

Summary

Children who are cared for on a full-time basis by people who are not their parents or a close relative* may be in private foster care.

Children in foster care fall into two main groups: those looked after by the Council; and those fostered privately. Private foster care occurs when a child under 16 (or under 18 if disabled) is looked after for more than 28 days by an adult who is not a relative*, by a private arrangement between parent and carer.

* The Children Act defines 'relative' as a grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt, or step-parent. Where children are cared for by a 'relative', the situation is classified as 'family and friends care' and different arrangements apply - see separate leaflet for details.

Please Contact:

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Access Team
Children and Young People's Service
Crinoline House,
Effingham Square,
Rotherham, S65 1AW
Tel: 01709 823987

This document can be made available in your language and in alternative formats such as Braille, large print, electronic and audio-tape versions.

Contact us at:
minicom 01709 823 536
www.rotherham.gov.uk

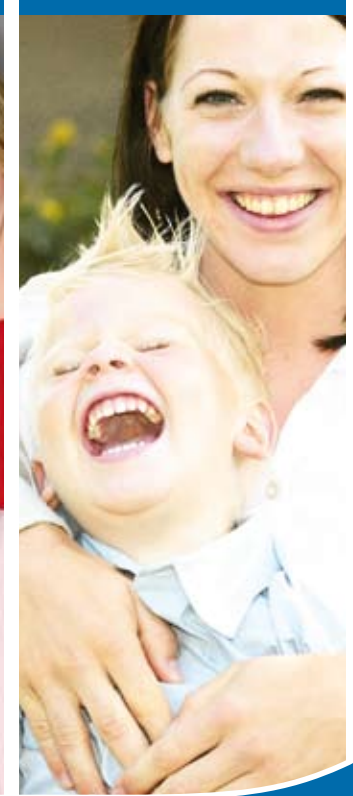
اگر آپ کو یہ دستاویز کسی دوسری زبان اور / یا کسی متبادل صورت (فارمیٹ) میں درکار ہو تو ہم سے رابطہ کریں۔
如需索取這份文件的其他語文譯本和/或各種形式版本，請聯絡我們。

در صورتیکہ این مطلب را به زبان و یا شکل دیگری می خواهید لطفاً با ما تماس بگیرید

أتصل بنا إذا تريد هذه الوثيقة بلغة أخرى أو بصيغة بديلة

Veillez nous contacter si vous désirez ce document dans une autre langue et/ou dans d'autres formats.

Do You Look After Someone Else's Child? Private Foster Care



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Private fostering situations could involve:

- Children sent to this country for education or health care by birth parents living overseas
- Children living with a friend's family as a result of parental separation, divorce or arguments at home
- Teenagers living with the family of a boyfriend or girlfriend

If you are looking after a child or children in any of these situations, you should read the next few pages of this leaflet. This will help you understand what you must do as a private foster carer.

What must I do if I intend to foster a child privately?

The law requires that you tell your local council at least 6 weeks beforehand that you intend to foster a child, or immediately you are aware of the placement. This should be done in writing to the address overleaf but do not hesitate to contact us by telephone for advice. Make sure the child's parents tell you as much as possible about the child, including health records, eating preferences, school records, hobbies, religion and ethnic or cultural background. This will help you to understand the child and take better care of them.

How can I get help while I am fostering?

Private foster carers can go to their local council for help and advice on looking after the child(ren) in their care.

What support will I get?

There may, in some cases, be help available through the local council for children assessed to be in need. This may include a range of support services and, in exceptional cases, cash. There may also be local support networks in place for local carers.

Can I claim social security benefits and how do I go about it?

You may be able to claim social security benefits such as Child Benefit and possibly Income Support. Contact your local Benefits Agency Office who will be able to advise you.

What if the child is leaving my care?

You must tell your local council that the child is leaving your care or within 48 hours of the child having left your home. You must also say why the child is leaving and give the name and address of the person who will be looking after the child.

Where do I go for further information?

If you require any further information on the contents of this leaflet, please contact your Local Authority Children and Young Peoples Services - The phone number can be found at the back of this leaflet.