

18 May 2026

Belfast Trust Residence Order Allowance policy and procedures

Could you please forward a copy of the Trust's Residence Order Allowance policy and procedures?

In Northern Ireland, financial support associated with Residence Orders (generally referred to as "*lives with*" arrangements) is not governed by a single Trust-specific policy document.

Belfast Trust does not currently have a standalone policy or procedure on Residence Order Allowances; however, the Trust is engaging stakeholders to develop a Belfast Trust guidance grounded on existing statutory and legal obligations and requirements.

In Northern Ireland, Residence Orders are defined under Article 8 of the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995:

- <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisi/1995/755/article/8>

Any consideration of financial support is undertaken in line with regional Department of Health guidance, which applies across all Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland and informs Trust operational practice.

Relevant regional guidance includes:

Kinship / Family and Friends Care

- Department of Health – Kinship Care (guidance, legislation, and standards)
<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/articles/kinship-care>
- Minimum Kinship Care Standards (Northern Ireland)
<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/minimum-kinship-care-standards-ni-2019.pdf>

Children (NI) Order statutory guidance

- The Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 – Guidance and Regulations
<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/articles/children-ni-order-1995-guidance-and-regulations>

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Fostering Allowance Framework (benchmarking where applicable)

- Department of Health – Foster Care Allowances (regional rates and framework)
<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/foster-care-allowances>

These regional documents apply across all HSC Trusts and are not Trust-specific policies. Any consideration of financial support following the granting of a Residence Order is discretionary, means-tested, and case-specific, and is managed through Trust operational procedures within Children's Services rather than through a published Residence Order Allowance policy document.