

# Form K (Wales) Kinship Care Assessment frequently asked questions and answers

## Implementation of Form K (Wales)

### **Q: Should I use Form C (Wales) or Form K (Wales)?**

If your local authority is currently using CoramBAAF's Form C (Wales), please note that this form will no longer be licenced following publication of Form K (Wales) on 7 May 2026. If you are midway through an assessment using Form C (Wales), you may complete the assessment using Form C (Wales), but all new assessments should be completed using Form K (Wales). If a Form C (Wales) assessment has been started, it can still be filed with court or presented to fostering panel, but all future assessments should be completed using Form K (Wales).

Form C (Wales) is no longer available on the list of our licenced forms having been replaced by Form K (Wales). Form C (Wales) therefore will no longer be updated by CoramBAAF in line with any legislation or guidance changes, whereas Form K (Wales) will be kept up to date for licence holders. If moving to Form K (Wales) for new assessments is too quick a transition for local authorities then we understand but we would encourage practitioners to move to the new form as soon as is reasonably practicable because as it will encourage better practice and outcomes for children and families.

### **Q: How do I access Form K (Wales)?**

If your organisation has an existing Forms Licence, a member of the CoramBAAF team will be in touch with your designated contact. We will share with you the relevant access instructions, and secure weblink, to begin accessing your chosen forms - alongside guidance and additional documents. For further support, please contact <mailto:licences@corambaaf.org.uk>

It is important that all social workers undertaking a Form K (Wales) assessment have access to the full suite of forms, and this may apply to freelance/independent social workers. Please refer to the guidance whilst completing the kinship care assessment as this has detailed information about each section of Form K (Wales).

### **Q: What format is Form K (Wales) available in?**

Form K (Wales) is a Word document that can be uploaded into your local authority's electronic case management system such as Liquid Logic, Mosaic or Eclipse. It will not be automatically uploaded. As a licence holder, you will be informed of updates to Form K (Wales) and/or the guidance and it would be your responsibility that any updates are added to your electronic case management system.

## **Q: Is Form K (Wales) available in both English and Welsh?**

Yes. Form K (Wales) is published in both languages, as are all accompanying documents which includes Form K (Wales) – Support Plan, Guidance, Appendix 1 legal compliance, Appendix 2 overseas guidance, prospective kinship carer information sheet and parent information sheet.

Q: Apart from the Form K (Wales) – Support Plan being required, are any of the other documents different from those used in the pilot in Wales?

Yes. Although the documents are very similar to the pilot documents, there are some minor changes that reflect usage of Form K (Wales) - Support Plan and how that fits with usage of the All Wales Special Guardianship Support Services Plan as well as the recent regulatory change on 1st April 2026. Therefore you need to download the final published Form K (Wales) documents to ensure that you are using the final versions and to ensure version control.

## **Q: Can we make changes to Form K (Wales)?**

CoramBAAF forms are copyright and in accordance with your licence agreement cannot be changed without our permission. Minor text changes can often be agreed. If more major changes are requested, we can usually find a way forward even if we don't given permission for changes to our form. We'd need to see your proposed changes in order to give permission (or not, as the case may be).

To request permission please send any proposed changes to [licences@corambaaf.org.uk](mailto:licences@corambaaf.org.uk).

## **Use of Form K (Wales)**

### **Q: Can Form K (Wales) be used for Regulation 26 temporary approval?**

Form K (Wales) is not designed for Reg 26 approval. Based on feedback during the development project for Form K (England), we felt that in practice local authorities often have their own initial viability template that is used as the mechanism to gather the required information to seek temporary approval. We recommend the [Family Rights Group initial viability assessment guidance](#) for initial viability assessment which will cover much of the information required for Reg 26 for temporary approval. We welcome feedback about Form K (Wales) and may give consideration to temporary approval/Reg 26 approval in the future.

### **Q: Can Form K (Wales) be used to assess kinship foster carers and special guardians?**

Form K (Wales) can be used to assess any type of kinship carer, where an assessment of their capacity to care for a child is needed. Specifically, it can be used in these circumstances:

- to approve kinship foster carers (connected persons)
- to recommend a special guardianship order

Although legislation does not require the completion of a specific type of assessment to recommend a child arrangements order, completion of Form K (Wales) and wider care planning discussions may indicate a child arrangements order is the most appropriate order. In these circumstances, Form K (Wales) can also be used to make this recommendation.

### **Q: Is Form K (Wales) legally compliant?**

Form K is compliant with all the relevant legislation and guidance. Specifically:

- Schedule to the Special Guardianship (Wales) Regulations 2005, as amended by the Special Guardianship (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2018
- Special Guardianship Code of Practice (2018)
- Schedule 1 Fostering Panels (Establishment and Functions) (Wales) Regulations 2018
- Part 3 as amended by The Fostering Panels and Care Planning (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Wales) Regulations 2026

Appendix 1 to the Form K (Wales) guidance details what sections of the form are compliant with the specific section of legislation or guidance.

### **Q: Can Form K (Wales) be used for private SGO applications?**

Yes. Form K (Wales) is legally compliant with the SGO Regulations and the schedule of information required by Courts to make a SGO, so can be used for private SGO applications.

For SGOs to be made in either private or public law, the local authority must prepare a Special Guardianship Report in accordance with section 14A(8) of the Children Act 1989 and Regulation 2 of the Special Guardianship (Wales) Regulations 2005. Under section 14A(8)(b), the report must be provided to the court in cases where a person has given notice of their intention to apply for a Special Guardianship Order. The Schedule to the Special Guardianship (Wales) Regulations 2005 as amended by the Special Guardianship (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2018 sets out the prescribed matters that must be included in this report.

Any Form K (Wales) assessment that is recommending an SGO must be accompanied by the All Wales Special Guardianship Services Support Plan.

### **Q: Are the courts and judiciary aware of Form K (Wales)?**

As part of the pilot in England, Form K (England) was filed in a number of local courts and SGOs were granted. A copy has been shared with the President of the Family Division. Since publication of Form K (England), CoramBAAF is aware that it has been used successfully within both private and public law proceedings. As part of the pilot in Wales, Form K (Wales) was similarly filed in a few local courts and SGOs were granted.

## **Form K (Wales) - Support plan**

### **Q: Is the Form K (Wales) – Support Plan a separate document?**

The Form K (Wales) – Support Plan is a separate document but a support plan is an essential and required component of Form K (Wales) and must be completed as part of the assessment, as the assessment is incomplete without it. Form K (Wales) – Support Plan can be used as an interim support plan, when completed while decisions are still being made about a child’s future, and when the assessment is being presented to the fostering panel or when first filed at court. It will therefore need to be updated when a final care plan has been agreed and filed again. The All Wales Special Guardianship Services Support Plan will need to be used if an SGO is being recommended as required by the law.

The Special Guardianship Regulations clearly support the practice of reviewing and updating a special guardianship support plan to reflect any changes in circumstances or needs, without altering what was originally agreed upon by the court in the special guardianship support plan completed when the order was made. The All Wales Special Guardianship Review of Support Services Plan is available from AFKA Cymru for this purpose. It is good practice to review and update any type of kinship support plan, and therefore you need to state who is responsible for the review, and when it will be completed.

The Form K (Wales) – Support Plan can be used to review a kinship family’s support needs, once a child arrangements order has been made or following full approval as a kinship foster carer.

The updated plan will then have the up-to-date information and assessed needs; however, the initial support plan will form part of the child’s files and is accessible.

### **Q: Is Form K (Wales)– Support Plan required for a negative recommendation?**

If the recommendation is negative, there may be occasions when the support plan is not required. However, decisions will need to be made on a case-by-case basis, and potentially following legal advice.

### **Q: Does the Form K (Wales) – Support Plan have specific sections for education, finance, child’s family time?**

Yes. Each section of the support plan correlates with the key areas of support for a child: identity, social, emotional and behavioural needs, health, education, maintaining connections/contact/family time and safety. Form K (Wales) – Support Plan includes cross references to indicate which sections of Part 2 should inform completion of the support plan.

Likewise the All Wales Special Guardianship Support Services Plan covers these key areas.

**Q: Is there capacity to add extra boxes to add other specific support needs?**

Yes. Throughout Form K (Wales) – Support Plan and the All Wales Special Guardianship Support Services Plan, additional boxes can be added or removed as required. Both are provided in Word format so it is straightforward to amend the form for each assessment.

**Q: Can the sections of the support plan be tailored to the type of plan it is, or does every section need to remain and be answered regardless of the care plan?**

According to the type of support plan being completed and the stage of care planning for the child, the information may be brief when initially completed. It is essential that the information is fully updated when it becomes a final support plan. The All Wales Special Guardianship Services Support Plan is likely to be a plan for permanence, and as with either type of support plan, will need to reflect current and likely future support needs.

**Q: Are LA's able to use their own support plan template if this is reflective of the information in your support plan template?**

Form K (Wales) – Support Plan is an integral and essential component of the assessment template and should be completed with each assessment unless the All Wales Special Guardianship Services Support Plan is being completed.

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**Q: In what circumstance would an interim SGO support plan be used?**

If Form K (Wales) is completed while a kinship foster carer is temporarily approved under Regulation 26, but the care plan is already special guardianship, you would complete an interim All Wales Special Guardianship Support Services Plan. It would then need to be updated at the point of filing final evidence, as the support needs of the carer and child may be different, as the care plan is for permanence.

**Q: Who should complete the support plan?**

The support plan should draw on the support needs that have been identified throughout the assessment. The assessing social worker needs to have a depth of understanding about the needs of the child to be able to state what support they may need. As the assessing social worker, they will have assessed the support needed by the carer. It is essential therefore that the support plan is completed collaboratively, according to local ways of working. CoramBAAF is aware that the responsibility for writing the support plan may sit with the child's social worker or the assessing social worker. Some local authorities may choose to hold a support planning meeting, involving the kinship carer, where

support needs are discussed and agreed. Regardless of how or who completes the plan, it is essential that it relates to identified current and future need, and mitigates assessed risk and vulnerability.

If an independent or freelance social worker is undertaking the assessment, the completion of Form K (Wales) – Support Plan or the All Wales Special Guardianship Services Support Plan should be a collaborative process that involves the child’s social worker and someone from the local team that will be providing support.

## **Timescales for completion of Form K (Wales)**

### **Q: What timescales do you recommend for completion of Form K (Wales)?**

A minimum of 12 weeks is required for completion of Form K (Wales).

[PLWG Best Practice Guidance – special guardianship orders 2020](#) requires that ‘full and comprehensive assessments are completed of prospective special guardians and that sufficient time is afforded to local authorities to undertake these assessments’ (para 33). It states: ‘the issues that must be addressed in the schedule and the subsequent amendments to the schedule strongly suggest that an assessment cannot be completed without substantial time and resources’, (para 27) and that ‘special guardianship assessments and SGSPs should be robust and comprehensive and compliant with regulations. Timetabling for the provision of such assessments should be realistic to provide for this.’ (para 38)

Fostering Regulations allow 16 weeks from temporary approval under Regulation 26 to full approval as a kinship foster carer.

## **Practice issues**

### **Q: Is there an exemplar of Form K (Wales)?**

No. We do not have a sample completed version of Form K (Wales). We would encourage local authorities to start saving anonymised sample assessments to share good practice within their service.

### **Q: Should the child’s social worker write sections of Form K (Wales)?**

There is no requirement for any specific section to be completed by the child’s social worker. According to local practice, the assessing social worker should work collaboratively with the child’s social worker, and this may include the assessing social worker meeting the child, where it is in the best interests of the child to do so. The assessing social worker must ensure they have the depth of understanding required, including knowledge of the child’s wishes and feelings, to meaningfully match the child’s current and likely future needs to the carer’s assessed capacity. This will enable identification of what support is likely to be needed. However, if the child’s social worker writes any sections, this should be clearly stated at parts 2p and 2q.

**Q: How is information about the child's parents and their wishes and feelings included in Form K (Wales)?**

This information should be captured in part 1h – an introduction to the parent/s.

As the assessing social worker for the prospective kinship carer, you may not have any direct communication with the child's parents. However, you need to gather the relevant information about them from other assessments, the court bundle, or attendance at review meetings about the child.

**Q: What is meant by 'home visit' in Part 3?**

A home visit is required by a social worker for all kinship assessments and therefore you must provide a date of a particular home visit that meets this requirement.

**Q: We currently write a message to the child in our Form C Wales about the rationale for our decision making. Where could this sit in Form K (Wales)?**

This could be included in Part 1m – Recommendation.

**Q: How about ecomaps? Where would they fit into the assessment/support plan, if at all?**

Ecomaps are one tool that can be very helpful to use during the assessment process but it does not need to be submitted, but will help to identify support needs which can then be clearly articulated in the support plan. If you wish to submit it, you could include it alongside the genogram in Part 1.

**Q: Where are the voices of the carers' children to be included?**

The needs and voices of carers' children are considered in 2b and 2g. Further guidance about having conversations with carers' own children is included in the Undertaking a Kinship Care Assessment guide - [Undertaking a Kinship Care Assessment: A guide to collecting and analysing information for Form K \(England\) | CoramBAAF](#)

**Q: Currently we present a number of supporting documents to fostering panel - is this still the case?**

Yes. You should still submit additional documents, including references, as required by your fostering panel.

**Q: How long should a Form K assessment be?**

It is not possible to be prescriptive about the length of any kinship assessment as each kinship family is unique. The assessment should contain relevant and proportionate information and ensure that all pertinent areas are discussed, analysis provided and support needs identified.

**Q: Can the form be used in any way to complete special guardianship order addendum assessments when needed?**

Yes. Form K (Wales) could be used to complete addendum assessments if required. If Form K (Wales) was used for the original assessment, you can add sub-headings to provide updated addendum information as appropriate. If a different template was used to complete the original assessment, you could use Form K (Wales) as the update assessment, as appropriate. The detail of updating assessment required will be dependent on assessment completed to date and identified areas requiring update.

**Q: The Competency Framework: Skills and Qualities for Kinship Foster Carers in Wales (AFKA Cymru, 2026) are not specifically referenced in Form K (Wales). Why is this?**

Competency frameworks are not a regulatory requirement, fostering services can choose to adopt them, or not, as a decision-making tool. As such they are not directly incorporated into Form K(Wales). However if your service utilises the [Competency Framework: Skills and Qualities for Kinship Foster Carers in Wales](#) these can be referenced in the relevant sections of the report, depending on how your service would like to see the competencies evidenced. If you have any further questions regarding the competency framework please contact AFKA Cymru.

**Undertaking a Kinship Assessment guide****Q: Is there be an Undertaking a kinship care assessment guide?**

The accompanying [Undertaking a Kinship Care Assessment: A guide to collecting and analysing information for Form K \(England\)](#) was published in summer 2025 and can be purchased. A free supplement for Form K (Wales) will be included with any order purchased from a postcode in Wales or you can download the supplement [here](#) .

**Information sheets****Q: Is there an information sheet for the child?**

There is not an information sheet for the child and we would expect that the assessing social worker or the child's social worker could answer any relevant questions, depending on the relationship that they have with the child. Information sheets for prospective kinship carers and parents are provided and can be adapted to include local and relevant information.

## **Training**

### **Q: Will there be training on Form K (Wales)?**

[AFKA Cymru](#) regularly delivers the Making Good Assessments – Kinship/Connected Persons training workshop. The training is grounded in the Welsh context and can be adapted to the assessment paperwork participants are using, including the Form K(Wales). Participants are encouraged to bring a blank copy of their assessment paperwork so that the training can directly cross-reference relevant sections and practice issues. The workshop also covers assessment planning, analytical thinking, and report writing skills. Training can also be commissioned for individual services or teams.