

# Placing Children outside the UK 7 Minute Briefing

## 1. Background

Fay is a Cared for Child (subject to a Care Order) who lives outside of the UK in a friends and family arrangement. Fay disclosed that she had been the victim of sexual abuse, perpetrated by male family members within her foster family. A multi-agency case review took place to identify learning from the incident. Complexities in care planning were noted as a result of the jurisdiction issues, with Fay being a cared for child by Salford, but being placed outside of the UK in a country which is governed by a different legislative framework.

## 2. Gaining the co-operation of Overseas Authorities

When a child is unable to be cared for at home by their biological parents, placements with family or friends should be considered in the first instance. For Fay this was achieved. Kinship care is a term used in the UK to define adults raising children such as grandparents, extended family members, and significant others with whom they have a close relationship. Social Workers need to ensure they are contacting the relevant country via their Embassies, High Commissioners or Consulates at the earliest opportunity to discuss their legal framework and the impact for the child or young person.

## 3. UK Guidance and Legislation

There are several sources of UK Government guidance for Social Workers placing children and working abroad. All UK Social Workers and their Managers need to be familiar with guidance such as Working with Foreign Authorities: [Advice template \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/614443/Advice-template-publishing-service.gov.uk) The document clearly sets out practical steps when working or assessing families overseas.

## 4. Social Worker Registration UK and Overseas

All UK Social Workers are required to 'Register to Practice' with Social Work England as defined in The Social Work Regulations 2018. All Social Workers must also establish if their qualification allows them to complete their duties overseas and register with the relevant bodies.

## 5. Registration continued

In some countries it is a criminal offence to practice without registering with the appropriate governing body. Social Work England will provide registered Social Workers with proof of their registration to share with the relevant governing body.

Further information can be found here: [Work outside England - Social Work England](https://www.socialworkengland.org.uk/work-outside-england-social-work-england)

## 6. Overseas recognition of Orders granted in the UK

Legal advice should be sought in all cases where a child may be placed outside of the UK. Social Workers and their managers will need to work together with Legal Services to establish if the Order is recognised in the country of placement. Families can face numerous challenges, for example accessing financial support, school placements and accessing health assessments.

## 7. Resources

We recognise that placing children outside of the UK is complex work and can be difficult to navigate, to Support with this Salford Safeguarding Partnership has developed a list of useful resources below:

**All Embassies and Consulates:** [Embassy and High Commission contact list \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

**International Support Line:** [CFAB | UK Branch of International Social Services](#)

---

### Additional Information

**Visit:** <https://safeguardingchildren.salford.gov.uk/>

**Email:** [SSCP@salford.gov.uk](mailto:SSCP@salford.gov.uk)

**Date Published:** April 2024

---