



PRIVATE FOSTERING INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

**WORKING TOGETHER FOR BETTER
OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN**

North Lincolnshire Local Safeguarding
Children Board, 145 Cherry Grove, Ashby,
Scunthorpe, DN16 2TH, Tel: 01724 298293





Your child is privately fostered if:

You have someone looking after, or plan to have someone look after your child who is under the age of 16 years (under 18, if disabled) for 28 days or more, either all at once or during any one year, and; the carer is not a relative of the child and; the carer will not have any form of parental responsibility for the child (ask a lawyer or Children's Services if you are not clear what this means).

What must I do?

If your child is being privately fostered, or you are planning to have him or her privately fostered, you **must** notify the local authority between 6 and 13 weeks **before**, unless it happens as an emergency.

If your child has been privately fostered as an emergency, or you have only just found out that your child is privately fostered you must notify local authority **immediately**.

What if I don't?

If you don't notify the local authority and you are later found out, you can be prosecuted and, if convicted, face a fine, or in certain circumstances, imprisonment.

How do I notify the local authority?

Ring 01724 296500 and explain that you want to notify someone about a private fostering arrangement. Alternatively, you can visit any of our Local Link Offices, or call in person to the Children's Services offices at Church Square House, Scunthorpe.

Whichever you do, you will be put in contact with a social worker, who will take some basic details from you.

You will then need to fill in a form notifying us officially, of the placement. We will send the form to you. You should complete it and send it back as soon as possible.

If you have any trouble filling in the form, contact us on 01724 296500, or ask at your Local Link office for help.



What happens next

We will check with the police about any criminal record that any member of the private foster carer's household may have. We are usually only interested in convictions that may mean that they are unsuitable to look after someone else's child.

We will then call to see them and ask them further questions about the care of your child. We will check if your child has a doctor, if they go to school, if they see you and any brothers and sisters, as this contact is still important.

We will also need to check that the child's accommodation is suitable and that the carer can meet their needs.

If we are happy about the placement we will tell you so.

Future visits

A social worker will continue to visit your child from time to time, to make sure all is well and to offer the carer or the child any help if they need it.

You should know that the social worker must be allowed to see the child alone if they want to. It is an offence to refuse to let a social worker see the child if they have reasonably asked to do so.

What if I stop the private fostering arrangement?

If you take your child away from the private foster carer for any reason, you must let us know within 48 hours of the child leaving the arrangement. You can either telephone on 01724 296500, visit any of our Local Link offices, or call in person to the Children's Services office at Church Square House, Scunthorpe.

We need to know where the child has gone to, why he or she left the private foster carer and a few other details.

Any questions or advice needed?

Either telephone on 01724 296500 or visit any of our Local Link Offices, or call in person to the Children's Services office at Church Square House, Scunthorpe. Anyone at these locations will be pleased to help you.

Don't worry!

All we are concerned about is making sure that your child has the support he or she needs to thrive. We are here to help, not to snoop.

Contact Children's Services:

Church Square House,
30-40 High Street,
Scunthorpe
North Lincolnshire
DN15 6LN

Freephone 0800 0853737

Tel: 01724 296500
Minicom: 01724 297168

Extended Hours Team
(5pm - midnight) 01724 296555

If you require further information on services available, either contact your Local Link or Children's Services.

If you have any comments or suggestions about the information you have received, please let us know by contacting:

145 Cherry Grove, Ashby,
Scunthorpe, DN16 2TH
Tel: 01724 298293

No English?

For information please call:

08000 193530 (Arabic) للحصول على المزيد من المعلومات اتصل بـ:

তথ্যগুলি বাংলায় জানতে হলে এই নম্বরে ফোন করুন: 08000 193531 (Bengali)

欲知粵語版的信息，請致電: 08000 193532 (Cantonese)

हिन्दी में जानकारी के लिये 08000 193533 पर फोन करें (Hindi)

08000 193537 بە کوردی سۆرانی تەلهفۆن بۆ ژمارە (Kurdish Sorani)

Para mais informação em português contacte-nos através do telefone 08000 193538 (Portuguese)

ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਲਈ 08000 193539 'ਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ (Punjabi)

"Warbixinta oo af Soomaali ah wac 08000 193540" (Somali)

08000 193541 اردو میں انفارمیشن کے لیے اس ٹیلیفون نمبر پر رابطہ فرمائیں۔ (Urdu)

For information in large print, audio, Braille or to request a signer to speak to us please contact 01724 296296