

Private Fostering

Information for parents



Children (under the age of 16 years or 18 years if they are disabled), who are cared for, for more than 28 days by someone who is not their parent, step-parent, grandparent, immediate aunt, uncle, brother or sister are considered to be in **Private Foster Care.**

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

If your child 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.

Your child is considered to be privately fostered if you yourself have made the arrangements for your child to live with someone else. This arrangement will not have been made by a social worker.

Private foster carers are not paid or given an allowance by the local authority to look after children.

Any financial arrangements are made between you and the private foster carer.

What must I do if someone else is looking after my child?

The law requires you to tell us, Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC).

If you do not inform us we may not be in a position to protect your child from abuse or neglect.

What situations involve private foster care?

- Teenagers living with the family of a boyfriend or girlfriend.
- Children sent to this country for health care or education by parents living overseas.

- Children living with a friend or extended family member as a result of parental illness, separation, divorce or arguments at home.

What if I decide to change the carer for my child?

We can only make sure that your child is living in a safe environment if we know where your child is, therefore you must tell us of any changes.

What do I tell the carer?

- As much as possible about your child. This can include items such as health records, including allergies; school records and contacts; religion, ethnic or cultural background.
- Anything that will help the private carer to understand your child and take better care of them.

What will Buckinghamshire County Council do for my child?

- It is our responsibility to make sure your child is properly cared for.

- It is our responsibility to make sure that the carer who is looking after your child is suitable to look after them.
- We will make regular visits to see your child.
- We will make a note of the kind of care given to your child by the carer.
- We will give help and advice when it is needed.

Contact Buckinghamshire County Council if:

- The carer is not giving you enough information about your child
- You are unhappy with the standard of care your child is receiving
- There is a change in circumstances.



Does this mean I am giving up all rights to my child?

- **NO** - This is a temporary arrangement
- **YOU** remain the person with parental responsibility.
- **YOU** should continue to be involved in all decisions concerning your child's development including health, school and religion.
- It is **VERY** important that you stay in frequent contact with **YOUR** child
WE will do everything possible to help you and ensure the safety and wellbeing of your child.

Contact us on 01494 586460

For further information please contact:

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www.bucksc.gov.uk/privatefostering