Why am I being Privately Fostered?



About Private Fostering

If you are under 18 years old and you live with someone for more than 28 days who is not related to you, you are in Private Foster Care.

You are not in private foster care if you live with or are looked after by an uncle and aunt, your brother or sister, a half-brother or sister, step-relatives and people who are related to you by marriage.

The law says that your parents and your private foster carer's must tell Children's Social Care about your private fostering arrangements. The law also says that once we have been told about you, we must check on you regularly to make sure you are safe and that your carer's are doing their best to look after you properly.

What your social worker should do:

Because you live with private foster carers, the law states that a social worker must check on you regularly to make sure you are safe and being looked after well.

As soon as we know that you live with a private foster carer a social worker will arrange to visit you at home (this first visit should happen within a week). Your social worker will talk to you (alone) to ask how you are feeling and If there is anything you don't like or would like to see changed.

If you feel worried or frightened about something you can tell your social worker in private and no one else will listen. This is why they will talk to you alone with no other grown up around.

Your social worker must come to see you every 6 weeks for the first year. After this they will come less often, unless you ask them to come.

What if I need to talk to my social worker in between visits?

If you have questions or are worried about something or you just want a chat you can contact your social worker anytime. You don't have to wait for the next visit.

What if I am not happy with my private foster carer?

Most young people living in private foster care are quite happy and looked after well. If you do have problems, then they can usually be sorted out easily.

If you are unhappy or your social worker thinks you are not being looked after properly then we will make sure something is done about it.

Can my foster care make changes to my life?

No—not unless your parents give permission. Even though you live away from home, your parents must still make all the important decisions about your life.

Can I say in touch with my family?

Yes—unless there is a very special reason, it is important that you stay in touch with your family. Your parents should phone and visit you, or write to you as often as they can, and they must also check that you are being well looked after.

Can I still follow my religion and family customs?

Yes—your private foster carer must respect the things that are important to you and your family and help you follow religious customs like special prayer times or eating special foods. They should also help you learn about your culture and meet people from your community who speak your language.

Do I need to go to school?

If you are under 16 you must go to school—this is the law. Your private foster carer must make sure that you go to school every day. When you start living with your private foster carer you may need to go to a new school nearer to your new home, but your parents should agree to this change.

Staying healthy

Your health is very important, and everyone should help you to look after yourself well. Before moving to your private foster carers your parents should tell them:

- If you have any health issues
- If you need special medicine or treatment
- If you have any allergies (an allergy is when you react badly to something like a bee sting or particular foods like milk, nuts etc...)

Your private foster carers should make sure you are registered with a doctor and a dentist



My social workers name is

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My social workers contact number is

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If they are out, I can also call

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Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership