



CARING FOR CHILDREN BY FAMILY AND FRIENDS

PRIVATE ARRANGEMENT PRIVATE FOSTERING KINSHIP CARE

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

1. Private Arrangement

- Child is cared for by a relative
- Relatives are defined in the Foster Children (S) Act 1984 as
 - Grandparents
 - Brother or Sister
 - Uncle or Aunt (by blood or marriage)
 - Unmarried father
- Child is not a foster child
- Child is not looked after
- There are general child protection duties to this child in our area
- Financial assistance limited to occasional support or funding of Residence Order application.

2. Private Fostering Arrangement

- Child is cared for by someone other than a relative for more than 28 days
- Child is a private foster child
- Child is not looked after
- Duty on carer to notify the Local Authority, but often services become aware of arrangement without formal notification
- Local Authority duties after notification
 - To visit child and carer within 1 week, 3 monthly for first year and 6 monthly thereafter
 - To obtain medical reports on child and carer
 - To visit parent
 - To be sure that placement best meets child's needs
- Financial assistance limited to occasional support or funding of Residence Order application

3. Kinship Care

- Child is cared for by relative or other person with pre-existing relationship with child
- Carer is assessed and approved by Local Authority Kinship Panel
- Notification is given to NHS and parent
- Carer has contract with Local Authority
- Child is looked after and has Care Plan
- Care Plan is formally reviewed
- Carer receives a Kinship Allowance
- Some private arrangements (see 1 above) or private fostering (see 2 above) become kinship care placements over time.