

June 2025: A busy month for kinship care

30 June 2025

We were lucky enough to be invited to deliver some training for EM Lawshare on the issue of vicarious liability as it relates to kinship care.

Inevitably, in the lead up to the delivery date on 25 June 2025 there were a number of significant developments, all of which impact this new initiative.

Perhaps most excitingly, there is funding available for [local authorities who want to pilot paid kinship placements](#).

On 17 June 2025, the government launched a £40 million pilot, funding up to ten local authority areas to deliver an allowance for kinship carers with a special guardianship order (SGO) or a “*lives with*” child arrangement order (CAO). The allowance will match the national minimum allowance delivered to kinship foster carers by selected local authorities and the pilot will run between November 2025 and March 2029. Importantly, the deadline for applications is 15 July 2025.

At the same time, the [Law Commission announced kinship care](#) and that it will be simplifying and streamlining the law to improve the current complex landscape, making options for kinship care simpler and easier to navigate. The project will reform the law to facilitate kinship care and will consider:

- Producing a legal definition of kinship care.
- The adequacy and consistency of legal orders underpinning kinship care placements.
- The potential for reform of such orders.
- The legal process and thresholds for assessment and approval of kinship carers.

The consultation paper is expected in spring 2026.

In the meantime, other changes are likely to affect kinship care placements. There is a possibility that many if not all kinship care placements, where there is some sort of local authority assessment involvement or funding, might carry with them the [risk of vicarious liability for the actions of family members in kinship care placements](#).

These are risks that will need to be considered with local authority risk and insurance managers and discussed with insurance providers.

Furthermore, with the law on limitation likely due to change, both kinship foster carers and local authorities could face [civil historical child sexual abuse claims at any point in the future](#), as the Limitation Act 1980 is going to be changed for the purposes of those particular types of claims.

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