regarding this. However, there is no guarantee the application will be successful as this is a limited budget which is assessed and allocated on a case to case basis.

## Kinship Assessment & Fostering Panel Process

For full details please refer to the Kinship Foster Care Leaflet.

You will also receive;

- Kinship Foster Care Leaflet.
- Fostering medical forms in the post urging you to book a fostering medical assessment as a matter of urgency with your G.P (due to tight timescales). Full costs are paid by the Local Authority.
- Complaints Procedure.
- Access to Records.
- BACS Form

## Training

If approved as a Kinship Foster Carer you will be required to keep written records and attend training to complete a set of Standards. You will be supported to complete the records and training, and will be given opportunities to identify training you feel may support you in your task of caring.





## General Advice and Support

### Foster Talk

<https://www.fostertalk.org/>

### Grandparents Plus

<https://www.grandparentsplus.org.uk/>

### Kinship Assessment Team

#### Fostering & Adoption

11 Friar Lane

Leicester

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