

Private Fostering

Information for children and
young people



If you are living with someone who is not an immediate family member or step-parent and you stay with them for more than 28 days, then you are being privately fostered. This only applies if you are aged under 16 or under 18 if you have a disability.

What is the difference between private foster care and foster care?

if you need to be looked after by foster carers a social worker will make the arrangements. Foster carers are given an allowance by the local authority to look after children.

Private foster carers are not paid or given an allowance to look after children by the local authority. Any financial arrangements are made between your parent/s and your private foster carer.

With private foster care, you or your parents have made the arrangements for you to live with someone else. This arrangement has not been made by a social worker.

Why would you live with a friend or someone who is not your family?

- Your mum and/or dad are having a hard time and have asked a friend to look after you.
- Your mum and/or dad need to go abroad for longer than 28 days.
- Your mum and/or dad live abroad and have sent you to school in Buckinghamshire.
- Your mum and/or dad have gone into hospital for a long time.
- You are not getting on with your mum and/or dad and need to live somewhere else for a while.

What happens when you go to live with a private foster carer?

Your parents should phone the social worker and tell them what is happening and who you will be living with. A social worker will then visit you to fill out various forms about your health and school.

Who needs to know you are being privately fostered?

Not everyone! Your school and class teacher need to know, as well as your doctor and health visitor, social services and other professionals. Also close friends.

What does a social worker do and why do I need one?

- The law says that a social worker has to make sure that you are well looked after where you are living.
- Your social worker will come and see you where you live to make sure you are safe and happy. They will talk to the

- person looking after you to see if they need any help.
- They will even get in touch with your mum and/or dad to make sure they know you are being well looked after.

Will I still be able to do activities?

Yes, when the social worker visits they will make sure that your private foster carer knows what you like to do.

What happens if my private foster carer is hurting me?

Speak to an adult that you trust, tell your teacher or tell your social worker.



When do I go home?

- This will be arranged between your parents and your private foster carer.

Some important facts!

Your private foster carer must not:

- Change your name
- Change your school
- Move you to another family
- Take you to another part of this country
- Take you overseas to another country without telling your parents and asking their permission

Contact us on 01494 586460

For further information please contact:

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www.buckscc.gov.uk/privatefostering