

Private Fostering: A Young Person's Guide



What is Private Fostering?

If you are under the age of 16 (18 if you're disabled) and your parent(s) have asked someone who is not a close relative to look after you for 28 days or more, you may be in a private fostering arrangement. If this is the case the person who looks after you is called a private foster carer.

Who needs to know?

Parents and private foster carers must tell Nottinghamshire Children and Young People's Services about private fostering arrangements they are involved in. This is required by the law and helps the Children and Young People's Services do their job, which is making sure that every child and young person in Nottinghamshire is safe and well.

What does being in private foster care mean for me?

If you are being privately fostered a social worker from the Children and Young People's Services will visit you to make sure you are safe and well living with your private foster carer(s). The social worker will also check that your parent(s) know about the arrangement, that your private foster carers are able to look after you properly and understand their responsibilities and that where you live is OK.

A social worker will visit you at least every six weeks during the first year that you live with private foster carers. After the first year this will change to at least once every 3 months but you can always ask to see a social worker on your own at anytime if you have something you need to talk about.

Things your private foster carer should and shouldn't do

While you are living with your private foster carer they should look after you as if you were their own child. They must do all the everyday things for you that parents do for their own children.

- Give you regular meals – like breakfast, lunch and supper
- Make sure you have warm clean clothes and a bed of your own
- Make sure you go to school so you can learn
- Take you to the doctor or the hospital if you are sick or injured, or if you need vaccinations
- Take you to the dentist so your teeth are looked after properly
- Make sure you have a chance to make friends and to enjoy sports and hobbies that you like
- Help you stay in touch with your family
- Help you follow your religion and customs that are important to you and your family





Your private foster carers must also respect the things that are important to you and your family. If you have religious customs like special prayer times or special foods that you eat, your private foster carers should respect these things and help you to follow these customs. They must help you learn about your culture and meet people from your community who speak your language. Remember, whilst being privately fostered you are still the child of your own parents. Your private foster carers must not:

- change your name
- change your school, unless this is agreed by your parents
- move you to another family unless this is agreed by your parents and your social worker is told
- take you to another part of this country unless this is agreed by your parents
- take you overseas to another country unless this is agreed by your parents

If you need serious medical treatment, your own parents have to agree to this – unless it is an emergency and your parents cannot be contacted quickly enough. Then a doctor will decide what to do.

About me:



Education

School:

Address:

Website:

Tel:

Health

Doctor's name:

Address:

Tel:

Dentist's name:

Address:

Tel:

Parent's contact information

Parent's name:

Address:

Email:

Tel:

Social worker details

Name:

Team:

Tel:

Remember if you need to speak to someone you can contact your social worker. You will need to explain what it is that you need to talk about. If your social worker is not available and you need to speak to them urgently there will be someone else from their team that you can talk to.

There are also other people you can contact for help and advice such as a teacher or school nurse.

The following list of organisations provide help and guidance to young people across a range of issues:

Connexions

www.sortitonline.com

face it

Are you under 18 or a care leaver under 21 and concerned about your drug/alcohol use?

For confidential advice, information and support call free **0800 5877878**

FRANK

24 hour freephone line:

0800 77 66 00

Text your drug questions to: 82111.

www.talktoFRANK.com

Head 2 Head

Is your drug/alcohol use having a negative impact on your mental and emotional well being? Call the CAMHS Head 2 Head team on **01623 784831**

Nottszone

Places to go and things to do.
www.nottszone.org.uk

W.A.M. (What about Me?)

Support Service for under 19's. Does your mum, dad, brother, sister or friends use drugs and alcohol? Do you want to talk to someone in confidence about it? Call us on **01623 635326** or text 07970 724165.

www.what-about-me.co.uk

Notes



