



**Solihull**

METROPOLITAN  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

# Are you looking after someone else's child?

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Lots of people look after other people's children overnight or for a weekend, but if a child is living with you for more than 28 days and you're not an immediate relative - it may mean you are in a private fostering arrangement

## WHAT IS A PRIVATE FOSTER CARER?

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A private foster carer is someone who cares for a child or young person under 16 (or under 18 if disabled) who is not a direct relative.

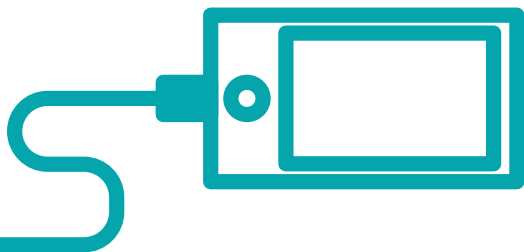
A private foster carer is not:

- A grandparent
- A brother or sister
- An uncle or aunt
- A foster carer approved by Solihull Council

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE IN A PRIVATE FOSTERING ARRANGEMENT

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The law says that you must notify us at least six weeks before the child comes to live with you, or immediately if the arrangement is made in an emergency. Solihull Council has a legal duty to make sure that the child is safe and well looked after. It is an offence not to report a private fostering arrangement.



## WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT?

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Where the private fostering arrangement is agreed by the local authority as suitable for the child(ren) being cared for a social worker will visit you at your home every six weeks in the first year of the arrangement to check that all the needs of the child are being met and that things are going well. The social worker will provide advice and support on areas such as child benefit and talk through any issues you may have. The social worker will also talk to the child about how they feel. If the arrangement continues after one year, the visits may reduce to every three months. Everyone over 16 living in your home will be required to have a DBS (police) check. You must let us know if the arrangement changes.

### **As a private foster carer, you have a duty to:**

- Provide a safe and caring home for the child
- Help the child to keep in touch with their parents
- Make sure that the child attends school (preferably at the same school they attended before they were privately fostered to avoid disruption)
- Look after the child's health and make GP/dentist/optician appointments when required
- Work with the social worker to ensure that the needs of the child are met

## CONTACT US

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If you are caring for someone else's child, please call us on 0121 788 4300. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/2krupeZ>