

IS YOUR CHILD BEING CARED FOR BY SOMEONE ELSE?

A PARENT'S GUIDE TO PRIVATE FOSTERING



www.fosteringrotherham.com

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If your child is being cared for, or is likely to be cared for by someone else then you may be entering into a private fostering arrangement. This agreement requires you to inform Rotherham Council's Children's Services of your plans.

Private fostering occurs when a parent makes arrangements for their child to be cared for by someone other than themselves for more than 28 days. This may be with extended family (not a blood relative or someone connected through marriage) or a family friend. A child is considered to be anyone under the age of 16 or a disabled young person under 18.

Reasons why your child may be privately fostered

- Parental separation, divorce or arguments within the home.
- Teenagers who are living with the family of a boyfriend or girlfriend.
- Parents who study or their work involves unsociable hours and they are unable to use ordinary day care.
- Birth parents living overseas have sent their child to this country for educational or healthcare reasons and the child is living with a host family.

What should I do if I intend to let someone else care for my child?

The law now states that if you are planning for your child to be cared for by someone else you must let Rotherham Council know so that they can assist you in ensuring your child remains safe. It is an offence not to inform the Council of a private fostering arrangement.

- You must inform us six weeks before the arrangement is due to commence, or within 48 hours of a change in the person caring for your child.
- This does not mean that you are giving up parental responsibilities. You should continue to remain responsible for making all important decisions about your child's life.
- If you develop any concerns about your child's health or wellbeing then you should contact us for advice, support and guidance so that the appropriate safeguarding steps can be taken to support you and your child.

The needs of your child

In order to give your child the best support, it is important that you work closely with your child's carer and any professionals involved so that the child feels safe and well cared for.

Make sure you share as much information about your child with their carer so that they can better meet your child's educational, health or religious beliefs.

Support for you

Rotherham Council has a duty of care to make sure your child is safe and everyone involved with the arrangement is getting the right advice, guidance and support they need. We will complete statutory checks on the carer to make sure they are capable of keeping your child safe and we will arrange regular visits to see how your child has settled with their carer.

Contact us

Tel: 01709 822532 (Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5.30pm)

Out of hours service: 01709 336080
(Monday to Friday 5.30pm onwards / weekends 9am onwards)

Email: fosteringduty@rotherham.gov.uk

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