



# KICUP SKILLS

## RIGHTS AS A CARE LEAVER

RECOMENDED AGE 16+



\*KICup stands for Kids in Care, the up represents the high aspirations we have for you. This name was created by care experienced people within Three Circles Fostering.

# YOUR RIGHTS

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## You are a care leaver... what are your entitlements?

You can expect to be involved in the decisions made about your future. The local authority will:

- Allocate a personal advisor
- Develop an individual pathway plan
- Support you to find somewhere suitable to live
- Offer you financial support
- Support you with education, training and employment
- Help you stay fit and healthy
- Ensure they listen to you and know what to do if you are not happy about something
- Help you with seeing with your family - if you want to and it is safe for you to do so.

Sometimes it can be very complicated to know exactly what support you should be getting from Children's Services. Coram Voice have tried to make things easier for you. Go to <https://coramvoice.org.uk/myrights/> to read all about your rights. At Three Circles we will send you a pack with all of your rights inside when you reach 16.



[Get Help](#) ▾ [My Rights](#) ▾ [My Stories](#) ▾ [Get Involved](#) ▾ [For Professionals](#) ▾

## My Rights

If you are in care, on the edge of care or a care leaver, you have certain rights and entitlements.

Coram Voice can support you to know your rights and make sure you are clear on what you can and can't do.

Call our **Always Heard Helpline: 0808 800 5792**



My rights when I'm in care



My rights when I'm leaving care

# SORTED AND SUPPORTED

This guide called Sorted and Supported has everything you need to know about your rights. Click on the image to be directed to the [document](#).

<https://coramvoice.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/1870-CV-SortedSupported-Guide-new-Apr21.pdf>



Become have created a [factsheet](#) all about your rights. These were created in 2017, so for the most up to date info, use the Sorted and Supported guide above! If we have sent this out to you, you can access this information digitally at [threecirclesfostering.com/nextsteps](http://threecirclesfostering.com/nextsteps)

[https://becomecharity.org.uk/content/uploads/2022/01/6-factsheet\\_english-v2.pdf](https://becomecharity.org.uk/content/uploads/2022/01/6-factsheet_english-v2.pdf)

FACTSHEET **6** Care and your rights PAGE 1 OF 2

## GET TO KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

**A GUIDE TO THE CARE SYSTEM AND WHAT RIGHTS YOU HAVE WHEN YOU'RE IN CARE.**

This is from a series of FREE factsheets for young people with care experience, produced by the charity for children in care and young care leavers, Become.

**Why do people go into care?**

There are many reasons why you might have gone into care. It could be because your family aren't looking after you properly or because something bad has happened at home. Whatever the reason is, it's really important to remember that it's not your fault and that lots of children go into care. Going into care can be a confusing and worrying time as it often means adults you have only just met making big decisions about your life, such as where you might live and when you might see your parents or brothers and sisters. However, it can also be a chance for a fresh start for you. Your life will definitely be different, but lots of young people say that they were glad they were taken into care and that it was better than living with their family.

**What is the 'care system'?**

If you are a child under the age of 18 in the UK and you cannot live with your family for some reason, the government has to make sure that you are safe and well cared for. You will go into care and be in what is sometimes called the 'care system', which means how care is organised.

**What bits of law affect being in care?**

**Section 20 of the Children Act 1989 - Voluntary Care**  
If you're in care under section 20, it doesn't involve a court and your parents will still have legal responsibility for you, shared with the local authority. This sometimes happens when a child's parents are in prison, or when a young person's relationship with their parents has broken down, or when a young person is homeless. It can also happen when a young person asks to be taken into care.

**Section 31 of the Children Act 1989 - Care Order**  
This is when the court makes a 'care order' for you, because it's likely you might be harmed physically or emotionally if you stay living at home. This means that the main parental responsibility for you is taken over by your local authority. If you're in the care of a local authority, you will be considered a 'looked after child' (the legal term for being in care) and your local authority takes the role of your 'corporate parent' which means they have responsibility for you. As a looked after child, there are several things that the law says your local authority must do for you to ensure you are safe and well cared for.

**Care Advice Line**  
FREEPHONE 0800 023 2033

**BECOME.**  
THE CHARITY FOR CHILDREN IN CARE AND YOUNG CARE LEAVERS

[ahicks@becomecharity.org.uk](mailto:ahicks@becomecharity.org.uk) | [www.becomecharity.org.uk/care-ahicks-line](http://www.becomecharity.org.uk/care-ahicks-line) | [Facebook.com/BecomeCharity](https://www.facebook.com/BecomeCharity) | [@Become1992](https://www.instagram.com/Become1992)

# OTHER PLACES TO LEARN ABOUT YOUR RIGHTS

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If you need an advocate or information about your rights contact:

- Coram Voice
  - [www.coramvoice.org.uk/alwaysheard](http://www.coramvoice.org.uk/alwaysheard)
  - [help@coramvoice.org.uk](mailto:help@coramvoice.org.uk)
  - Freephone: 0808 800 5792 / 07758 670 369

For legal advice and information contact:

- Child Law Advice Service (Coram Children's Legal Centre)
  - [www.childlawadvice.org.uk](http://www.childlawadvice.org.uk)
  - 0300 330 5480
- Law Stuff (Coram Children's Legal Centre)
  - [www.lawstuff.org.uk](http://www.lawstuff.org.uk)
- Find a solicitor (Law Society)
  - [www.lawsociety.org.uk/find-a-solicitor](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/find-a-solicitor)

For immigration advice contact:

- Migrant Children's Project (Coram Children's Legal Centre)
  - [www.childrenslegalcentre.com](http://www.childrenslegalcentre.com)
  - [mcpadvice@coramclc.org.uk](mailto:mcpadvice@coramclc.org.uk)
- Children's Advice Project (Refugee Council)
  - [www.refugeecouncil.org.uk](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk)
  - 0207 346 1134
- Find a solicitor (Law Society)
  - [www.lawsociety.org.uk/find-a-solicitor](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/find-a-solicitor)

For housing and homelessness advice contact:

- Shelter
  - [www.shelter.org.uk](http://www.shelter.org.uk)
  - 0808 800 4444

For care leavers with disabilities contact:

- SCOPE
  - [www.scope.org.uk](http://www.scope.org.uk)
  - 0808 800 3333
- Mencap
  - [www.mencap.org.uk](http://www.mencap.org.uk)
  - 0808 808 1111
- MIND
  - [www.mind.org.uk](http://www.mind.org.uk)
  - 0300 123 3393 or email [info@mind.org.uk](mailto:info@mind.org.uk)

Other advice and support services for care leavers:

- Help at Hand (Children's Commissioner)
  - <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/help-at-hand/>
  - 0800 528 0731
- Care Advice Line (Become)
  - [www.becomecharity.org.uk/help-advice/care-advice-line/](http://www.becomecharity.org.uk/help-advice/care-advice-line/)
  - 0800 023 2033

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Wilmslow  
SK9 2TB

Phone: 01625 533531  
[Threecirclesfostering.com](https://www.threecirclesfostering.com)

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Where possible, we have utilised [language that cares](#) through this  
document

