

## Different types of kinship arrangements

| Type of kinship arrangement | Parental Responsibility  | Approval process  | Duration of placement   | Supervision of placement  | Support available to the carer and the child/ren  |
|-----------------------------|--|---|---|---|---|
| Informal Kinship Care       | Informal arrangements are when a close family member or friend look after a child for a temporary or permanent amount of time. This arrangement is agreed privately with the parents and parental responsibility for the child remains with the parents.   | None.   | Subject to the discretion of the person with parental responsibility.                               | None.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to local peer to peer support groups</li> <li>• Access to Kinship's training offer</li> <li>• Access to the Family Rights Group's free Family and Friends Helpline</li> </ul> |
| Private Fostering           | In England, private foster carers are individuals or families who look after a child under the age of 16 (or 18 if the child has disabilities) for more than 28 days, but who are not close relatives of the child. These arrangements typically occur without the involvement of the local authority. | <p>The arrangement is assessed by LA, but the carer is not 'approved' as a local authority foster carer is. The arrangement may be prohibited if assessed by the local authority as unsuitable.</p> <p>Additionally, private foster carers are required by law to notify their local authority of any private fostering arrangement, allowing</p> | Subject to discretion of person with parental responsibility and readiness of private foster carer. | It is not a placement, but there are statutory visits to child by social worker (minimum 6 weekly in first year, then 12 weekly). | This is a private arrangement, and there is limited support available from the local authority, however, these carers may wish to access some of the support available to informal kinship carers as set out above.           |

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|   | <p>Private foster carers have a significant responsibility for the child's welfare during their time in their care. While they don't have parental responsibility in the same way that birth parents do, they do have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child. This includes providing the child with a safe and nurturing environment, ensuring their physical and emotional needs are met, and promoting their education and development.</p> | <p>the authority to assess the suitability of the arrangement and provide support and oversight if necessary.</p> |   |                          |  |
| <p>Kinship Carers with a Child Arrangements Order (CAO).<br/><br/><i>(In 2014, Child Arrangements Orders replaced Residence Orders and Contact Orders.)</i></p> | <p>Child Arrangements Orders are granted by the family court and determine who a child can live with and/or who a child can stay with and for how long. The kinship carer shares parental responsibility with the child's parents, or others</p>   | <p>Appointed by court following application.</p>  | <p>Age 18 unless varied or discharged by the court before the child reaches 18 years.</p> | <p>None.</p>             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All of the support available to informal kinship carers, plus:</li> <li>• If the kin child/ren is previously looked after they will be eligible to apply to the Adoption and Special Guardianship Support Fund (ASGSF)</li> </ul> |

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|  | with parental responsibility, until the age of 18 unless the court states otherwise.   |   |   |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A range of educational support is available, particularly to previously looked after kinship children, as set out in the educational support section of the guidance.</li> </ul> |
| Kinship Carers with a Special Guardianship Order (SGO) | They have parental responsibility for a child following an order made by the family court. SGO Kinship carers live permanently with their children but need permission from the court to make important decisions, such as changing the child's surname. | Appointed by court, following application from the applicant. LA must investigate the matter and prepare a report for the court dealing with the suitability of the applicant to be a special guardian. | Age 18 unless varied or discharged by the court before the child reaches 18 years.    | None.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All of the support available to kinship carers with a CAO, plus:</li> <li>Financial support may be available at the discretion of the local authority.</li> </ul>                |
| Kinship Foster Carers                                  | They look after children who are "looked after" by the local authority following a voluntary agreement, if a child spends more than 24 hours in local authority  | Approved as local authority foster carers in accordance with Fostering Services Regulations. (If child is looked after, carers must be approved as foster   | So long as placement remains in line with child's care plan, as determined by the LA. | Statutory: visits to child by social worker and supervision of foster carers by supervising social worker. | Kinship Foster Carers are entitled to the same support as any other local authority foster carer, based on the NMA.   |

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|                             | care under section 20 of the Children Act 1989 or if a Care Order is made by the family court. | carers even if close relative.)  |                                  |  |   |
| Adoption                    | Parental responsibility transfers to adopters and relationship with birth parents is severed.  | Adoption agency assesses and approves prospective adopters, court makes order regarding specific child. If the child is not looked after, then notice of intention to adopt must be given to the LA who then carry out an assessment / report for the court. | Permanent lifelong relationship. | When child is placed for adoption by the LA, the placement is supervised and there are statutory reviews. Once the adoption order is made, none. | Entitlement to assessment for adoption support services, which may be provided at discretion of LA in accordance with Regulations and NMS. Adopters and adopted children are entitled to therapeutic support from the Adoption and Special Guardianship Support Fund. |