

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:	
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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		

appropriate):		
Gender (self-defined):		
Sexual orientation:		
Religion (practising/non-practising/lived/official):		
Disability or neurodiversity:		
Does the carer live overseas? (If yes, see overseas guidance):		

1d) Details about the parent/s

	Parent	Parent
Name/s:		
Address (unless confidential): Including date verified		
Local authority (unless confidential):		
Place and DOB:		
Relationship to (each) child:		
Parental responsibility:		
Relationship to other parent:		
Ethnicity:		
Ethnic heritage:		
Linguistic heritage and language spoken at home:		
Nationality (and immigration status if appropriate):		
Gender (self-defined):		
Sexual orientation:		
Religion (practising/non-practising/lived/official):		
Disability or neurodiversity:		

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)

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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

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1k) Parental health, education and employment history

- For each parent, include a brief chronology of any physical or mental health treatment or interventions
- For each parent, include a brief chronology of their educational history
- For each parent, include a brief chronology of their employment history

1l) Work undertaken to complete assessment

- Please ensure potential carers know at an early stage that the report will be shared with all parties in court, if applicable, including with parents, the children's guardian and the judge. Please be mindful that the child may also read the assessment, either now or in the future.
- Please detail all work with the child to seek their wishes and feelings
- Has permission been granted by the court to share key documents with the prospective kinship carer?

1m) Recommendation

- Recommendation of any order and/or approval with brief and succinct reason
- Carer/s' views and understanding of recommendation for order and/or approval

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?

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?

2c) How have the carer/s' experiences influenced the person they are now – adult relationships

- Include details of any relevant previous and current marriages/civil partnerships/relationships
- Describe, if relevant, the strengths, vulnerabilities and stability of their current relationship
- Include relevant information regarding other significant adult relationships, including friendships

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

- Overall analysis of strengths and vulnerabilities of current relationship
- Impact of becoming a kinship carer on their relationship and/or future plans
- Learning from previous relationships

What support might be needed?

2d) How have the carer/s' experiences influenced the person they are now – education and employment

- Brief and relevant summary of school and employment history
- Involvement with own children's education, if applicable

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

- Attitude to learning, education and employment
- Ability to advocate for a child's educational needs
- Hopes for the child's future education and employment

What support might be needed?

2e) How will the carer/s' health and lifestyle influence their care of the child/ren?

- Include details of relevant physical and mental health factors
- Details of any medical reports received
- Describe carer/s' current lifestyle

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

- Impact on current and future health and lifestyle, and any changes required
- Ability to ensure own wellbeing
- Understanding the need for a healthy lifestyle for the child/ren

What support might be needed?

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

- 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

- 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

- Understanding of the child's specific needs relating to developmental physical and mental health

Education

- Understanding of the child's specific needs relating to education and social/leisure activities

Safety

- 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:

- 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?

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?

2h) How will the carer/s' financial situation be affected by caring for the child/ren?

- Brief and relevant information about income, expenditure and outstanding debts

<p>Analysis – how might this influence their care of the child/ren?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of caring for the child/ren on current and future finances
<p>What support might be needed?</p>

2i) How will the carer/s' housing be affected by caring for the child/ren?

- Describe the accommodation, including bedrooms and living space
- Describe relevant local amenities and resources

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

- Suitability of accommodation and realistic solutions
- Accessibility of local amenities and resources

What support might be needed?

2j) How will the carer/s' household and work commitments be managed whilst caring for the child/ren?

- Describe how the child/ren's needs will be met alongside the carer/s' household and work commitments

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

- Impact of any necessary changes

What support might be needed?

2k) How will important people in the carer/s' life and wider community be able to support them in their care of the child/ren?

- Describe what practical and emotional support will be available, including natural breaks from caring
- Include any discussions or thoughts around contingency planning
- Describe how the carer/s relate to professionals and practitioners involved in the child/ren's life
- Views on accessing local and national training and support for kinship carers

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

- Reality of potential support
- Capacity to ask for support
- Capacity to reflect and learn from others to enhance their care of the child/ren

What support might be needed?

2l) Summary of analysis – strengths, vulnerabilities and meaning for the child

- Include weight given to the child's wishes and feelings, and reasons if not acted upon
- Include significance of the pre-existing relationship between the child and carer
- Include significance of the carer's motivation and commitment
- Include significance of changing family relationships and the child's experience of these

Strengths**Vulnerabilities**

2m) Recommendation

- Describe the context of the assessment, its significance in making the recommendation and views of key practitioners
- Approval as kinship foster carer
- And/or consideration of the merits of a special guardianship order and other orders
- Implications of these recommendations for child/ren, parent/s, prospective kinship carer/s and any other significant person

2n) Prospective kinship carer/s' comments on the assessment

2o) Team manager comments

2p) 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 shared with carer/s:	
Carer/s signature/s:		Date of signature/s:	

If both the assessing social worker and child's social worker have contributed to the report, give relevant details for both.

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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