

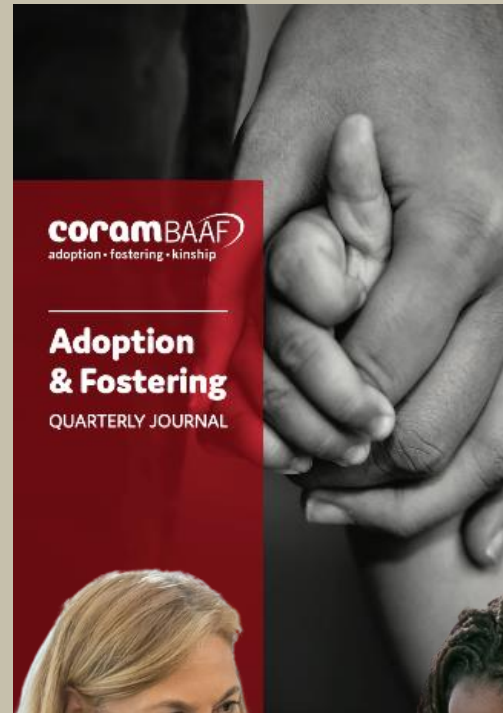


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Kinship Care Assessment - Form K

13.2.25

Who are we?

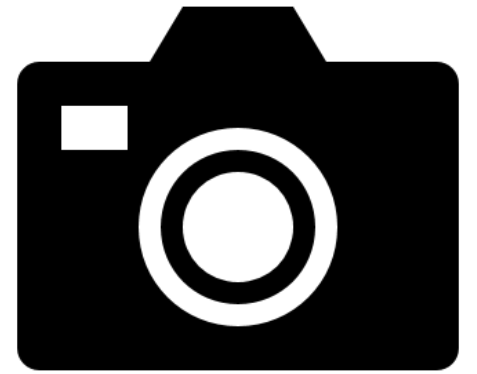


94%
of all local authorities
in England, Wales,
Scotland and Northern
Ireland are members.

Housekeeping

Please make sure you:

- Silence your phone
- Mute your microphone
- No names in chat but make sure name matches registered name
- Session is being recorded – available on website within 14 days
- Questions in chat at end – update FAQs



Accessing Form K

- England Core Licence or England Fostering Licence – email sent to your Licence Officer with password protected link to our website
- Licence automatically transfers from Form C to Form K
- Not sure if you have a licence – email licences@coram.org.uk
- Don't have a licence – email licences@coram.org.uk
- Practice issues re Form K – email advice@corambaaf.org.uk



Process of the review to develop Form K

Listened and learned from kinship carers

- Working party Winter 22 - Spring 24
- Focus groups July 23, January 24 and October 24

Listened and learned from practitioners

- Working party Winter 22 - Spring 24
- Survey Spring 23
- Focus groups December 23

Consulted with kinship researchers

- December 23

Consulted with parents

- February 24

Piloted draft form including feedback

- 10 LAs June - October 24

Consultation with other stakeholders

- October 24

Key messages from research



- Consider what matters to children – listen, understand, do
- Significant unmet support needs for kinship families
- Support makes a difference to carers' well-being
- Support likely to reduce risk of disruption
- Assessment experience and process is not the same as for foster carers and adopters
- Can identify child and carer risk factors that associated with higher/lower risk of poor outcome but cannot reliably predict outcomes
- Policies and processes don't consider needs of sibling carers enough
- Family support services generally – not culturally sensitive and not representative of communities

Underpinning principles

- Strengths-based and trauma-informed
- Enable a relationship-based and reflective assessment process
- Enable prospective kinship carers to have the time and support to make life-changing decisions to care for a child
- Amplify the voice of the child
- Articulates what it means for the child to live with an adult they are likely to already know and trust
- Enable reasonable and proportionate assessment
- Enable robust analysis to inform comprehensive support planning
- Enable culturally sensitive practice
- Not limited by any rigid definitions of what it means to be a family
- Inclusive and relevant for overseas carers
- Minimum 12-week timescale

Form K Includes

- Kinship Care Assessment (Form K) England
 - Part 1 - Introductory Information and Recommendation
 - Part 2 - Assessment Information and Analysis
 - Part 3 - Checks and References
- Kinship Care Assessment (Form K) England - Support Plan
- Guidance Notes
- Appendix 1 – Legal compliance
- Appendix 2 – Overseas questions and guidance
- Prospective kinship carer information sheet
- Example versions of Form K and Support Plan for carers (PDF)
- Parent information sheet

Kinship Care Assessment (Form K) England

This template can be used to complete an assessment to seek approval as a kinship foster carer, or to recommend a special guardianship order or a child arrangements order for a child.

It should enable a relationship-based and reflective assessment process that gathers and analyses the information required to inform decisions about a child's future care. It should also enable prospective kinship carers to have the time and support to make life-changing decisions to care for a child.

The assessment is incomplete without Kinship Care Assessment (Form K) – Support Plan. The integral support plan can be a kinship fostering support plan, an interim or final special guardianship support plan, or a kinship support plan to support a child arrangements order.

A minimum timescale of 12 weeks is required for completion of this assessment.

The assessment is legally compliant as set out in the accompanying appendix.

Assessing social worker:	
Date completed:	

Part 1: Introductory information and recommendation

1a) Details about the child (duplicate if more than one child)

Name:	
Address (unless confidential):	
Who they are living with:	
Local authority:	
DOB and age:	
Place of birth:	
Ethnicity:	
Ethnic heritage:	
Linguistic heritage and language spoken at home:	
Nationality (and immigration status if appropriate):	
Gender (this should be self-defined wherever possible):	
Religion (practising/non-practising/lived/official):	
Disability or neurodiversity:	
Legal status:	
Details of previous proceedings, order made, court and date:	

Details of where the child has previously lived:	
--------------------------------------------------	--

1b) Details about siblings (delete if not required)

Name:	
Who they are living with:	
DOB and age:	
Are they looked after by a local authority or subject to any order:	
Name of parent/carer:	

Name:	
Who they are living with:	
DOB and age:	
Are they looked after by a local authority or subject to any order:	
Name of parent/carer:	

Name:	
Who they are living with:	
DOB and age:	
Are they looked after by a local authority or subject to any order:	
Name of parent/carer:	

1c) Details about the carer/s

	Carer	Carer
Name/s:		
Address (unless confidential):		
Local authority (unless confidential):		
Place and DOB:		
Relationship to the child:		
Ethnicity:		
Ethnic heritage:		
Linguistic heritage and language spoken at home:		
Nationality (and immigration status if		

Part 1: Introductory information and recommendation

1e) Genogram**1f) Introduction to the child/ren and their history**

- Include photo and physical description
- Reasons and context for assessment
- Their wishes and feelings – directly reported and observed
- Brief history of the child/ren's experiences, including loss, trauma and harm
- Summary of the child's specific needs, including identity, health and education
- Their personality, likes and dislikes

1g) Introduction to the carer/s and their relationship with the child/ren

- Include photo and physical description
- The nature and meaning of their pre-existing relationship with the child/ren
- Their wishes and feelings about being a kinship carer, including motivation
- Their identity, personality and interests
- Their experience of the assessment process and information shared

1h) Introduction to the parent/s

- Include photo (if available) and physical description
- Summary of parents' relationship and brief history of parenting the child
- If paternity is unknown, detail what information is known and steps taken to establish paternity
- Their identity, personality and interests
- Their wishes and feelings about the prospective kinship arrangement
- The nature of their relationship with the prospective kinship carer
- Summary of any specific risks posed to the child (cross referenced with assessments or court papers, as appropriate)

1i) Details of any children or other adults in the household (duplicate if required)

Name:	
DOB:	
Relationship to the carer:	
Ethnicity:	
Ethnic heritage:	
Linguistic heritage and language spoken at home:	
Gender (self-defined):	
Religion (practising/non-practising/lived/official):	

1j) Child/ren's health and education history

- Include a brief chronology of any physical or mental health treatment/interventions
- Include history of nursery and school placements, including addresses and dates

Part 1: Introductory information and recommendation

Part 2: Assessment information and analysis

2a) How have the carer/s' experiences influenced the person they are now – childhood

- Significant experiences in childhood and teenage years
- Experience of being parented
- Relationships with siblings, family members and others important to them

Analysis – how might this influence their care of the child/ren? Consider:

- Ability to reflect on these experiences and recognise any impact
- Influence on their values and attitudes to parenting
- Impact on their own family relationships

What support might be needed?

**Part 2:
Assessment
information and
analysis**

2b) How have the carer/s' experiences influenced the person they are now – adulthood and caring for children

- Parenting experience
- Other experiences of caring for children and adults
- Information regarding any previous convictions or involvement with social services
- Any previous assessments as prospective foster carer/adopter/kinship carer
- Any previous family court proceedings

Analysis – how might this influence their care of the child/ren? Consider:

- Reflections on being a parent or carer and anything they might do differently
- Understanding of child development and the impact of loss and trauma
- Outcomes of any risk assessment of previous convictions, involvement with social services and family court proceedings

What support might be needed?

Part 2: Assessment information and analysis

2f) How will the carer/s meet the child/ren's needs throughout childhood, into young adulthood and beyond?

All of the below should be informed by observations of the child/ren and carer/s together. If there is more than one child, create subheadings for each child in each of the boxes below.

Identity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of the child's specific identity needs, including ethnicity, culture, religion, gender, sexual orientation, language and disability • Understanding of what is important to the child and significant family members
Social, emotional and behavioural
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of the child/ren's current and likely future needs, including impact of loss, trauma and harm • Understanding of the child's life story
Health
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of the child's specific needs relating to developmental physical and mental health

Education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of the child's specific needs relating to education and social/leisure activities
Safety
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of the child's needs to be safe and protected, including any harm they have experienced
Analysis – how might this influence their care of the child/ren? Consider:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity to meet the child's identity, social, emotional, behavioural, health, education and safety needs • Capacity to challenge discrimination and advocate for the child • Capacity to help the child understand what has happened to them and their life story • Capacity to provide therapeutic parenting • Capacity to be reflective and be open to learning
What support might be needed?

Part 2: Assessment information and analysis

2g) Describe family relationships both within the home and with wider family members

Relationships within the family and in the home

- What do other people living in the home, including children and young people, think and feel?
- How have relationships changed since there have been concerns about the child/ren's care or since the child/ren joined the home?

Important people to the child/ren

- How often does the child/ren spend time with people who are important to them, including parents, brothers and sisters?
- What are the child/ren's wishes and feelings about these current plans?
- What are the parents' wishes and feelings about these current plans?
- What are the carer's views and understanding of current plans? Are there any challenges in making these plans work?

Future plans

- What are the child/ren's wishes and feelings about seeing these important people in the future?
- What are the proposed plans, if known, for a child spending time with these important people?
- What are the parents' wishes and feelings about future plans?
- What are the carer's views and understanding about future plans?

Analysis – how might this influence their care of the child/ren?

- Capacity to manage current and proposed future contact plans
- Capacity to manage changing relationships with the child/ren's parents
- Capacity to manage changing relationships between other family members and those within the home

What support might be needed?

Part 3: Checks and references

Please insert additional rows as required, e.g. DBS checks for each adult member of the household.

Statutory and background checks	Who is the check about?	Date	Summary Detailed information to be included in relevant part of assessment
DBS:			
Local authority records:			
Medical report:			
Nursery/school/college:			
Employer:			
Home visit:			
Health and safety:			
Other (please specify) e.g. health visitor, probation:			

References

- Personal references are required for all kinship assessments (see guidance).
- In addition, consideration should be given to interviewing ex-partners and adult children (see guidance).

Relationship to carer	Brief summary and weight given to reference	Date interviewed

Part 3: Checks and references

Kinship Care Assessment (Form K) England – Support Plan

This is an essential and required component of Form K and must be completed as part of the assessment and submitted to either the fostering panel or the court.

The support plan should be completed as an interim support plan, if decisions are still being made about a child’s future. It should then be updated when a final care plan has been agreed. It should also be used to review support needs post-approval or the granting of a special guardianship order.

Kinship fostering support plan

Interim special guardianship support plan

Special guardianship support plan

Kinship support plan

(Delete above as applicable)

Date of completion:	
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The support plan draws on support needs identified throughout the assessment.

SP1) Universal/general support available

Detail below all universal or general support that will be available to the kinship family. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This needs to include details of the local authority’s kinship local offer as well as national training, support and advice. • This could include support groups, training, kinship support services as well as broader parenting and early help support. Include contact details of how to access as well as any relevant eligibility criteria.

SP2) The child: identity

Refer to assessment information and analysis from Part 1f and Part 2f

What are the child’s identity needs? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include ethnicity, culture, religion, gender, sexual orientation, language and disability. Consider legal status, immigration and passport 	How are these being supported currently? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include WHO, WHAT, WHEN and contact details
How are these likely to change in the future?	What support might be needed in the future? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include WHO, WHAT, WHEN and contact details

Form K – Support Plan

Form K – Support Plan

SP8) The carer/s: family and environmental factors

Refer to information from Part 2h, Part 2i, Part 2j and Part 2k

<p>What are the carer/s' family and environmental support needs?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include finance, benefits, health, housing, employment, support network and contingency plans 	<p>How are these being supported currently?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include WHO, WHAT, WHEN and contact details
<p>How are these likely to change in the future?</p>	<p>What support might be needed in the future?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include WHO, WHAT, WHEN and contact details

SP9) The carer/s: family relationships

Refer to information from Part 2f and Part 2g

<p>What are the carer/s' family relationship support needs?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include possibility of family group meetings, mediation or family therapy 	<p>How are these being supported currently?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include WHO, WHAT, WHEN and contact details
<p>How are these likely to change in the future?</p>	<p>What support might be needed in the future?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include WHO, WHAT, WHEN and contact details

How can the carer/s request more support in the future?

Who is responsible for reviewing the plan?

Name:		Role:	
Date of review:			

Signatures

Who is responsible for completing the plan? Include name, role and signature.

Social worker name:		Role:	
Signature:		Date:	
Social worker name: (if applicable)		Role:	
Signature:		Date:	
Manager name:		Role:	
Signature:		Date:	
Carer/s name/s:		Date/s discussed with carer/s:	
Carer/s signature/s:		Date of signature/s:	

Authorisation

Who is responsible for authorising the plan? Include name, role and signature.

Name:		Role:	
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Guidance and Appendix 1

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**Kinship Care
Assessment (Form K)
England**

and

**Kinship Care
Assessment (Form K)
England - Support Plan**

Guidance notes

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**Kinship Care
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**Appendix 1 - Legal
compliance**

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Overseas questions and guidance



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**Kinship Care
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and

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England - Support Plan**

**Appendix 2 - Overseas
questions and guidance**

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Any queries:

outbound@corambaaf.org.uk

Parent and carer information sheets

Kinship Care Assessment (Form K) England: Prospective kinship carer information sheet

A social worker will be completing an assessment with you as a potential kinship carer, using Form K. It is important that you have this information about what to expect during the assessment as some kinship carers tell us the process can feel bewildering and intrusive. Your social worker will explain why they need to ask questions about you and your family circumstances and will be able to answer any questions you may have. You should also receive a blank copy of Form K from your social worker.

What is a Kinship Care Assessment (Form K)?

The Kinship Care Assessment (Form K) explores what works well for you as a family, your strengths, as well as any support that you might need. It should help the social worker talk to you about what is important to you as a family, and this might include information about your ethnicity, religion and culture. It should also enable you to have the time and support to make life-changing decisions to care for a child. It should include the child's wishes and feelings, as many kinship carers already know and love the child. The child's parents' views should also be included as they may have an ongoing relationship with their child.

How is a Kinship Care Assessment (Form K) used?

The assessment is designed to enable a social worker to work with you, to make sure the relevant information is written in the assessment so that decisions can be made for the child. This report might be shared in court or with a fostering panel. Form K includes a support plan to ensure that all those involved in your assessment make provision for what support your kinship family will need now and possibly in the future.

Timescales

It is recommended that the kinship care assessment should take place over 12 weeks. Sometimes the court may request that it is completed in less time than this, but it is important that you and the social worker have enough time to discuss all relevant information that will inform a decision about whether the child should live with you.

Approval or legal order

Form K can be used to recommend that you are approved either as a kinship foster carer or that a special guardianship order or child arrangements order is made.

What will the assessment include?

Your social worker will explain the assessment process to you and be clear about the reasons for the assessment. They will also ask you to undertake some checks, which will include a police check (also known as a DBS check) for you and anyone over the age of 18 living in your home, a medical report from your GP, reference from your employer, and personal references. They may also ask if they can speak to ex-partners if it is safe to do so and if you share children with an ex-partner.

Kinship Care Assessment (Form K) England: Parent information sheet

A social worker will be completing an assessment of a potential kinship carer for your child. We want to give you some information about the assessment process and the form that will be used (Form K). Parents often say that they don't feel included in the process and don't have much information. Therefore this information sheet is a starting point and you could speak to your child's social worker if you have more questions.

What is a Kinship Care Assessment (Form K)?

The Kinship Care Assessment (Form K) explores what works well for a kinship family, their strengths, as well as any support they might need. It should help the social worker talk to the kinship carer about what is important to them as a family, which might include information about ethnicity, religion and culture. It should also give them the time and support to make life-changing decisions to care for a child. It should include the child's wishes and feelings, as many kinship carers already know and love the child.

How is a Kinship Care Assessment (Form K) used?

It is designed to help a social worker to work with the kinship carer, to make sure the relevant information is written in the assessment so that decisions can be made for the child. This report might be shared in court or with a fostering panel.

There are sections within Form K that ask for your views as a parent. It is important that your views are included. You should be asked for your views on the kinship arrangement itself, on plans for how you will see or stay in touch with your child, and your wishes about important parts of your child's identity, for example, their ethnicity, religion or culture.

If the plan is for your child to live with the prospective kinship carer, Form K includes a support plan to ensure that the kinship family, including your child, receives the support they need.

Contact details

Child's social worker name:	
Child's social worker contact details:	
Kinship assessing social worker name:	
Kinship assessing social worker contact details:	

Key points

- Navigation pane
- Form C and Form K
- Support plan is not optional
- Remember voice of the child – golden thread
- Articulate the importance of pre-existing relationship
- Holistic assessment to inform child-led care planning not carer status to inform assessment type

Next steps

- Training:

[Undertaking a kinship assessment \(2 day\)](#) 26 & 27 March – London
and 16 & 17 December – online

[What makes a good kinship assessment \(1 day\)](#) 16 September –
online

For more information, email training@corambaaf.org.uk

- New Undertaking guide – summer 2025
- Form K (Wales) pilot – start date tbc
- [Kinship Care Practice Forum](#) Tuesday 25 February 10am –
12.30pm – online

Thank you for joining



Evaluation and certificate

To fill in our evaluation form scan the QR code or use the link in the chat. The link will also be in your attendee pack.

Once you have completed your evaluation form you will receive your certificate.

Presentation materials including reading lists, slides and video links are shared post event

Thank you from CoramBAAF



We hope to see you again soon!



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