

Child's Guide to the Coram Adoption Service

Adoption & Permanent Families Service
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September 2016

CHILD'S GUIDE TO THE CORAM ADOPTION SERVICE

(Please note this guide is designed to be used by an adult to support an adopted young child)

Coram helps families who want to adopt and give a child the love and security that comes from belonging to a family. You were adopted (**customise for the child – e.g. your two mums,**) and that is very special. But even when children are adopted and they know this is their forever family, sometimes children can feel upset or muddled. If you are feeling upset about your family or about adoption, Coram will try to help you.

Some children feel upset about all the moves in the past. It can be hard to understand why you had to move from the family you were born into, or from your foster family. The social workers at Coram can help you to understand your life story and what happened when you were little.

Coram goes on helping families for as long as they want. Sometimes we can help mums, dads and children to find better ways to practice being a new family and to have some fun times together. We can also help explain to teachers at school why a child may be finding school hard, so that the school can help. Some of the children have worries about someone from the past, and need to talk to someone who can try to help them with this worry.

If you have worries about being adopted or about something from the past, Coram's social workers will listen to you. We will also meet your mum or dad and try to find a way to help you.

Coram also likes to help adopted children to meet with other adopted children, and in the summer we have a picnic for all families who have adopted children in the past so everyone can get together and enjoy a special adoption celebration.

Contact details:

If you want to contact a Coram social worker or support worker:

For Coram Capital Adoption (London): Heather Atkinson
020 7520 0362 or e-mail Heather.Atkinson@coram.org.uk

For Coram Adoption East Midlands: Lorraine Wallis
01509 600306 or email Lorraine.Wallis@coram.org.uk

If you feel that someone at Coram has not helped you, and that you have not been able to sort it out with them, you may want to make a complaint. You could ask your mum or your dad to help you. To make a complaint, please contact:

Alice Noon at Coram Capital Adoption (London)
020 7520 0349 or email: alice.noon@coram.org.uk)

Laura Payne at Coram Adoption East Midlands
01509 600306

or contact Jeanne Kaniuk:

020 7520 0350 or e-mail: jeanne.kaniuk@coram.org.uk).

Complaints

If you have tried to make a complaint, and still feel that Coram has not listened and tried to help you, you can contact Ofsted. Ofsted is an organisation which is responsible for seeing that adoption agencies behave in a helpful way when dealing with adopted children and young people. You can contact Ofsted at:

Ofsted
Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

Main tel: 0300 123 1231
Typetalk prefix: 18001
Text messages: 60085
Minicom: 0161 6188524

Other People you can contact:

Anne Longfield:

Children's Commissioner for England
Sanctuary Buildings
20 Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT

Tel: 020 7783 8330

Email: info.request@childrenscommissioner.gsi.gov.uk

Visit: www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk

Twitter: @ChildrensComm

Anne's job is to listen to what children and young people say about things that affect them and encouraging adults making decisions to always take the view of children and young people into account.

Children's Advocates or Children's Rights Officers

These are people who understand that children sometimes feel that grown ups don't listen to them. Their job is to help children to put across their point of view about important decisions if they don't agree with people like social workers.

Organisations you can contact to find someone to help you include:

Coram Voice: 0808 800 5792 (free phone)

Coram Children's Legal Centre:

<http://childlawadvice.org.uk/clas/contact-child-law-advice/>