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SCOTTISH STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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**2009 No. 210**

**The Looked After Children (Scotland) Regulations 2009**

**PART I**  
**GENERAL**

**Citation and commencement**

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Looked After Children (Scotland) Regulations 2009 and come into force on 28th September 2009.

**Interpretation**

2. In these Regulations—

“the 1995 Act” means the Children (Scotland) Act 1995;

“the Arrangements to Look After Children Regulations” means the Arrangements to Look After Children (Scotland) Regulations 1996(1);

“foster carer” means a person approved as a foster carer in accordance with a decision made under regulation 22(3), 23 or 26(8);

“the Fostering Regulations” means the Fostering of Children (Scotland) Regulations 1996(2);

“Health Board” means a Health Board constituted under section 2 of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978(3);

“kinship carer” means a person approved as a kinship carer in accordance with a decision made under regulation 10;

“parent” means either the mother or father of the child or both;

“registered fostering service” means a person other than a local authority whose functions consist of or include the making of arrangements for or in connection with the performance of functions assigned to a local authority—

(a) under section 26(1)(a) of the 1995 Act; or

(b) by virtue of section 5(2) to (4) of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968(4),

and who is registered under Part 1 of the Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001(5); and

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(1) S.I.1996/3262.

(2) S.I. 1996/3263.

(3) 1978 c. 29. Section 2 was amended by the Health and Social Services and Social Security Adjudications Act 1983 c. 41, section 14(2), Schedule 7, paragraph 1, the National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990 c. 19, sections 28 and 66(1), the National Health Service Reform (Scotland) Act 2004 asp 7, schedule 1, paragraph 1(2) and the Smoking, Health and Social Care (Scotland) Act 2005 asp 13, section 42(1), and schedule 2, paragraph 2.

(4) Section 4 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 allows local authorities to make arrangements with a voluntary organisation or other person to assist with the performance of a function which is assigned to the local authority under that Act or Part II of the 1995 Act.

(5) 2001 asp 8. Section 2 was amended by the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007 asp 14, section 82(1) the Smoking, Health and Social Care (Scotland) Act 2005 asp 13, section 29 and the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 asp 13, schedule 5. Section 16 was amended by the Smoking, Health and Social Care (Scotland) Act

“relevant person” in relation to a child has the meaning given by section 93(2)(b)(6) of the 1995 Act.

## PART II

### CARE PLANNING

#### **Information to be obtained by the local authority in respect of a child to be or being looked after by them**

**3.—**(1) This regulation applies where a child is looked after or about to be looked after by a local authority in terms of section 17(6) of the 1995 Act.

(2) The local authority must—

- (a) carry out the assessment in accordance with regulation 4; and
- (b) so far as is reasonably practicable comply with the requirements in paragraph (3).

(3) The requirements are—

- (a) to obtain and record in writing the information relating to the child specified in Schedule 1; and
- (b) to obtain a written assessment of the child’s health and their need for health care by a registered medical practitioner or a registered nurse.

(4) The requirement at paragraph (3)(b) does not apply where an assessment of the child’s health and their need for health care has already been made by a registered medical practitioner or a registered nurse within a period of 3 months immediately preceding the date the child began to be looked after by the local authority.

#### **Assessment**

**4.—**(1) The local authority must make an assessment of—

- (a) the child’s immediate needs and how those needs can be met;
- (b) the child’s long term needs and how those needs can be met;
- (c) proposals for safeguarding and promoting the child’s welfare;
- (d) proposals for making sustainable and long term arrangements for the care of the child;
- (e) the nature of the services proposed for the child in the immediate and long term with particular regard to the information specified in Schedule 1;
- (f) alternative courses of action including the possibility of making an arrangement in accordance with regulation 8 or approving a person as a kinship carer;
- (g) whether the local authority should seek a change in the child’s legal status;
- (h) the arrangements which require to be made for the time when the child will no longer be looked after by the local authority;
- (i) the existing health arrangements for the child and whether there is a need to change such arrangements taking into account the information specified in paragraph 9 of Schedule 1;

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2005 asp 13, section 30(2). Sections 21 and 25 are repealed by the Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007 asp 4, schedule 3, section 120(1), schedule 2, paragraph 11.

(6) Section 9B(2)(b) and the definition of “relevant person” is amended by the Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007 asp 4, schedule 4.

- (j) having regard to the information specified in paragraph 10 of Schedule 1, the child's educational needs, the proposals for meeting those needs, and the proposals for achieving continuity in the child's education;
  - (k) the child's religious persuasion and the need for the child to continue to be brought up in accordance with their religious persuasion; and
  - (l) any other matter relating to the welfare of the child either in the immediate or long term as appears to the local authority to be relevant.
- (2) In making an assessment under paragraph (1) the local authority must, where appropriate, seek and take into account the views of—
- (a) the child, taking account of their age and maturity;
  - (b) the child's parents;
  - (c) any person with parental responsibilities or parental rights in respect of the child; and
  - (d) any other person as the authority considers appropriate.
- (3) Where the local authority are considering placing the child with a kinship carer in accordance with regulation 11 or a foster carer in accordance with regulation 27 they must, in addition to the assessment at paragraph (1) make an assessment of the contact arrangements with the child's parents, their family, any person with parental responsibilities or parental rights and any other specified person and whether such arrangements should be changed.
- (4) Where the local authority are considering placing a child in a residential establishment they must, in addition to the assessment at paragraph (1), carry out the assessment specified in paragraph (3) and make an assessment of whether that particular placement is appropriate for the child's needs taking into account the residential establishment's statement of functions and objectives.
- (5) Where—
- (a) paragraph (3) or (4) applies; and
  - (b) any other child in the same family is looked after or about to be looked after,
- the local authority must, in making their assessment take into account the need to ensure, where practical and appropriate, that those children are placed with the same carer or in the same residential establishment or in homes as near together as is appropriate or practicable.
- (6) In paragraph (3) "specified person" means any person who is specified as having contact with the child in any court order or any order granted by a children's hearing.

### **Child's plan**

5.—(1) Following an assessment made under regulation 4 the local authority must prepare a plan to be known as the "child's plan" in respect of the child.

(2) Before preparing the child's plan the local authority must, so far as is reasonably practicable and consistent with the best interests of the child, consult with—

- (a) the child, taking account of their age and maturity;
- (b) the child's parents;
- (c) any person with parental responsibilities or parental rights in respect of the child;
- (d) any person who ordinarily has charge of or control over the child;
- (e) any person, of whom the local authority are aware, who has had—
  - (i) parental responsibilities or parental rights in respect of the child; and
  - (ii) charge of or control over the child; and

- (f) any other person as the authority consider appropriate.
  - (3) The child's plan must include—
    - (a) the assessments and findings made by the local authority under regulation 4;
    - (b) arrangements concerning the matters specified in Part I of Schedule 2;
    - (c) in each case where the local authority are considering placing or have placed the child with a kinship carer in accordance with regulation 11, with a foster carer in accordance with regulation 27 or in a residential establishment arrangements concerning the matters specified in Part II of Schedule 2;
    - (d) the nature of services proposed for any person to ensure the arrangements concerning the matters specified in Part I or II of Schedule 2 are met;
    - (e) the health assessment referred to in regulation 3.
  - (4) The local authority must provide a copy of the child's plan to—
    - (a) the child where, taking account of the child's age and maturity, the local authority consider that the child is capable of understanding the purpose and effect of the child's plan;
    - (b) the child's parents;
    - (c) any person with parental responsibilities or parental rights in respect of the child; and
    - (d) any person who ordinarily has charge of or control over the child.
- (5) The requirements under paragraph (4)(b) or (c) do not apply where the local authority are of the view that, taking into account their duties under section 17 of the 1995 Act and the terms of any permanence order, supervision requirement or order or warrant granted under Part II of the 1995 Act, it would not be in the child's interest for a copy of the child's plan to be given to that person.

## PART III

### GENERAL MATTERS AFFECTING LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

#### **Death of a looked after child**

- 6.—(1) If a child who is being looked after by a local authority dies the authority must immediately—
- (a) notify the Scottish Ministers; and
  - (b) so far as is reasonably practicable notify the parents of the child and every person who has any parental responsibilities or parental rights in relation to the child.
- (2) The requirement to notify at paragraph (1)(b) does not apply in respect of any person with whom the child was residing at the time of their death.

#### **Recommendations by local authority to Principal Reporter**

- 7.—(1) This regulation applies where a local authority submit a report on a child to a children's hearing under section 56(7) of the 1995 Act.
- (2) Where the local authority are of the view that it would be in the best interests of the child they may recommend that the child—
- (a) be cared for by their parents or any person with parental responsibilities or parental rights in relation to the child under arrangements made in accordance with regulation 8;
  - (b) be placed with a kinship carer who has entered into an agreement under regulation 12;
  - (c) be placed with a foster carer who has entered into an agreement under regulation 24;

- (d) be placed with any other person who is not a relevant person where the requirements of regulation 36 are met; or
- (e) be placed in a residential establishment.

## PART IV

### LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN CARED FOR BY PARENTS

#### **Arrangements for child to be cared for by parents or persons with parental rights and parental responsibilities**

**8.**—(1) A local authority may, in the case of a child who is looked after by that authority in terms of section 17(6) of the 1995 Act, make arrangements for the child to be cared for by—

- (a) the child’s parents; or
- (b) any person who has parental rights and parental responsibilities in respect of the child.

(2) A local authority may not make arrangements under paragraph (1) where that authority are providing accommodation for the child by virtue of section 25 of the 1995 Act.

(3) Any arrangements made by a local authority under paragraph (1) must—

- (a) be subject to the terms of any supervision requirement made or any order made or authorisation or warrant granted under Chapter 2, 3 or 4 of Part II of the 1995 Act or any permanence order made in respect of the child; and
- (b) not return the child to the care of a person where the child was, by virtue of any order, authorisation or warrant, removed from the care of that person.

#### **Notification of occurrences involving the child**

**9.**—(1) The local authority must, in making arrangements under regulation 8, require the person who is to care for the child to notify the authority immediately if the child—

- (a) dies;
- (b) suffers any serious illness or injury; or
- (c) absents themselves or, without lawful authority, is taken away from the person’s home.

(2) On receiving notification under paragraph (1) the local authority must, so far as is reasonably practicable, immediately notify the child’s parents and every person who has any parental responsibilities or parental rights in relation to the child unless that person is caring for the child by virtue of regulation 8.

## PART V

### KINSHIP CARE

#### **Kinship carers**

**10.**—(1) A local authority may make a decision to approve a person mentioned in paragraph (2) as a suitable carer for a child who is looked after by that authority in terms of section 17(6) of the 1995 Act which carer shall be known as a “kinship carer”.

(2) The persons referred to in paragraph (1) are—

- (a) a person who is related to the child; or

- (b) a person who is known to the child and with whom the child has a pre existing relationship.
- (3) Before making a decision under paragraph (1) the authority must—
  - (a) so far as reasonably practicable obtain and record in writing the information specified in Schedule 3; and
  - (b) taking into account that information, carry out an assessment of that person’s suitability to care for the child.
- (4) In paragraph (2)(a) “related” means related to the child either by blood, marriage or civil partnership.

### **Placement of child with kinship carer**

- 11.**—(1) A local authority must not place a child with a kinship carer where—
- (a) the placement is or would be contrary to the terms of any supervision requirement made or any order made or authorisation or warrant granted under Chapter 2, 3 or 4 of Part II of the 1995 Act or any permanence order made in respect of the child; or
  - (b) the placement would return the child to the care of a person where the child was, by virtue of any order, authorisation or warrant, removed from the care of that person.
- (2) A local authority must not place a child with a kinship carer unless they are satisfied that—
- (a) placement is in the best interests of the child;
  - (b) placement of the child with that kinship carer is in the best interests of the child;
  - (c) following the assessment referred to in regulation 10(3), that kinship carer is a suitable person to care for the child;
  - (d) they have taken into account all information available to them relevant to the performance of their duties under section 17(1) to (5) of the 1995 Act;
  - (e) the kinship carer has entered into a written agreement with the local authority under regulation 12; and
  - (f) the kinship carer has entered into a written agreement with the local authority as to the matters specified in Schedule 4.

### **Agreement with kinship carers**

**12.** Where a local authority make a decision to approve a kinship carer under regulation 11 that authority must enter into a written agreement with the kinship carer regarding the matters and obligations in Schedule 5 and any other matters and obligations as the authority consider appropriate.

### **Notification of placement with kinship carer**

- 13.**—(1) Where a local authority place a child with a kinship carer in accordance with regulation 11 they must, as soon as reasonably practicable, provide notification of the placement to—
- (a) the local authority for the area in which the kinship carer resides if different from the authority making the placement;
  - (b) the Health Board which provides services in the area in which the kinship carer resides;
  - (c) each parent of the child; and
  - (d) any person who has any parental responsibilities or parental rights in relation to the child.
- (2) The requirements under paragraph (1)(c) or (d) do not apply in respect of any parent or person with parental responsibilities or parental rights who has already received a written copy of the child’s care plan under regulation 5.

- (3) Notification under paragraph (1)(c) or (d) must not be given to a person—
  - (a) where the local authority are of the view that, taking into account their duties under section 17 of the 1995 Act, it would not be in the child’s interests for notification to be given to that particular person;
  - (b) where a permanence order, a supervision requirement or an order or warrant granted under Part II of the 1995 Act specifies that the place at which a child is to reside shall not be disclosed to a particular person.
- (4) In this regulation “notification” means notification in writing and shall include particulars of the placement.

#### **Short-term placements in kinship care**

**14.**—(1) Where paragraph (2) applies a series of planned short-term placements with a kinship carer made in accordance with regulation 11 may be treated as a single placement with a kinship carer for the purposes of these Regulations.

- (2) This paragraph applies where—
  - (a) all the placements occur within a period which does not exceed 12 months;
  - (b) no single placement is for a duration of more than 4 weeks; and
  - (c) the total duration of the placements does not exceed 120 days.

#### **Establishment of case records for kinship carers**

**15.**—(1) A local authority must compile a written case record, if one is not already in existence, in respect of each kinship carer who has been approved by that authority and with whom a child has been placed.

- (2) The written case record referred to in paragraph (1) must include any—
  - (a) written agreement entered into under regulation 12;
  - (b) any agreement entered into under regulation 36;
  - (c) information specified in paragraph (3) in so far as it is relevant to the case.
- (3) The information referred to in paragraph (2)(c) is—
  - (a) a record of each placement with the kinship carer to include—
    - (i) the name, age and sex of each child placed;
    - (ii) the dates on which each placement began and terminated;
    - (iii) the circumstances of any terminated placement; and
  - (b) the information obtained by the local authority in respect of the decision to approve the kinship carer.
- (4) The local authority must compile a written case record for each prospective kinship carer.
- (5) The written record referred to in paragraph (4) must include information obtained as to—
  - (a) the prospective kinship carer;
  - (b) the members of the prospective kinship carer’s household; and
  - (c) the prospective kinship carer’s family.

### **Retention and confidentiality of case records for kinship carers**

16.—(1) A case record for a kinship carer compiled under regulation 15 must be retained by the local authority for at least 25 years from the date the placement with that kinship carer is terminated or until their death if earlier.

(2) The requirements of paragraph (1) may be complied with either by retaining the original written record or a copy of it or by keeping all the information from the record in some other accessible form (such as by means of a computer).

(3) Each local authority must secure the safe keeping of every case record and take all necessary steps to ensure that information contained in the case record is confidential subject only to—

- (a) any provision of, or made under or by virtue of any enactment under which access to such records or information may be obtained or given;
- (b) any court order under which access to such records or information may be given.

## **PART VI**

### **FOSTERING PANELS**

#### **Appointment and composition of fostering panels**

17.—(1) Each local authority must appoint a panel to be known as the “fostering panel” for the purpose of carrying out the functions conferred on it by regulation 20.

(2) The fostering panel shall consist of at least 6 members.

(3) A fostering panel may be established jointly by any 2 or more local authorities which panel shall be known as a “joint fostering panel” and any reference to a fostering panel in these Regulations shall include a reference to a joint fostering panel.

(4) The persons appointed to a fostering panel shall include a medical adviser appointed by the local authority under regulation 19.

(5) Each local authority must satisfy themselves that the numbers, qualifications and experience of individual members of a fostering panel will enable it effectively to discharge its functions.

(6) Where the local authority are of the opinion that any member of the fostering panel is unsuitable or unable to remain as a member they may terminate membership at any time by giving notice in writing with reasons.

#### **Meetings of the fostering panel**

18.—(1) No business shall be conducted by the fostering panel unless at least 3 of its members meet as the panel.

(2) The fostering panel must make a written record of its proceedings and the reasons for its recommendations.

(3) In paragraph (1) “member” does not include any medical adviser or legal adviser.

#### **Appointment of medical and legal advisers**

19.—(1) Each local authority must appoint such number of persons with the qualifications specified in paragraph (3) as they consider necessary for the purpose of providing the fostering panel with medical advice in connection with the exercise of its functions.

(2) A local authority may appoint such number of persons with the qualifications specified in paragraph (4) as they consider necessary for the purpose of advising the fostering panel.



(3) The qualifications referred to in paragraph (1) are that the person is a registered medical practitioner.

(4) The qualifications referred to in paragraph (2) are that the person is—

- (a) a solicitor; or
- (b) an advocate.

(5) In paragraph (4)—

“solicitor” means a person qualified to practice as a solicitor under section 4 of the Solicitors (Scotland) Act 1980(7); and

“advocate” means a practising member of the Faculty of Advocates.

### **Functions of the fostering panel**

**20.**—(1) The fostering panel must consider the case of every foster carer and prospective foster carer referred to it by the local authority.

(2) The fostering panel must make recommendations on the following matters:—

- (a) whether a prospective foster carer is suitable or continues to be suitable to be a foster carer;
- (b) whether a prospective foster carer would be a suitable foster carer for—
  - (i) a particular child or children;
  - (ii) any child; or
  - (iii) certain categories of child;
- (c) the maximum number of children a particular foster carer may have in their care at any one time.

(3) Before making a recommendation under paragraph (2) the fostering panel must give the prospective foster carer the opportunity to meet with the foster panel to discuss the matter.

(4) In carrying out its functions the fostering panel must have regard to—

- (a) the duties imposed on the local authority by section 17(1) of the 1995 Act;
- (b) all the information and reports passed to it.

## **PART VII FOSTERING**

### **Foster carers**

**21.**—(1) A local authority may make a decision to approve a person as a suitable carer for a child who is looked after by that authority in terms of section 17(6) of the 1995 Act which carer shall be known as a “foster carer”.

(2) A decision to approve a person as a foster carer must be made in accordance with regulation 22.

### **Approval of foster carers**

**22.**—(1) Where a local authority are considering whether to approve a person as a foster carer they must refer the case to a fostering panel.

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(7) 1980 c. 46.

- (2) The local authority must so far as reasonably practicable provide the fostering panel with—
- (a) the information in Schedule 3; and
  - (b) such other information or observations as they consider appropriate.
- (3) Where a local authority receive a recommendation from the fostering panel under regulation 20(2) they must make a decision on whether the prospective foster carer is suitable to be a foster carer within 14 days from the date the recommendation was made.
- (4) Where the local authority make a decision that a person is suitable to be a foster carer they must be satisfied that—
- (a) the prospective foster carer has been interviewed by or on behalf of the authority;
  - (b) the authority has taken into account the recommendations made by the fostering panel; and
  - (c) the prospective foster carer is a suitable person with whom to place a child or children.
- (5) A decision that a person is suitable to be a foster carer shall specify whether the approval is in respect of—
- (a) a particular child or children;
  - (b) any child;
  - (c) certain categories of child;
  - (d) the number of children each foster carer may have in their care at any one time.
- (6) Where the local authority make a decision that is contrary to the recommendation of the fostering panel the authority must record in writing the reasons for that decision.
- (7) The local authority must notify in writing the prospective foster carer of the decision made under paragraph (3) within 7 days of making that decision.

#### **Derivative approval of foster carers**

- 23.**—(1) A local authority may make a decision to approve a person as a foster carer where—
- (a) that person has been approved as such following a decision (“the original approval”) made by another local authority in accordance with regulation 22(3) or 26(8); and
  - (b) the original approval has not been terminated under regulation 25(3), 25(4) or 26(8).
- (2) A decision to approve a person as a foster carer under paragraph (1) must correspond to the same terms as the original approval or any variation thereof made under regulation 25(3) or 26(8).
- (3) Where a local authority make a decision to approve a person as a foster carer under paragraph (1) they must notify in writing the local authority which made the original approval.

#### **Agreements with foster carers**

- 24.** Where a local authority make a decision to approve a person as a foster carer that authority must enter into a written agreement with the foster carer regarding the matters and obligations in Schedule 6 and any other matters or obligations as the authority consider appropriate.

#### **Reviews and termination of approval**

- 25.**—(1) Where a local authority have made a decision to approve a foster carer that authority must, by complying with the requirements in paragraph (2), carry out a review of the foster carer’s approval—
- (a) within 12 months of the day the decision to approve the foster carer was made under regulation 22(3), 23 or 26(8);
  - (b) thereafter subsequent reviews within 3 years of the previous review; and

- (c) whenever paragraph (8) applies.
- (2) The requirements are–
  - (a) to refer the case to the fostering panel for a recommendation on whether the foster carer continues to be a suitable person with whom to place a child or children;
  - (b) to consider–
    - (i) whether the foster carer continues to be a suitable person with whom to place a child or children;
    - (ii) the development of the foster carer during the appropriate period; and
  - (c) to consult and take into account the views of–
    - (i) the child, taking account of their age and maturity;
    - (ii) the foster carer;
    - (iii) any local authority which placed a child with the foster carer within the appropriate period or at any time where that placement has not been terminated.
- (3) On the review of the approval of the foster carer the local authority may–
  - (a) vary the terms of the approval;
  - (b) terminate the approval; or
  - (c) confirm the decision to approve a person as a foster carer.
- (4) Where a foster carer notifies the local authority that they no longer wish to act as a foster carer or the local authority are otherwise satisfied that this is the case the authority must terminate the approval.
- (5) Following a review the local authority must–
  - (a) record in writing a report of the review which must include–
    - (i) information obtained in respect of the review;
    - (ii) details of the proceedings at any meeting arranged by the authority at which the approval of the foster carer is reviewed;
    - (iii) details of any decisions or arrangements made in the course of or as a result of the review; and
  - (b) give notice of the decision made under paragraph (3) to–
    - (i) the foster carer;
    - (ii) any other local authority which have approved the foster carer.
- (6) Where a local authority have approved a foster carer under regulation 23 they must, on receiving any notice under paragraph (5)(b)–
  - (a) vary or terminate their approval in accordance with any revision or determination made under paragraph (3) or 26(8); and
  - (b) give notice to the foster carer of any variation or termination of approval made under sub-paragraph (a).
- (7) In paragraph (2) “appropriate period” means the period ending 12 months from the day the decision to approve the foster carer was made under regulation 22(3), 23 or 26(8).
- (8) This paragraph applies where the local authority consider that a review of the foster carer’s approval is necessary or appropriate to safeguard the welfare of any child who has been placed with that carer.

**Review of approval: further provision**

26.—(1) Where a local authority approve a person as a foster carer under regulation 22(3), that person may request a review of the terms of the approval.

(2) Where a local authority make a decision—

- (a) not to approve a person as a foster carer under regulation 22(3);
- (b) to vary the terms of a foster carer’s approval under regulation 25(3)(a); or
- (c) to terminate a foster carer’s approval,

that person may request a review of the decision.

(3) A request for a review under paragraph (1) or (2) must be made before the end of the period of 28 days beginning with the day on which notice of the decision was made under regulation 22(7) or 25(5).

(4) Where the local authority receive a request for a review under paragraph (1) or (2) they must refer the case to a fostering panel for a recommendation.

(5) A referral under paragraph (4) must be made to a differently constituted fostering panel.

(6) Where a referral is made under paragraph (4) the local authority must provide the fostering panel with—

- (a) a copy of the decision and reasons made under regulation 22(3) or 25(3);
- (b) the information provided to the fostering panel under regulation 22;
- (c) any further representations received by the local authority from the foster carer or the prospective foster carer; and
- (d) any other relevant information.

(7) The fostering panel shall consider the case referred to it under paragraph (4) and make a fresh recommendation to the local authority as to whether—

- (a) the prospective foster carer is suitable to be a foster carer; or
- (b) the terms of the foster carer’s approval should be varied.

(8) The local authority must—

- (a) make a decision (“the reviewed decision”) within 14 days from the date the fresh recommendation was made under paragraph (7); and
- (b) notify the foster carer or prospective foster carer of their decision within 7 days of making the reviewed decision.

(9) In making a decision under paragraph (8)(a) the local authority may—

- (a) vary the terms of the approval;
- (b) terminate the approval; or
- (c) approve a person as a foster carer.

(10) The right to request a review under paragraph (1) or (2) does not apply to a decision made under paragraph (8)(a).

(11) Following a review under this regulation the local authority must record in writing a report of the review and give notice of their reviewed decision under paragraph (8)(a); and paragraphs (5) and (6) of regulation 25 apply as if—

- (a) references to the review were references to the review under this regulation; and
- (b) references to the decision under paragraph (3) were references to the reviewed decision under regulation 26(8)(a).

### **Placement of child with foster carer**

- 27.**—(1) A local authority must not place a child with a foster carer where—
- (a) the placement is or would be contrary to the terms of any supervision requirement made or any order made or authorisation or warrant granted under Chapter 2, 3 or 4 of Part II of the 1995 Act or any permanence order in respect of the child; or
  - (b) the placement would return child to the care of a person where the child was, by virtue of any order, authorisation or warrant, removed from the care of that person.
- (2) A local authority must not place a child with a foster carer unless they are satisfied that—
- (a) placement is in the best interests of the child;
  - (b) placement of the child with that foster carer is in the best interests of the child;
  - (c) the person with whom it is proposed to place the child has been approved as a foster carer by the local authority;
  - (d) they have taken into account all information available to them relevant to the performance of their duties under section 17(1) to (5) of the 1995 Act;
  - (e) they have given full consideration to the possibility of entering into an arrangement under regulation 8 or placing the child with a kinship carer;
  - (f) the foster carer has entered into a written agreement with the local authority under regulation 24;
  - (g) the foster carer has entered into a written agreement with the local authority as to the matters specified in Schedule 4; and
  - (h) the terms of the foster carer’s approval are consistent with the placement.
- (3) The local authority must require the foster carer with whom a child is placed to notify the authority immediately if the child—
- (a) dies;
  - (b) suffers any serious illness or injury; or
  - (c) absents themselves or without lawful authority is taken away from the foster carer’s home.
- (4) On receiving notification under paragraph (3) the local authority must, so far as reasonably practicable, immediately notify the child’s parents and any person who has any parental responsibilities or parental rights in relation to the child.

### **Death or absence of the foster carer: continuation of placement**

- 28.**—(1) This regulation applies where a local authority place a child with a foster carer in accordance with regulation 27 and that foster carer dies or ceases to live in the household following the placement.
- (2) The local authority may allow the child to remain in the household where paragraph (3) applies until such time as a member of that household is approved as a kinship carer or foster carer or the local authority determine that the child should be placed with another carer in accordance with these Regulations or in a residential establishment.
- (3) This paragraph applies where—
- (a) the local authority are satisfied that—
    - (i) it is in the best interests of the child to be cared for by another member of the foster carer’s household; and
    - (ii) the household member should be considered for approval as a kinship carer or a foster carer; and

- (b) the household member has signed a written agreement to carry out the duties in regulation 36(3).

#### **Notification of placement with foster carer**

**29.**—(1) Where a local authority place a child with a foster carer in accordance with regulation 27 they must, as soon as reasonably practicable, provide notification of the placement to—

- (a) the local authority for the area in which the foster carer resides if different from the authority making the placement;
- (b) the Health Board which provides services in the area in which the foster carer resides;
- (c) each parent of the child; and
- (d) any person with any parental responsibilities or parental rights in relation to the child.

(2) The requirements under paragraph (1)(c) and (d) do not apply in respect of any parent or person with parental responsibilities or parental rights who has already received a written copy of the child's care plan under regulation 5.

(3) Notification under paragraph (1)(c) or (d) must not be given to a person—

- (a) where the local authority are of the view that, taking into account their duties under section 17 of the 1995 Act, it would not be in the child's interests for notification to be given to that particular person;
- (b) where a permanence order, a supervision requirement or an order or warrant granted under Part II of the 1995 Act specifies that the place at which the child is to reside must not be disclosed to that particular person.

(4) In this regulation “notification” means notification in writing and shall include particulars of the placement.

#### **Short-term placements with foster carers**

**30.**—(1) Where paragraph (2) applies a series of planned short-term placements with a foster carer made in accordance with regulation 27 may be treated as a single placement with a foster carer for the purposes of these Regulations.

(2) This paragraph applies where—

- (a) all the placements occur within a period which does not exceed 12 months;
- (b) no single placement is for a duration of more than 4 weeks; and
- (c) the total duration of the placements does not exceed 120 days.

#### **Establishment of case records for foster carers**

**31.**—(1) A local authority must compile a written case record, if one is not already in existence, in respect of each foster carer who has been approved by that local authority and with whom a child has been placed.

(2) The written case record referred to in paragraph (1) shall include any—

- (a) written agreement entered into under regulation 24;
- (b) review of approval made under regulation 25 or 26;
- (c) variation of the terms of approval;
- (d) termination of approval;
- (e) agreement entered into under regulation 36(3); and
- (f) information specified in paragraph (3) insofar as it is relevant to the case.

- (3) The information referred to in paragraph (2)(f) is—
  - (a) a record of each placement with the foster carer including—
    - (i) the name, age and sex of each child placed;
    - (ii) the dates on which each placement began and terminated; and
    - (iii) the circumstances of any terminated placement;
  - (b) the information obtained by the local authority in respect of the decision to approve the foster carer; and
  - (c) the information obtained by the local authority in respect of any review, variation or termination of the foster carer’s approval.
- (4) The local authority must compile a written case record for each prospective foster carer.
- (5) The written record referred to in paragraph (4) must include the information obtained as to—
  - (a) the prospective foster carer;
  - (b) the members of the prospective foster carer’s household; and
  - (c) the prospective foster carer’s family.

#### **Retention and confidentiality of case records for foster carers**

**32.**—(1) A case record for a foster carer or prospective foster carer compiled under regulation 31 must be retained by the local authority for at least 25 years from the date the foster carer’s approval is terminated or until their death if earlier.

(2) The requirements of paragraph (1) may be complied with either by retaining the original written record or a copy of it or by keeping all the information from the record in some other accessible form (such as by means of a computer).

(3) Each local authority must secure the safe keeping of every case record and take all necessary steps to ensure that information contained in the case record is confidential subject only to—

- (a) any provision of, or made under or by virtue of any enactment under which access to such records or information may be obtained or given;
- (b) any court order under which access to such records or information may be obtained or given.

## **PART VIII**

### **FOSTERING AND KINSHIP CARE ALLOWANCES**

#### **Fostering and kinship care allowances**

**33.**—(1) A local authority shall, subject to such conditions as they consider necessary, pay such allowance, as they see fit to—

- (a) a foster carer or a kinship carer with whom a child has been placed in accordance with these Regulations;
  - (b) where a child is required by virtue of section 70(3)(a) of the 1993 Act to reside with a person other than their parent, the person with whom the child is directed to reside; and
  - (c) any person in whom parental responsibilities and parental rights are vested by virtue of the making of a permanence order with whom a child who is the subject of that order is residing.
- (2) Any allowance payable in terms of paragraph (1) may—

- (a) be—
  - (i) a fixed allowance applicable in the case of all children for whom the local authority have responsibility by virtue of section 17 of the 1995 Act;
  - (ii) a rate applicable to certain categories of case; or
  - (iii) amounts relevant to the individual needs of a particular child; and
- (b) take into account the needs and circumstances of the person with whom the child is placed.

## PART IX

### LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN PLACED IN RESIDENTIAL ESTABLISHMENTS

#### **Child placed in a residential establishment: notification**

**34.**—(1) Where a local authority place a child who is looked after by them in terms of section 17(6) of the 1995 Act in a residential establishment they must, as soon as reasonably practicable, provide notification of the placement to—

- (a) the local authority for the area in which the residential establishment is located if different from the authority making the placement;
- (b) the Health Board which provides services in the area in which the residential establishment is located;
- (c) each parent of the child; and
- (d) any person with any parental responsibilities or parental rights in relation to the child.

(2) The requirement under paragraph (1)(c) does not apply in respect of any parent or person with parental responsibilities or parental rights who has already received a written copy of the child’s care plan under regulation 5.

(3) Notification under paragraph (1)(c) and (d) must not be given to a person—

- (a) where the local authority are of the view that, taking into account their duties under section 17 of the 1995 Act, it would not be in the child’s interests for notification to be given to that particular person;
- (b) where a permanence order, a supervision requirement or an order or warrant granted under Part II of the 1995 Act specifies that the place at which the child is to reside must not be disclosed to that particular person.

(4) In this regulation “notification” means notification in writing and shall include particulars of the placement.

#### **Child placed in residential establishment: information to be supplied**

**35.** Where a local authority place a child who is looked after by them in terms of section 17(6) of the 1995 Act in a residential establishment, that authority must—

- (a) provide the person in charge of the residential establishment with—
  - (i) written information about the child’s background, educational needs, health and mental and emotional development; and
  - (ii) any other information which the local authority consider relevant to the placement including the views of the child having regard to the child’s age and maturity;
- (b) agree with the person in charge of the residential establishment arrangements for—
  - (i) ensuring that the child’s welfare is safeguarded and promoted;



- (ii) ensuring that the child receives such provision for their development and control as is conducive to their best interests;
- (iii) contact between the child and their family; and
- (iv) ensuring that the child receives adequate and efficient education.

## PART X

### EMERGENCY MEASURES

#### **Emergency placement with carer**

**36.**—(1) Subject to paragraph (4) where a child who is looked after by a local authority in terms of section 17(6) of the 1995 Act is to be placed in an emergency that authority may, for a period not exceeding 3 working days, place the child with—

- (a) any person approved as a kinship carer in respect of that child;
  - (b) any person approved as a foster carer; or
  - (c) any person who is known to the child and who has a pre-existing relationship with the child.
- (2) A local authority may not place a child under paragraph (1) unless—
- (a) they are satisfied that an emergency placement is the most suitable way of meeting the child's needs; and
  - (b) the person with whom the child is to be placed has signed a written agreement with the local authority to carry out the duties in paragraph (3).
- (3) The duties are—
- (a) to care for the child as if that child were a member of that person's family and in a safe and appropriate manner;
  - (b) to allow any person authorised by the local authority to visit the child at any reasonable time;
  - (c) where the placement is terminated to allow the child to be removed at any time by the local authority;
  - (d) to ensure that any information which the person may acquire relating to the child or to their family or any other person which has been given in confidence in connection with the placement is kept confidential and is not disclosed except to or with the agreement of the local authority; and
  - (e) to allow contact with the child in accordance with—
    - (i) section 17(1)(c) of the 1995 Act;
    - (ii) the terms of any contact order; and
    - (iii) any arrangements made or agreed by the local authority.
- (4) A child may not be placed under paragraph (1) where—
- (a) the placement is or would be contrary to the terms of any supervision requirement made or any order made or authorisation or warrant granted under chapter 2, 3 or 4 of Part II of the 1995 Act or any permanence order in respect of the child; or
  - (b) the placement would return the child to the care of a person where the child was, by virtue of any order, authorisation or warrant, removed from the care of that person.

(5) Where a local authority place a child under paragraph (1) they must provide the person with whom the child is placed with information about the child's background, health and emotional development.

### **Emergency placement in residential establishment**

**37.**—(1) Where a child who is looked after by a local authority in terms of section 17(6) of the 1995 Act is to be placed in an emergency that authority may place the child in a residential establishment for a period not exceeding 3 working days.

(2) A local authority may not place a child under paragraph (1) unless—

- (a) they are satisfied that an emergency placement in a residential establishment is the most suitable way of meeting the child's needs; and
- (b) they have given full consideration to the possibility of placing the child with a carer in accordance with regulation 36.

### **Review of emergency placement under regulation 36**

**38.**—(1) This regulation applies where a child is placed in an emergency under regulation 36.

(2) Within 3 working days of the child being placed the local authority must review the child's case to determine whether placement continues to be in the best interests of the child by complying with the requirements in paragraph (3).

(3) The requirements are—

- (a) to consult—
  - (i) the child, taking into account their age and maturity;
  - (ii) the person with whom the child has been placed;
  - (iii) any parent of the child; and
  - (iv) any person with parental responsibilities or parental rights in respect of the child;
- (b) to assess—
  - (i) whether placement is in the best interests of the child;
  - (ii) whether placement of the child with that carer is in the best interests of the child;
  - (iii) whether that carer has been approved as a kinship carer or as a foster carer;
  - (iv) all the information available to them relevant to the performance of their duties under section 17(1) to (5) of the 1995 Act; and
  - (v) where the child has not been placed with a member of their family, the possibility of placing the child with a kinship carer.

(4) Where the local authority are satisfied that, following a review of the emergency placement, placement with that carer continues to be in the best interests of the child the local authority must carry out the requirements in regulations 3, 4 and 5 in so far as they have not already done so.

### **Extension of emergency placement**

**39.**—(1) Where—

- (a) a child has been placed in an emergency under regulation 36; and
- (b) following a review of that placement carried out in accordance with regulation 38 the local authority are satisfied that placement with that carer continues to be in the best interests of the child,

the local authority may allow the placement to continue for a further period not exceeding 12 weeks beginning with the expiry of the period mentioned in regulation 36(1).

(2) The local authority must not allow the child to remain in the extended placement beyond the 12 week period referred to in paragraph (1) unless—

- (a) in the case of a child placed under regulation 36(1)(a) the requirements specified in regulation 11 are met;
- (b) in the case of a child placed under regulation 36(1)(b) the requirements specified in regulation 27 are met; or
- (c) in the case of a child placed under regulation 36(1)(c) the authority—
  - (i) are satisfied that placement with that carer is in the best interests of the child;
  - (ii) have approved the carer as a kinship carer; and
  - (iii) are satisfied that the requirements specified in regulation 11 are met.

(3) Before the expiry of 6 weeks beginning with the expiry of the period mentioned in regulation 36(1) the authority must carry out a review of the child’s case by complying with the requirements in regulation 38(3).

#### **Notification of an extended emergency placement**

**40.**—(1) Where a local authority allow an emergency placement to continue for a further period in accordance with regulation 39 they must, as soon as reasonably practicable, provide notification of the placement to—

- (a) the local authority for the area in which the carer resides if different from the authority making the placement;
- (b) the Health Board which provides services in the area in which the carer resides;
- (c) each parent of the child; and
- (d) any person with any parental responsibilities or parental rights in relation to the child.

(2) Notification under paragraph (1)(c) or (d) must not be given to a person—

- (a) where the local authority are of the view that, taking into account their duties under section 17 of the 1995 Act, it would not be in the child’s interests for notification to be given to that particular person;
- (b) where a permanence order, a supervision requirement or an order or warrant granted under Part II of the 1995 Act specifies that the place at which the child is to reside must not be disclosed to that particular person.

(3) In this regulation “notification” means notification in writing and shall include particulars of the placement.

#### **Review of emergency placement under regulation 37**

**41.**—(1) This regulation applies where a child is placed in an emergency in a residential establishment under regulation 37.

(2) Within 3 working days the local authority must review the child’s case to determine whether placement in that residential establishment continues to be in the best interests of the child by complying with the requirements in paragraph (3).

(3) The requirements are—

- (a) to consult—
  - (i) the child, taking into account their age and maturity;

- (ii) the manager of the residential establishment;
  - (iii) any parent of the child; and
  - (iv) any person with parental responsibilities or parental rights in respect of the child;
- (b) to assess—
- (i) whether placement is in the best interests of the child;
  - (ii) whether placement of the child in a residential establishment is in the best interests of the child;
  - (iii) all the information available to them relevant to the performance of their duties under section 17(1) to (5) of the 1995 Act; and
  - (iv) the possibility of placing the child with a kinship carer under regulation 11 or a foster carer under regulation 27.

(4) Where the local authority are satisfied that, following a review of the emergency placement in a residential establishment, placement in that establishment continues to be in the best interests of the child the local authority must carry out the requirements in regulations 3, 4, 5, 34 and 35 in so far as they have not already done so.

## PART XI

### CASE RECORDS

#### **Establishment of case records for looked after children**

**42.**—(1) Each local authority must establish and maintain a written case record, if one is not already in existence, in respect of each child who is looked after by that authority in terms of section 17(6) of the 1995 Act.

- (2) Each case record must include—
- (a) a copy of the child’s plan referred to in regulation 5 and any revised child’s plan;
  - (b) a copy of the information obtained under regulation 3(3);
  - (c) a copy of any written report in their possession concerning the welfare of the child;
  - (d) a copy of any document considered or record established in the course of or as a result of any review of the child’s case; and
  - (e) details of any arrangements made by the local authority in respect of the care of the child with any person; and
  - (f) details of any arrangements made by the local authority in respect of the child with any registered fostering service.

#### **Retention and confidentiality of records**

**43.**—(1) A case record relating to a child who is placed by a local authority must be retained by that authority—

- (a) until the 100th anniversary of the child’s date of birth;
- (b) if the child dies before attaining the age of 18 years, for a period of 25 years beginning with the date of death.

(2) The requirements of paragraph (1) may be complied with either by retaining the original written record or a copy of it or by keeping all of the information from the record in some other accessible form (such as by means of a computer).

(3) Each local authority must secure the safe keeping of every case record and take all necessary steps to ensure that information contained in the case record is confidential subject only to—

- (a) any provision of, or made under or by virtue of any enactment under which access to such records or information may be obtained or given;
- (b) any court order under which access to such records or information may be obtained or given.

## PART XII

### REVIEW OF CHILD'S CASE

#### **Review of child's case: child cared for by parents or persons with parental responsibilities and parental rights**

**44.**—(1) This regulation applies where a child is looked after by a local authority in terms of section 17(6) of the 1995 Act and is cared for by their parents or any person with parental rights and parental responsibilities in respect of the child by virtue of—

- (a) an arrangement made in accordance with regulation 8; or
- (b) a permanence order.

(2) The local authority must review the child's case by complying with the requirements in paragraph (3).

(3) The requirements are—

- (a) to consult and take into account the views of—
  - (i) the child, taking account of the child's age and maturity;
  - (ii) the child's parents; and
  - (iii) any person with parental responsibilities or parental rights in respect of the child;
- (b) to assess—
  - (i) the child's needs and how those needs are being met;
  - (ii) the child's long term needs and how those needs are being or can be met;
  - (iii) whether the child's welfare is being safeguarded and promoted;
  - (iv) the child's development;
  - (v) whether the accommodation is suitable for the child; and
  - (vi) the child's educational needs and whether those needs are being met.
- (c) to consider any written report made in accordance with regulation 46(4).

(4) Following a review of the child's case the local authority must—

- (a) record in writing—
  - (i) information obtained in respect of the review;
  - (ii) details of the proceedings at any meeting arranged by the authority at which the child's case is considered in connection with any aspect of the review of that case; and
  - (iii) details of any decisions or arrangements made in the course of or as a result of the review; and
- (b) revise the child's plan prepared under regulation 5 to take account of the outcome of the review.

- (5) The local authority must agree the frequency of reviews with—
  - (a) the child, taking account of the child’s age and maturity; and
  - (b) the person caring for the child.
- (6) Where no agreement is reached under paragraph (5) the local authority must carry out the following reviews of the child’s case:—
  - (a) a first review within 6 weeks of the placement; and
  - (b) thereafter subsequent reviews within 12 months of the previous review.

**Review of the child’s case: child placed with kinship carer, foster carer or in a residential establishment**

- 45.**—(1) This regulation applies where a child has been placed by a local authority—
- (a) with a kinship carer in accordance with regulation 11;
  - (b) with a foster carer in accordance with regulation 27;
  - (c) by virtue of regulation 39(1); or
  - (d) in a residential establishment.
- (2) Subject to paragraphs (3) and (4) the local authority must, by complying with the requirements in paragraph (5), carry out the following reviews of the child’s case:—
- (a) a first review within 6 weeks of the placement;
  - (b) a second review within 3 months from the date of the first review; and
  - (c) thereafter subsequent reviews within 6 months from the date of the previous review.
- (3) Where regulation 14 or 30 applies or the child has been placed by virtue of regulation 39(1), the local authority must, by complying with the requirements in paragraph (5), carry out the following reviews of the child’s case:—
- (a) a first review within 3 months from, where regulation 14 or 30 applies, the date on which the placement was first made and, where regulation 39(1) applies, the date of the review required by regulation 39(3); and
  - (b) thereafter subsequent reviews within 6 months from the date of the previous review.
- (4) Notwithstanding paragraphs (2) and (3) a review must be carried out—
- (a) prior to a decision by the local authority to refer the child’s case to the Principal Reporter under section 73(4)(8) of the 1995 Act;
  - (b) prior to an application by the local authority for a permanence order; and
  - (c) where practicable, under any other circumstances when a children’s hearing is convened under the 1995 Act to consider the case of a child.
- (5) The requirements are—
- (a) to consult and take into account the views of—
    - (i) the child, taking account of the child’s age and maturity;
    - (ii) the kinship carer, foster carer or manager of any residential establishment where the child has been placed; and
    - (iii) any person with any parental responsibilities or parental rights in respect of the child;
  - (b) to assess—
    - (i) the child’s needs and how those needs are being met;

(8) Section 73(4) is amended by the Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007, asp 4, section 120(1), Schedule 2, paragraph 9(7).

- (ii) the child's long term needs and how those needs are being or can be met;
  - (iii) whether the child's welfare is being safeguarded and promoted;
  - (iv) the child's development;
  - (v) whether the accommodation is suitable for the child;
  - (vi) the child's educational needs and whether those needs are being met.
- (c) to consider any written report made in accordance with regulation 46(4).
- (6) Following a review of the child's case the local authority must—
- (a) record in writing—
    - (i) information obtained in respect of the review;
    - (ii) details of the proceedings at any meeting arranged by the authority at which the child's case is considered in connection with any aspect of the review of that case; and
    - (iii) details of any decisions or arrangements made in the course of or as a result of the review; and
  - (b) revise the child's plan prepared under regulation 5 to take account of the outcome of the review.

#### **Local authority visits: child in placement**

- 46.**—(1) This regulation applies where a child has been placed by a local authority—
- (a) with a kinship carer in accordance with regulation 11;
  - (b) with a foster carer in accordance with regulation 27;
  - (c) by virtue of regulation 39(1); or
  - (d) in a residential establishment.
- (2) The local authority must ensure that the child and their carer are visited on their behalf—
- (a) within one week of the placement being made; and
  - (b) thereafter at intervals of not more than 3 months from the date of the previous visit.
- (3) Without prejudice to the duty at paragraph (2) the local authority must ensure that the child and their carer are visited on their behalf—
- (a) on any occasion where the local authority consider it necessary or appropriate to safeguard or promote the welfare of the child;
  - (b) where paragraph (1)(a) or (b) applies on any occasion where the local authority consider it necessary or appropriate to provide support and assistance to the child's carer for the purpose of safeguarding or promoting the welfare of the child; and
  - (c) where reasonably requested to do so by the child or their carer.
- (4) The local authority must ensure that written reports are produced recording the visits made in accordance with paragraph (2) or (3).
- (5) In this regulation "carer" means, in relation to the child—
- (a) the kinship carer with whom the child has been placed in accordance with regulation 11;
  - (b) the foster carer with whom the child has been placed in accordance with regulation 27;
  - (c) the person with whom the child is placed by virtue of regulation 39(1); or
  - (d) the manager of the residential establishment at which the child has been placed.

**Termination of placement**

**47.**—(1) Where, for any reason, it appears to a local authority that it is no longer in a child's best interests to remain in a placement the local authority must make arrangements to terminate the placement as soon as is practicable.

(2) Where a local authority terminates a placement under paragraph (1) they must immediately notify any person, local authority or Health Board who received notification of the placement under regulation 13, 29 or 34.

(3) In this regulation a child is in a placement where that child is—

- (a) being cared for under arrangements made in accordance with regulation 8;
- (b) placed with a kinship carer under regulation 11;
- (c) placed with a foster carer under regulation 27;
- (d) placed with a carer in an emergency under regulation 36 or 39; or
- (e) otherwise provided with accommodation by a local authority under section 25 of the 1995 Act.

**PART XIII****ARRANGEMENTS WITH REGISTERED FOSTERING SERVICES****Arrangements with registered fostering services**

**48.**—(1) Each local authority may individually or jointly enter into arrangements with one or more registered fostering services for the purposes of carrying out the functions mentioned in paragraph (2) in relation to children who are looked after by them in terms of section 17(6) of the 1995 Act.

(2) The functions are those specified in Parts II, III, VI, VIII, X, XI and XII of these Regulations.

(3) A local authority must not make arrangements under this regulation unless—

- (a) they are satisfied—
  - (i) as to the capacity of the registered fostering service to discharge duties and functions on their behalf; and
  - (ii) the arrangements are the most suitable way for those duties and functions to be discharged;
- (b) they enter into a written agreement with the registered fostering service regarding the matters in Part 1 of Schedule 7; and
- (c) where they propose to make arrangements in respect of a particular child, they enter into a written agreement with the registered fostering service regarding the matters in Part II of Schedule 7.

(4) Each local authority entering into an arrangement under this regulation must review the arrangement at intervals of not more than 12 months.

(5) No registered fostering service shall be permitted to place a child outside the United Kingdom.

**Visits by local authorities**

**49.**—(1) This regulation applies where, by virtue of an arrangement made under regulation 48, a registered fostering service places a child with a foster carer in accordance with these Regulations.



(2) The local authority must arrange for one of their officers to visit the child within 28 days of the placement.

(3) Where the registered fostering service which placed the child with the carer makes representations to the local authority that there are circumstances relating to the child which require a visit, the local authority must arrange for one of their officers to visit the child within 14 days from the day they receive those representations.

(4) Where the local authority are informed that the welfare of the child may not be or is not being safeguarded or promoted, the local authority must arrange for one of their officers to visit the child as soon as reasonably practicable but not later than 3 days from the day they are so informed.

## PART XIV

### TRANSITIONAL AND SAVINGS PROVISION

#### **Cases in progress under the Arrangements to Look After Children Regulations or the Fostering Regulations**

**50.**—(1) Any action or decision under a provision of the Arrangements to Look After Children Regulations or the Fostering Regulations will, on or after 28th September 2009, be treated as if it were an action or decision under the corresponding provision of these Regulations.

(2) Where, before 28th September 2009, a fostering panel has considered whether a person is suitable or continues to be suitable to be a foster carer and no decision on that question has been made by the local authority before 28th September 2009, the Fostering Regulations continue to apply for the purposes of making that decision.

(3) Where a local authority makes a decision under the Fostering Regulations (whether before 28th September 2009 or, by virtue of paragraph (2), on or after that day) that a person is suitable to become a foster carer—

- (a) the Fostering Regulations continue to apply for the purposes of placing the child with that foster carer; and
- (b) any such placement will be deemed to have been made under regulation 27 of these Regulations.

(4) Where, before 28th September 2009, a child has been placed under regulation 12 of the Fostering Regulations that child will be treated as if they had been placed with a foster carer in accordance with regulation 27 of these Regulations regardless of whether or not that foster carer was, at the time of the placement, known to or related to the child.

(5) Where, before 28th September 2009, a child has been placed in an emergency in accordance with regulation 13 of the Fostering Regulations that placement will continue to have effect until the expiry of the period mentioned in regulation 13(1) of those Regulations.

(6) Where, before 28th September 2009, a child has been placed in an immediate placement in accordance with regulation 14 of the Fostering Regulations that placement will continue to have effect until the expiry of the period mentioned in regulation 14(1) of those Regulations.

#### **Fostering allowances**

**51.** Where a person was receiving, before their revocation, an allowance under regulation 9 of the Fostering Regulations that person may continue to receive payments so made which, had there been no revocation, would have fallen to that person, or that person may agree to receive, instead of the continued payments, payments in accordance with regulation 33 of these Regulations.

**PART XV**  
**MISCELLANEOUS**

**Revocation**

- 52.** The following Regulations are revoked:–
- (a) the Arrangements to Look After Children Regulations; and
  - (b) the Fostering Regulations.

St Andrew's House,  
Edinburgh  
2nd June 2009

*ADAM INGRAM*  
Authorised to sign by the Scottish Ministers