

Family Finding Referral Form



If you are referring siblings, you only need to complete one form but please give separate information in relation to the children’s needs etc. where relevant

Please return form by secure email to ATVDuty@Oxfordshire.gov.uk

If you wish to discuss this referral with someone please contact Adopt Thames Valley on 01865 897050 (option 3)

Local Authority	
Name of Social Worker, Team, Phone number and Email address	
Name of Social Worker’s manager, Phone number and Email address	
Date of referral	
Name of child/ren	
DOB (or Estimated Delivery Date)	
Local Authority reference number (reference on PARIS, ICS/LCS, Mosaic, Frameworki etc)	
Ethnic heritage	
Religion (Do the birth parents follow any particular religion or wish this for the child?)	
Date child/ren entered care	
Current Placement Type of placement (eg. at home, family and friends, foster carer, parent and baby)	
If in foster care: Name/s of Carer/s, Address and contact details (this will be needed by family finder if an adoption plan is made)	

<u>Legal Situation and Timescales</u>	
Current legal Status (Eg ISO, ICO, S20)	
Projected date of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Evidence 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IRH • Final Hearing 	
Solicitor's name and contact details	
Guardian's Name and contact details	
Progress/Outcomes of parenting assessments	
Progress/Outcomes regarding Family and Friends assessments	
Permanency Medical Date:	
Potential Agency Decision (Best Interests) date: PLEASE NOTE – This date must have been provided by the ATV Panel Advisor/administrator who can be contacted on OCC and Swindon oxonswindonATVpanel@oxfordshire.gov.uk – OR Berkshire BerkshireATVPanel@Oxfordshire.gov.uk	

<u>Identified Needs of Child/ren in relation to the following:</u>	
Geographical locations to be avoided e.g. location of birth family in order to ensure confidentiality of placement	
Does the child need to be placed with a sibling? Please give details. Has the together or apart assessment been completed?	
If the child has any siblings, have any of them been removed and placed for adoption, long term fostering, or with family members? Please give details	
Is the birth mother currently pregnant? If yes, please give details	
Does the child/children have any special health or developmental needs? Are there any known family medical issues/learning	

disabilities or expected medical issues?	
Child/ren's attachment and emotional needs	
Is it known or suspected that the birth mother used drugs or alcohol during pregnancy? To what extent, if known?	
Family Background (Eg Substance misuse, Domestic Abuse, Sexual Abuse, Neglect, Mental health issues)	
Current thinking about post adoption contact	
Child/ren's Personality Please describe a little about what the child is like, what they like doing etc.	
Photo	
<p>Is Fostering for Adoption being considered for this child?</p> <p>If No, please give reasons.</p> <p>If Yes, please complete additional sections below.</p> <p>Please carefully read the section on FFA on the next page!</p>	

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS AND RISK ASSESSMENT FOR FOSTERING FOR ADOPTION PLACEMENTS.

- Fostering for Adoption is a scheme whereby approved adoptive parents can be temporarily approved as foster carers for a specific child, usually during care proceedings, and usually for a child aged 2 or under.
- Fostering for Adoption placements are only considered if there is at least a 90% likelihood that the child will have an adoption plan (E.g. birth mother is pregnant and has had a number of children previously removed and there are no significant changes to her circumstances) It is not suitable if family members are still being assessed.
- This is where a local authority identifies that, based on the evidence available and on its assessment of the case, the long term permanence plan for a child is likely to be adoption. The local authority may still be considering other outcomes for the child, and may still be attempting rehabilitation with family, but expects that adoption will become the plan should those alternatives not succeed.
- Local authorities must assess the appropriateness of placing the child in a FfA placement with dually approved carers on a case by case basis.
- Approved adopters who become registered **foster** carers when a looked after child is placed with them; The **foster** carers care for the child whilst the child's social worker works with and assesses the child's birth family and makes a recommendation to the Court about the child's future care.
- Aim is to help children find loving permanent homes as early as is possible and to minimise the damage caused by disruption to children of moving between placements.

This risk assessment should be completed jointly with the ATV duty worker or relevant manager- contact details are at the top of the referral form.

Service Manager (or equivalent) giving authorisation to seek a Fostering for Adoption placement for child:

Name:

Signature:

Date:

1. Paternity

- a) Has the paternity of the child been established and what efforts have been made to confirm this (i.e. if mother is known to have multiple partners, how certain is paternity?)
- b) If the birth father is not yet known, what are the plans to establish paternity? (have all putative birth fathers been explored and will there be a DNA tests?)

2. Legal process

- a) Has the case been presented to Legal Panel, if so, what was the decision? If not, is there a date for this case to be presented?
- b) What is the legal advice and proposed timeframe?
- c) What is the LA care plan?

a) Assessments

- b) What assessments are currently underway/have been completed, e.g. parenting, psychological etc. Please give brief details.

3. Previous children

a) Have birth parents had one or more child placed for adoption or in other forms of alternative permanent placements? If so, please give brief details

b) If birth parents have had previous children removed, does the evidence strongly suggest their circumstances have not changed and pose the same risks as they did to the previous children?
Please give brief details

c) If there are siblings already placed for adoption, what is the capacity of the family(s) to adopt another child?

4. Connected persons

a) Has a family Group Conference been held, or is one scheduled?

b) What options are there for placing the child within the extended family? Have any viability assessments been undertaken and what was the outcome?

c) Are you confident that everyone in the extended family has been approached?

d) Are there any other viable family members, even if they haven't put themselves forward at this stage?

5) Views

a) What are the views and wishes of the birth parents?

b) Extended family's Views and Wishes

c) Guardian's views if applicable
6) Contact a) Who will be having contact with the child/ren? b) What is the proposed frequency of contact? c) Who will facilitate the contact? d) Where is the proposed venue? e) What is the maximum distance the child can travel? f) Can birth parents travel?
Questions relating to unborn babies
1.a) Has a pre-birth assessment has been completed and by whom? b) What was the outcome?
2. If the child is currently unborn or in hospital: a) Is there a discharge plan for the child? b) How long are they likely to remain in hospital after birth?
3.a) Is the baby likely to be born withdrawing from drugs/alcohol? b) Will the baby need to be tested for blood borne viruses?

<p>4) If mother is relinquishing:</p> <p>a) has she had the opportunity to meet with an ATV worker to understand the implications of adoption?</p>
<p>b) Has the paternity of the baby been established?</p>
<p>c) have all members of the extended family been approached?</p>
<p>d) Has legal advice been sought? (please note that a referral to cafcass is required to obtain mother's formal consent after 6 weeks of the birth)</p>

Additional questions during the COVID-19 pandemic

1. If the child is in foster care, what are the risks regarding the child/ren's current/future placement and what precautions are being taken? (e.g. are the foster family self-isolating, are any members of the household coming and going? Are the FfA carers self-isolating?)

2a) If baby is to be placed in an FfA placement upon discharge from hospital, what are the

<p>proposed plans for the transition of care? b) what is the hospital's current policy on visiting?</p>
<p>3. a) What are the contact plans for birth family during COVID-19? b) if virtual contact is proposed, how will the confidentiality of the carers be maintained*?</p>
<p>4. What support would FfA carers need to safely parent this child/these child during the COVID-19 pandemic, including health and practical care? (link worker to approach health professionals to ask what support they could provide)</p>
<p>5. What are the contingency plans for supervising and supporting the new placement should any of the social workers become unwell?</p>

*NB It is vital that confidentiality is maintained within FfA placements and birth parents should not be given any contact details of the carers and surnames MUST not be provided. If the carer's have distinctive names then careful consideration should be given to the names that the carer's will be known by.

We confirm that the Head of Service (or equivalent) is in agreement with the plan of Fostering for Adoption for this child/these children.

Signed(Social Worker) Date

Signed(Manager) Date.....

ATV manager comments:

ATV manager decision to support:

Signed(Manager) Date.....
Name