

# Chronology of Care: Nicola Alexander

**Full name:** Nicola Ann Alexander **Date of birth:** 1 December 1979

**Primary care placement:** Adam and Evelyn Alexander, paternal grandparents, 11 Merksworth Way, Paisley.

**Source:** R - Merged, 147-page PDF. Page references below are PDF viewer pages. The source is a scanned file and required OCR; the original image should prevail where dates or handwriting are unclear.

| Date/period        | Care event                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | PDF page(s)                  |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Dec 1979         | Nicola Alexander was born. The Sheriff Court extract records her full name as Nicola Ann Alexander. Records state that Brian Alexander later adopted her after marrying her mother.                                                                                     | 5, 27, 38, 122, 137          |
| 1981-1982          | Nicola lived with her mother, Sandra Alexander, and adoptive father, Brian Alexander. Family addresses include 4 Argyle Street and 39 Mossvale Street, Paisley.                                                                                                         | 120, 122                     |
| 1-31 Aug 1981      | Brian Alexander assaulted Nicola at 4 Argyle Street by pulling her from her bed, shaking her and throwing her to the floor.                                                                                                                                             | 122                          |
| 11 Jan 1982        | A case conference considered concerns about Nicola and her sibling. Their mother reported that Brian had woken the children to smack them. Support and monitoring were agreed, but the children were not placed on the NAI Register at that stage.                      | 128-130                      |
| 28 May 1982        | A further conference discussed Brian's violence towards his wife and children. The report states there was no obvious evidence of violence or bruising at that time, and statutory supervision was not pursued.                                                         | 124                          |
| 23 Sep 1982        | Brian assaulted Nicola at 39 Mossvale Street by taking hold of and lifting her by the neck, shaking her violently and dropping her onto the floor.                                                                                                                      | 122                          |
| 24 Sep 1982        | Nicola attended hospital following the assault. Several records describe her as admitted; a later conference minute records the grandmother's correction that Nicola was examined but not admitted. Nicola and her sibling were placed on the Child Abuse/NAI Register. | 2, 5, 28, 34, 38, 124        |
| Jan-Feb 1983       | Brian was convicted of assaulting Nicola and sentenced to three months' imprisonment. Documents use different dates for the conviction or sentencing.                                                                                                                   | 5, 28, 34, 38, 120, 122, 124 |
| Feb 1983           | Nicola's mother left Nicola and her sibling with paternal grandparents Adam and Evelyn Alexander at 11 Merksworth Way, Paisley, and moved to southern England. Nicola remained with the grandparents.                                                                   | 5, 28, 34, 112, 125, 142     |
| 10 and 30 Mar 1983 | Children's Hearings were held. A Place of Safety Order was reportedly issued, with the grandparents' home selected as Nicola's placement.                                                                                                                               | 120                          |
| 17 Mar 1983        | Brian was released from prison. His contact with Nicola was initially restricted and supervised.                                                                                                                                                                        | 5, 28, 34, 120-121           |
| 18 Apr 1983        | Formal reports state that Nicola had been in Local Authority care from this date. She was made subject to a Home Supervision Requirement under section 44(1)(a) of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968, with a condition that she reside with her grandparents.         | 27, 33, 38                   |
| Nov 1983           | Adam and Evelyn Alexander were approved by the Local Authority as related foster parents for Nicola.                                                                                                                                                                    | 5, 28, 34, 93, 112, 142      |
| 15 Mar 1984        | Nicola's Supervision Order was continued, but the restrictions limiting Brian's access were removed. He was permitted to care for her overnight.                                                                                                                        | 82                           |
| Summer 1984 onward | Nicola began spending periods, including overnight stays, with Brian and his girlfriend. Later records describe overnight contact as approximately weekly.                                                                                                              | 5, 27, 80-82, 106-107, 111   |
| 1984-1985          | Social-work, school and nursery records generally described Nicola as settled, content, well cared for and progressing appropriately in her grandparents' home.                                                                                                         | 6, 8, 27, 80-85, 93-95       |
| 20 Feb 1985        | The Home Supervision Requirement was continued with the condition that Nicola remain resident with her grandparents.                                                                                                                                                    | 80                           |
| 19 Dec 1985        | A Child Abuse Case Conference reviewed the risk arising from Nicola's overnight stays with Brian, who had a Schedule 1 conviction for assaulting her. The conference decided not to register Nicola and continued rehabilitation planning.                              | 1-6, 80                      |
| Jan 1986           | A Child Care Review decided that Nicola's placement with her grandparents should continue. A phased rehabilitation plan involving Brian was discussed.                                                                                                                  | 13-17                        |
| 26 Aug 1986        | A review again decided that Nicola should remain with her paternal grandparents. Long-term custody and permanence were discussed.                                                                                                                                       | 23-26                        |
| 1986-1987          | Social-work reports confirmed that Nicola remained under Home Supervision at 11 Merksworth Way. Brian and his wife decided they were not prepared to resume her full-time care, and the grandparents pursued legal custody.                                             | 27-30, 38-41, 92-119, 141    |
| 16 Mar 1987        | The Fostering Panel considered the grandparents' proposed custody application concerning Nicola.                                                                                                                                                                        | 56                           |
| 5 Nov 1987         | Social Work asked the Children's Reporter to continue the case pending the grandparents' custody proceedings. The department fully supported the application.                                                                                                           | 147                          |
| 25 Feb 1988        | Paisley Sheriff Court granted Adam and Evelyn Alexander legal custody of Nicola Ann Alexander.                                                                                                                                                                          | 71-75, 93, 132, 137          |
| 22 Jul 1988        | Social Work confirmed that Nicola had lived under Home Supervision with her grandparents for approximately five years. It recommended termination of supervision because legal custody had been granted.                                                                | 132                          |

| Date/period | Care event                                                                                                      | PDF page(s) |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 24 Aug 1988 | A Children's Hearing terminated Nicola's Supervision Order. Nicola remained in her grandparents' legal custody. | 78, 89-90   |
| 3 Sep 1988  | Social worker Anne McAdam sent a closing letter to the grandparents and offered future assistance if required.  | 131         |

## Summary of the care period

**Informal residence with grandparents:** from February 1983.

**Formal Local Authority/Home Supervision placement:** recorded from March-April 1983.

**Related-foster placement:** formally approved in November 1983.

**Legal custody with grandparents:** from 25 February 1988.

**Statutory supervision ended:** 24 August 1988.

## Important discrepancies

The records differ on whether Nicola was admitted to hospital or only examined after the September 1982 assault. They also contain differing dates for the assault conviction/sentencing and describe the formal start of care variously as March or 18 April 1983. These differences should be acknowledged rather than omitted.

**Evidence classification:** the formal supervision instruments, court extract and Social Work reports provide direct proof of placement. Case conferences, case notes, school information and allowance records provide corroborative evidence.

This chronology is an evidential aid and does not constitute legal advice or an independent finding of fact.