

## Support for Kinship carers

Becoming a Kinship carer can feel daunting but there are many organisations and people to support the Kinship Community:

- **The child's social worker**  
They can answer questions about the process and what to expect in becoming a kinship carer.
- **The Family Placement Team**  
They can provide advice, guidance and access to training. Call the duty worker on 0131 271 3413
- **Midlothian Children's Service kinship email**  
This provides information and updates – sign up on [kinship@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:kinship@midlothian.gov.uk)
- **Kinship Care Midlothian (SCIO)**  
0131531 8483    07847 250526  
[info@kinshipcare-midlothian.co.uk](mailto:info@kinshipcare-midlothian.co.uk)  
[www.kinshipcare-midlothian.co.uk](http://www.kinshipcare-midlothian.co.uk)
- **Kinship carers advocacy service Midlothian**  
Contact Myra Orr on [kinshipcarersadvocacy@gmail.com](mailto:kinshipcarersadvocacy@gmail.com)  
or call or text on 07540300591
- **Grandparents Parenting again and Kinship Carers Midlothian** – are on facebook and have regular meetings/groups to support kinship carers
- **Kinship Care Advice Service Scotland**  
Helpline: 0808 800 0006 (Mon–Fri 9am–5pm)  
[www.kinship.scot](http://www.kinship.scot)
- **ParentLine Scotland** on 0800 028 2233

# Becoming a Kinship carer

We try to keep children within their family and wider network wherever it is safe and possible to do so.

You might be asked to care for the child during a family crisis or if there are concerns for the child's safety and wellbeing. This could be for a short time or on a permanent basis.

Staying with family or a family friend can help a child feel safe if their parents are unable to care for them.



## What we expect from you.

- To care for the child safely.
- To work with us, the wider family, and other professionals to meet the child's needs
- To let us know of changes that impact on your ability to care for the child.
- To attend meetings and be involved in planning for the child's future.
- To support a child having time with their parents or other family.

This is set out in a kinship carer agreement.



## What you can expect from us.

- We will carry out a kinship assessment if the placement is likely to last longer than 72 hours. We have a duty to do this within 12 weeks. This involves a health review, references and meeting with a social worker to discuss your background, experience in caring for children and your ability to keep the child safe. The social worker will recommend whether a placement is suitable in the short and long term.
- We will police check everyone in the home over 16.
- We will make sure the home is suitable for the child.
- We will keep you updated on the child's plan.
- We can offer practical and emotional support to help meet the child's needs.
- We will pay you an allowance for each child placed in your care.

## Longer Term Kinship Care.

If a child needs permanent care away from their parents you can consider applying for a legal order to secure them in your care longer term.

A Kinship Care Order can give you parental responsibilities and rights. In the past this has been called a Section 11 or residence order.

If you are considering this you should discuss this with the child's social worker and seek independent legal advice from a solicitor.

In some circumstances Midlothian Council can support you with the financial costs of applying for a Kinship Care Order. Please discuss this with the child's social worker or contact Children's Services at [Kinship@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:Kinship@midlothian.gov.uk)