

7

Information about social care services for asylum seekers who are disabled parents, would-be parents, or adults in a parenting role

References

ASR: Asylum Support Regulations 2000
CA: Children Act 1989
CDCA: Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000
CRSA: Carers (Recognition and Services) Act 1995
DDA: Disability Discrimination Act 1995
ECHR: European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms
Framework: Framework for Assessment of Children and their Families, 2000, Department of Health, www.doh.gov.uk
HRA: Human Rights Act 1998
IAA : Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
NAA : National Assistance Act 1948
NASS: National Asylum Support Service
NHSCCA: National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990
NIAA : Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002
Refugee Convention : 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees
UKBA: UK Border Agency

A. WHAT ARE COMMUNITY CARE SERVICES?

Adults with physical or learning disabilities, communication impairments, mental health or other health needs may be eligible for support under community care legislation.

The original and usual aim of “community care” services is to help adults with additional needs (including parents) live as independently as possible.

Each local authority must publish their eligibility criteria for community care services. An adult can only receive services from social services if he/she has had an assessment of need.

Support under the community care provisions is available to asylum seekers but is subject to significant restrictions dependent upon their immigration status. **These restrictions are set out in section D below.**

s 21, 29 National Assistance Act 1948, s 2 Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970, s 45 of the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968, s 21 and sch 8 of the National Health Service Act 1977, Mental Health Act 1983

Fair Access to Care Services (2003), DOH

The information contained in this advice sheet is intended for guidance only and whilst every effort is made to ensure it is correct at time of publication it should not be used as a substitute for legal advice. For client specific advice please contact Family Rights Group

Asylum seekers do not need to satisfy the local authority eligibility criteria to qualify for accommodation under s21 NAA. **See further at section D below.**

B. WHO IS AN ASYLUM SEEKER?

The following definitions are used for the purposes of this advice sheet only and are only for the purposes of asylum support :

An **'asylum seeker'**, for support purposes only, is a person

- who is at least 18 yrs old;
- who is in the UK;
- who has made a claim for asylum in person (either under the Refugee Convention or Article 3 ECHR) which has been recorded by the Secretary of State ; AND
 - whose claim has not been **determined**¹; ; OR
 - whose claim has been refused but whose household includes dependents under the age of 18 (born before the claim was refused) and who remains in the UK.

S94 IAA and s18 NIAA

S 94(5) IAA

A **'refused asylum seeker'**, for support purposes only, is an asylum seeker who did not have dependants when their claim was determined.

A refused asylum seeker whose child is born *after* her claim is *determined* will fall within this category.

A **Schedule 3 refused asylum seeker** is a refused asylum seeker whose claim has been *determined* and

- has failed to co-operate with removal directions; or
- is unlawfully in the UK – for asylum seekers, this applies if the original claim for asylum was made in country (i.e.: not at port of entry); or
- who has dependents and has been certified by the Secretary of State as failing to leave voluntarily.

Sch 3 NIAA

Sch 3 Para 6

Sch 3 Para 7

Sch 3 Para 7A

C. WHAT SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE FOR ASYLUM SEEKING FAMILIES FROM THE UK BORDER AGENCY

Asylum seekers are not allowed to work or to claim state benefits. Instead,

² A claim is determined either (i) 21 days after the Home Office notifies the applicant of the decision on the claim for asylum by a notice in writing OR (ii) if the applicant brings an appeal within required time limits, 21 days after the disposal of the final appeal.

The information contained in this advice sheet is intended for guidance only and whilst every effort is made to ensure it is correct at time of publication it should not be used as a substitute for legal advice. For client specific advice please contact Family Rights Group

basic support for asylum seekers (including housing and income) is provided under sections 4 and 95 of the IAA.

S4 & S95 IAA

Support is administered by the UK Border Agency (formerly the Border Immigration Authority). Since 5 March 2007, all new cases are administered by a caseworker appointed under the New Asylum Model (NAM). Prior to March 2007 support was administered by NASS (National Asylum Support Service). Old NASS cases are dealt with as 'legacy cases'. The present situation is confusing as many people continue to refer to asylum support as 'NASS support'.

1. Basic support for asylum seekers: housing and income

All asylum seekers (as defined above), whether single adults or families with dependents who are in the UK and who would otherwise be **destitute**², can apply for support for themselves and their dependents under section 95 IAA.

S95 IAA

They can apply for one of three packages of support:

- subsistence and accommodation;
- subsistence only (if they are staying with friends or relatives); or
- accommodation only.

S96 IAA

UKBA *must* support eligible families with dependent children.

S122 IAA

Subsistence support is intended to meet an individual or family's 'essential living needs' and no more³.

S96(1)(b) IAA

Asylum seekers with dependent children should continue to receive support under s95 IAA after their claim is refused until such time as they leave the UK or support is withdrawn under Schedule 3 NIAA.

Asylum seekers **who do not have dependent children with them in the UK at the time their asylum claim (including any appeals) is refused**, will lose this basic support 21 days after their claim has been refused. At this point they become refused asylum seekers, and may be eligible for section 4 support under s4 IAA.

S4 IAA

Women whose first child is born more than 21 days after their claim for asylum (including any appeals) is finally refused will be treated as refused asylum-seekers.

² An applicant must be destitute, or likely to become destitute within a prescribed period, currently 14 days for new applicants, 56 days for those already receiving support. **A person is destitute if** "he does not have adequate accommodation or any means of obtaining it (whether or not his other essential living needs are met) or he has adequate accommodation or the means of obtaining it, but cannot meet his other essential living needs" s95(3) IAA.

³ This phrase 'essential living needs' has been held to mean the basic living needs (food, nourishment, clothing and warmth) of an ordinary person with no peculiarities or disabilities – R v Secretary of State, ex parte Oujii [2002] EWHC 1839 (Admin)

The information contained in this advice sheet is intended for guidance only and whilst every effort is made to ensure it is correct at time of publication it should not be used as a substitute for legal advice. For client specific advice please contact Family Rights Group

2. 'Section 4' support for refused asylum-seekers: housing and vouchers

Section 4 support (also known as 'hard case' support) is intended to be a temporary and limited package of support available from BIA for any refused asylum seeker who is **destitute** AND meets one of the following conditions:

S4 IAA

- s/he is taking all reasonable steps to leave the UK; or
- is unable to leave the UK due to medical or physical impediment; or
- there is no viable route of return to his/her country of origin available⁴; or
- permission has been granted for an application for judicial review has been made; or
- provision of accommodation is necessary to avoid a breach of his/her human rights.

*Regs 2 and 3
Asylum (Provision of
Accommodation to
Failed Asylum
Seekers)
Regulations 2005.*

Whether these conditions are met will depend on the evidence available in each individual case.

If one of these conditions is met, the support provided consists of either full-board accommodation, or accommodation plus food/toiletries vouchers worth £35 a week. These vouchers can only be exchanged at a limited number of outlets. In reality, people may be in receipt of hard case support for a substantial period of time.

Regulations which came into force 31 January 2008 provide for additional payments by way of vouchers for specific additional needs. These are:

- Travel for healthcare treatment or to register a birth;
- Phone cards / stationary / stamps;
- One-off voucher of £250 for pregnant women /new mothers;
- Additional weekly vouchers (£3/£5) for pregnant women and children under 3 years;
- Clothing for children (£5 pw);
- Exceptional specific needs

*The Immigration and
Asylum (Provision of
Services or Facilities)
Regulations 2007*

D. WHAT SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE FROM THE LOCAL AUTHORITY FOR PARENTS OR CARERS WHO ARE DISABLED OR IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION ?

1. Accommodation

Local Authorities must provide accommodation and support services for a

S21 NAA

⁴ Countries where there is no viable route of return are only those which are defined as such by the Home Office.

The information contained in this advice sheet is intended for guidance only and whilst every effort is made to ensure it is correct at time of publication it should not be used as a substitute for legal advice. For client specific advice please contact Family Rights Group

person who is over 18 and who satisfies the criteria set out in s21 NAA. Financial support cannot be provided independently of accommodation under s 21 NAA 48.

The duty to provide accommodation under s 21(1) NAA is dependent upon three conditions being satisfied:

- (i) the person must be in need of care and attention;
- (ii) the need must arise by reason of age, illness, disability or "other circumstances"; and
- (iii) the care and attention which is needed must not be available otherwise than by the provision of accommodation under section 21.

The **duty** to accommodate and support arises once the s21NAA criteria are satisfied.

Case law has established that a need for 'care and attention' means a need for 'looking after'. This includes things such as needing help with dressing, toileting or shopping. A need for medical treatment alone does not fall within s21.

The duty of the local authority under s21 is an **absolute duty – once an individual is assessed as in need of care and attention, that is not otherwise available, the local authority must provide accommodation** (subject to the restrictions set out below, in paragraph 4). This duty can be enforced through a judicial review application to the High Court.

2. Food and other welfare services

Where accommodation is provided under s21 NAA, the local authority has a duty to provide food and other welfare services to the extent necessary to meet the identified need for care and attention. Financial support cannot be provided independently of accommodation under s 21 NAA 48.

3. Support available under other Community Care Legislation

The following legislation may be applicable to an individual case, but detailed consideration is outside the scope of this advice sheet.

- Section 29 NAA 1948 (non-residential services for adults who are suffering from serious disability - blind, deaf, dumb or suffering mental disorder or who are substantially and permanently handicapped by illness, injury, or congenital deformity)
- Section 2 Local Government Act 2000 - the local authority may do anything to promote social well-being of their area, including financial assistance and accommodation;

The information contained in this advice sheet is intended for guidance only and whilst every effort is made to ensure it is correct at time of publication it should not be used as a substitute for legal advice. For client specific advice please contact Family Rights Group

Wahid v Tower Hamlets London Borough Council [2002] EWCA Civ 287

M v Slough BC (2008) UKHL 52

R v Kensington and Chelsea Royal London Borough Council ex parte Kutijim [1999] 4 All ER 161

S21(5) NAA, Secretary of State's approvals and directions under section 21(1) of the NAA (LAC(93)10 Appendix 1)

- Section 2 Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970 (non residential services for person who is suffering from serious disability - blind, deaf, dumb or suffering mental disorder or permanent handicap).

Access to the services set out above is limited by Sch 3 NIAA (see para 4 below)

- Section 117 Mental Health Act 1983 (after care for person who has been compulsorily detained under the Mental Health Act including accomodation. **Access to these services are NOT limited by Sch 3 NIAA.**

4. Restrictions on provision of Section 21 NAA community care support for asylum seekers

(i) Assessment

Support will only be provided to an individual if the local authority has carried out an assessment of the need for care and attention (see section E) and that assessment has identified a need. The local authority must then prepare a care plan, setting out how they propose to meet those needs.

S47 NHSCCA
N v Lambeth [2006]
EWHC 3427 (Admin)

(ii) Specific restrictions on the rights of asylum seekers to receive community care support

(a) Persons 'subject to immigration control' have limited rights to support under s21 NAA. All three categories of asylum seeker set out in section B above are persons 'subject to immigration control'.

S 115(9) IAA

People who are subject to immigration control must show that they satisfied the s21(1)(a) criteria,

- the person must be in need of care and attention;
- the need must arise by reason of age, illness, disability or "other circumstances"; and
- the care and attention which is needed must not be available otherwise than by the provision of accommodation under section 21.

AND, in addition, they must show that their need for care and attention does **not** arise **solely**

S21(1A)

- because they are destitute; or
- because of the physical effects, or anticipated physical effects, of their being destitute.

Westminster City
Council v NASS

The information contained in this advice sheet is intended for guidance only and whilst every effort is made to ensure it is correct at time of publication it should not be used as a substitute for legal advice. For client specific advice please contact Family Rights Group

In other words the person must have mental or physical difficulties, unrelated to destitution, which has a material impact on their needs. This can include difficulties caused by domestic violence. These criteria are commonly referred to as 'destitution plus'. Individuals that meet this criteria are entitled to accommodation under s21 NAA

*[2002] UKHL 38
R(Khan) v
Oxfordshire City
Council [2004]
EWCA Civ 309.
R v Wandsworth BC
ex p O [2000] 4 ER
590;
PB v Haringey
(2006) EWCH 2255*

(b) Schedule 3 refused asylum seekers are excluded from all community care services unless provision of services is necessary to avoid a breach of their human rights⁵. See section I 'What about my human rights?'

5. Pregnant and nursing mothers

Local authorities have a discretionary power to provide support to pregnant and nursing mothers under s21(1)(aa) NAA. When exercising this power, they must take into account human rights (HRA s6). Mothers may also be eligible for s4 support. For further information on s4 support contact Asylum Support Appeals Project

S21(1)(aa)NAA

*Contact details at
are at the end of this
advice sheet)*

6. Can I receive community care services and UKBA support?

Provision under s21 NAA and support from UKBA cannot be provided together. Where the parent has care needs and successfully applies for s 21 NIAA 1948 assistance, the responsibility passes from UKBA to the local authority to arrange accommodation and support.

*Westminster City
Council vs NASS
[2002] UKHL 38*

However, s21 does not extend to provision of accommodation and support for dependents. Dependents continue to be the responsibility of UKBA. In practice, accommodation suitable for all of the family should be provided by the local authority, who will then seek a financial contribution from UKBA to represent the children's share of the accommodation and their subsistence support.

*R (O) v LB Haringey
[2004] EWCA Civ
535
ASR 2000 reg6(4)
s95 IAA99*

Social care assistance for adult asylum seekers beyond accommodation and subsistence is based on the same criteria as any UK resident, depending on the level of disability / need.

*R(A) v LB Waltham
Forest (2003) EWCA
Civ 1473. NASS
policy bulletin 82, s.8*

E. HOW DOES THE LOCAL AUTHORITY ASSESS A PARENT OR CARER'S NEED FOR COMMUNITY CARE SERVICES?

The duty to assess a person's community care needs arises under Section 47 of the National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990. Where there is an appearance of need, the local authority must assess the

⁵ Services may also be provided where necessary to avoid a breach of EU rights. Such cases are beyond the scope of this advice sheet.

The information contained in this advice sheet is intended for guidance only and whilst every effort is made to ensure it is correct at time of publication it should not be used as a substitute for legal advice. For client specific advice please contact Family Rights Group

applicant. This imposes a duty on the local authority to make an assessment of the person's needs, irrespective of whether s/he requests the assessment. Support pending assessment can be provided under s47(5) NHSCCA.

1. What does the local authority's assessment involve?

The local authority must assess the needs of the adult and see if he/she needs any equipment, changes to the home (including new housing) or services. In most cases the assessment should be multidisciplinary, involving health professionals as well as the local authority. According to government guidance, the assessment of needs should cover any help that might be needed to carry out "family and any other social roles and responsibilities". This includes responsibilities as a parent. The government's policy guidance says:

"In the course of assessing an individual's needs, councils should recognise that adults who have parenting responsibilities for a child under 18 years, may require help with these responsibilities"

A 'child in need' assessment should only be undertaken if the services provided by adult services will not meet the child's needs. The same guidance is clear that local authority adult and children's services must work together to help disabled parents/carers and their children.

There are additional considerations to be made in relation to parents with learning difficulties and mental illness.

The local authority must then decide whether the identified needs are "eligible" for help. The guidance says that social services must look at whether there are any risks to the adult's ability to carry out family responsibilities in both the short and long term, when deciding whether or not any of the identified needs are "eligible" to qualify for support/services.

Where the parent is presenting as in need of residential accommodation, the assessment must address whether a duty is owed under s21 NAA (section D above).

Local authorities must then draw up a "care plan", which should set out identified needs and how the local authority will meet them. A copy of the plan should be provided to the adult concerned. If the local authority decide that a service is needed, it must provide it. The care plan is an important document, as it can be used, if necessary, to challenge the local authority about their decisions.

2. What will the local authority do if I ask for an assessment?

- **If you are an asylum seeker, the local authority will check your immigration status.** They will ask for your passport, a birth

The information contained in this advice sheet is intended for guidance only and whilst every effort is made to ensure it is correct at time of publication it should not be used as a substitute for legal advice. For client specific advice please contact Family Rights Group

Fair Access to Care Services (2003), DOH

FACS Policy Guidance, paragraph 9

For information about a child in need, see FRG Advice Sheet 11A

See further Valuing People National Service Framework (2001); The NSF for Mental Health (Department of Health, 1999) and "Effective Care Co-ordination in Mental Health Services – Modernising the Care Programme Approach" Department of Health, 1999).

NIAA 2002 Sch 3

certificate or a Home Office letter confirming your status. They may check with the Home Office (if you have made a claim for asylum) or ask your immigration solicitor for information. They will ask for evidence of your nationality and your ordinary residence (the place where you live). They will also be looking to see if you are ineligible for support because you are a schedule 3 refused asylum seeker.

guidance to local authorities issued by the Home Office

Please note: The local authority has a duty to notify the Home Office if a person, who they suspect is a Schedule 3 refused asylum seeker, applies to them for support or assistance. This may result in the Home Office becoming aware of a person's whereabouts and taking enforcement action against them. Families should be advised of this when considering their options for support.

Sch 3 para 14 NIAA

- **The local authority will then consider whether you are destitute** – that means without accommodation or other means of support. They will consider whether you have means of support through family, friends, a voluntary organisation, savings, a sponsor, or disposable assets. If you are not destitute, you may still be entitled to a community care assessment if, for example, you are in need of care and attention because you suffer an illness or disability and your accommodation is not adequate for your needs.
- **The local authority will consider whether you are ‘destitute plus’** i.e. that your need for care and attention does not arise solely as a result of destitution - see above Section D) para 4 (ii) (a))
 - If you are claiming that you suffer from a disability or illness, the local authority will want information and evidence about this.
 - If you have suffered domestic violence, the local authority will need evidence that you have suffered some harm, or are at risk of harm in the future, over and above your need for accommodation.
- **If you are a Sch 3 refused asylum seeker**, but the local authority consider that you would otherwise meet the eligibility criteria, they must carry out a human rights assessment to consider whether they have an obligation to support you in order to prevent a breach of your human rights. Where a need for care and attention under s21(1A) NAA is made, support should be provided by the local authority rather than by BIA under s 4 IAA.

R(AW) v Croydon;
R(A, D & Y) v
Hackney (2005)
EWCH 2950 (Admin)

It is recommended that you write out your request for an assessment, setting out details of your impairment, the effect it has on you, and the reasons why you need help. It is also useful to get supporting letters from others involved with your family, for example, your doctor or your children's

The information contained in this advice sheet is intended for guidance only and whilst every effort is made to ensure it is correct at time of publication it should not be used as a substitute for legal advice. For client specific advice please contact Family Rights Group

school.

This assessment should be carried out primarily by the adult services team, usually in partnership with their colleagues in children's services. However, only if there are still concerns about your child's health or development, or where there are concerns about child protection, should the child undergo a "child in need" assessment.

An authority cannot refuse to assess a person because that person is not ordinarily resident in its area. If you are not ordinarily resident in any local authority area, or are ordinarily resident in a different local authority area to the one you are presenting in, but are in urgent need, the assessment should still take place.

R v Berkshire CC ex p P Times, August 15, 1996

F. WHAT ABOUT MY HUMAN RIGHTS?

1. Introduction

The Human Rights Act 1998 (HRA) came into force in October 2000. The main effect of it is that it incorporates into domestic law the European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR). More specifically, it is now "unlawful for any public authority to act in a way which is incompatible with a Convention Right", unless they are following legislation and have no discretion to do otherwise.

S 6 HRA

S 6 (2)

2. Local Authority duty to respect human rights

Generally, any decision made by a local authority must be compatible with a person's rights under the Convention. The ones which are most relevant to decisions about the provision of family support services are:

- the prohibition of torture, inhuman or degrading treatment – this is an absolute right. It can be relied on in cases where the denial of support services by the local authority will lead to the person becoming destitute. An individual must face 'an imminent prospect of suffering caused or materially aggravated by denial of shelter, food or the most basic necessities of life'.
- the right to a fair trial in relation to decisions which affect a person's civil rights – this applies to decisions relating to asylum seekers such as their detention, mistreatment, removal of support or removal of children; and

Article 3: ECHR

R(Limbuela and others) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2005]UKHL 66

Article 6: ECHR

The information contained in this advice sheet is intended for guidance only and whilst every effort is made to ensure it is correct at time of publication it should not be used as a substitute for legal advice. For client specific advice please contact Family Rights Group

- the right to respect for privacy and family life. This includes the right of people in family relationships to enjoy each other's company. Article 8 is not an absolute right. The State may interfere with family life provided that it is in accordance with the law, "necessary in a democratic society for the protection of health or morals, or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others", and that the interference is proportionate in the circumstances of the case. 'Immigration control' is a justification which is given considerable weight by the courts.

Article 8: ECHR

Both children and adults benefit from these rights. If decisions made about the provision of services to a family are not compatible with the child or parents' rights, it is possible for the victim (i.e the person whose Convention rights have been breached) to apply to the court for an injunction to stop the breach, and/or for damages. If care proceedings are brought by the local authority, it is possible for the parents and/or the child to rely on their rights in support of their case in those proceedings.

3. How is the European Convention on Human Rights relevant to the local authority's duty to provide community care support for parents who are asylum seekers?

There are specific provisions in Schedule 3 NIAA which prevent local authorities from exercising their powers to provide community care support to the majority of refused asylum seekers.

Sch 3, para 3 NIAA

However, paragraph 3 of Sch 3 NIAA makes an exception to this rule by specifically allowing a local authority to exercise their powers, which they would otherwise be prevented from using, if it '**is necessary to avoid a breach of the person's Convention rights**'. This applies in relation to some schedule 3 refused asylum seekers - **see above at section B**.

Therefore, when a local authority is deciding whether to provide support to a refused asylum seeker and his/her children, **they should conduct a human rights assessment before refusing to provide services**.

4. What factors should a human rights assessment consider?

A human rights assessment should include consideration of the following :-

- Family composition – who are the relevant family members (with whom there are existing relationships), where are they, and what is their immigration status?
- How will family relationships be affected if support is not provided?
- Asylum application – are there any claims or appeals outstanding? Is there a fresh claim?
- What are the medical needs of the family? How are these being met? How will they be met if support is not provided?

The information contained in this advice sheet is intended for guidance only and whilst every effort is made to ensure it is correct at time of publication it should not be used as a substitute for legal advice. For client specific advice please contact Family Rights Group

- What are the educational needs of the family? How will these be met if support is not provided?
- Is any other form of support available – through friends, family, faith groups, and voluntary organisations?
- What are the reasons the family cannot return to their country of origin? What difficulties would they face if they were to return?

5. Here are some examples of court decisions about families' and asylum seeking families' human rights:

The threshold of severity for Article 3 is crossed where a person deprived of support is obliged to sleep in the street, or is seriously hungry or unable to satisfy the most basic requirements of hygiene.

R (Limbuela) v SoS Home Department
[2006] 1 AC 396; *N v Lambeth* (2006)
EWHC 3427 (Admin)

Where members of a family are prevented from sharing family life together, there is likely to be an interference with Article 8(1). This can only be justified if it is in accordance with the law, "necessary in a democratic society" and the interference is proportionate in the circumstances of the case.

Anufrijeva v Southwark LBC
[2003] EWCA Civ 1406

There is no Convention duty to provide support to foreign nationals who are in a position freely to return home - even if they choose not to. The family is deemed able to avoid the violation of their rights (by destitution or separation) by returning to their country of origin. Where it is deemed safe for an individual to return (the asylum claim having been refused), it is unlikely a court would find a breach of their Article 3 rights because they will be destitute if they *chose* to remain.

R (Kimani) v Lambeth
(2003) EWCA Civ 1150

A local authority should not refuse to support an individual on the grounds that he/she can return to their country of origin where they have an outstanding or fresh claim for asylum, save where the claim is 'clearly specious' or 'manifestly unfounded'.

R(AW) v Croydon; R(A, D & Y) v Hackney (2005)
EWCH 2950 (Admin)
PB v Haringey (2006)

Where the child has a relationship with a close family member who is a British citizen (i.e. a parent or sibling) this relationship should be taken into account when considering the impact of a decision to support return to country of origin as a means of avoiding destitution. Similarly, where the children are the subject of care proceedings.

R(M) v Islington BC
(2004) EWCA civ 235; *PB v Haringey*
(2006) EWCH 2255

G. WHERE TO GET MORE INFORMATION

Family Rights Group

The Print House
18 Ashwin Street
London E8 3DL
Tel: 020 7923 2628
Avic line: 0808 801 0366

The information contained in this advice sheet is intended for guidance only and whilst every effort is made to ensure it is correct at time of publication it should not be used as a substitute for legal advice. For client specific advice please contact Family Rights Group

Opening hours: Monday - Friday

10am-3.30pm

www.frg.org.uk

Family Rights Group runs an advice service providing information, advice and support to families involved with social care services. You can ring our freephone advice line or email us at advice@frg.org.uk. We have a range of free advice sheets on subjects such as child protection, adoption, family support services and making a complaint which are all on our website.

Access to a solicitor:-

Call the Community Legal Services Directory on 0845 608 1122 or see <http://www.communitylegaladvice.org.uk/>

Law Centres Federation

Find a law centre near you:-

www.lawcentres.org.uk/lawcentres/

For voluntary services (including emergency food and clothing) available to destitute asylum seekers

British Red Cross – London office

10th Floor

Westminster Tower

3 Albert Embankment, London, SE1 7SP

Telephone 020 7793 3360

Fax 020 7793 3361

Email london_enquiries@redcross.org.uk

For British Red Cross offices in other UK areas see -

www.redcross.org.uk/yourarea

Praxis

Pott Street

London, E2 0EF

PHONE: +44 (0)20 7729 7985

FAX: +44 (0)20 7729 0134

EMAIL: admin@praxis.org.uk

For further information about asylum support

Asylum Support Appeals Project (ASAP)

18 Barclay Road

Croydon CR0 1JN

Tel : 020 8686 1888

Fax : 020 8686 1899

The information contained in this advice sheet is intended for guidance only and whilst every effort is made to ensure it is correct at time of publication it should not be used as a substitute for legal advice. For client specific advice please contact Family Rights Group

Advice Line : 0845 603 3884

www.asaproject.org.uk

Refugee Council

London advice line: 020 7346 6777

Open Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays: 10am – 1pm and 2 – 4pm,
Wednesdays 2-4pm

Refugee Action

Head Office

The Old Fire Station

150 Waterloo Road

London SE1 8SB

tel: 020 7654 7700

fax: 020 7401 3699

Asylum Aid

Advice line

Monday: 2.00 – 4.30 pm

Thursday: 10.00 am – 12.30 pm

020 73549264

For further information about asylum claims

Law Centres Federation

Find a law centre near you:-

<http://www.lawcentres.org.uk/lawcentres/>

Refugee and Migrant Justice

<http://refugee-migrant-justice.org.uk/>

Central London Office: Head Office

Nelson House

153 - 157 Commercial Road

LONDON

E1 2DA

Telephone: 020 7780 3200

Fax: 020 7780 3201

Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants

JCWI offers free legal advice on immigration, nationality and asylum matters to immigration law professionals and private individuals

Phone 020 7251 8706

Tuesday & Thursday 2.00 - 5.00 pm

For more information about disability

DPPI (Disability, Pregnancy and Parenthood International)

National Centre for Disabled Parents,

The information contained in this advice sheet is intended for guidance only and whilst every effort is made to ensure it is correct at time of publication it should not be used as a substitute for legal advice. For client specific advice please contact Family Rights Group

Unit 9
89-93 Fonthill Road
London N4 3JH
Tel: 0800 018 4730
Free-text: 0800 018 9949
www.dppi.org.uk

Disabled Parents Network

Tel: 0870 241 0450
Email information@disabledparentsnetwork.org.uk
www.disabledparentsnetwork.org.uk

The Disability Alliance

Universal House
88-94 Wentworth Street
London E1 7SA
Tel: 020 7247 8776
www.disabilityalliance.org

The Disability Rights Commission

Freepost MID 02164
Stratford upon Avon CV 37 9HY
Tel: 08457 622 633 textphone: 08457 622 644
email: enquiries@drc-gb.org.uk

There are also a number of organisations which specialise in supporting people with specific disabilities, for example:

Change

www.changepeople.co.uk

– a charity that fights for the rights of learning disabled people.

Mencap

www.mencap.org.uk

– a leading learning disability charity working with people with a learning disability and their families and carers.

Mind

www.mind.org.uk

- a leading national mental health charity.

Scope

www.scope.org.uk

- a charity whose focus is people with cerebral palsy.

Other useful parenting organisations include:

The information contained in this advice sheet is intended for guidance only and whilst every effort is made to ensure it is correct at time of publication it should not be used as a substitute for legal advice. For client specific advice please contact Family Rights Group

Parentlineplus

www.parentlineplus.org.uk

Parentline plus offers support to anyone parenting a child. They run a 24 hours helpline on 0808 800 2222 textphone 0800 783 6783.

Family Action

www.family-action.org.uk

Family Action provides grants as well as social work support to people of all ages, working with them to help them solve their own problems.

*Last updated June
09*

The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund

The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund is an independent grant-giving charity established in September 1997 to continue the Princess's humanitarian work in the United Kingdom and overseas. Our vision is a world in which the rights of the disadvantaged are respected.

The information contained in this advice sheet is intended for guidance only and whilst every effort is made to ensure it is correct at time of publication it should not be used as a substitute for legal advice. For client specific advice please contact Family Rights Group