



Support for Family and Friends Carers in East Sussex

Private fostering

What is private fostering? - What family or friends caring for children need to know

If you look after somebody else's child – or have arranged for your child to be looked after by somebody else – then this is known in law as “private fostering”. This law does NOT apply if the child is being looked after by a close relative, such as their:

- grandparent;
- step-parent by marriage or civil partnership;
- brother or sister;
- aunt or uncle; or
- someone with parental responsibility for the child

What should I do if I am not a close relative?

If you are looking after a child or young person for more than 28 days, whether you are being paid or not, by law you need to notify Children's Services.

Why do I have to tell you about a private arrangement?

The law says we must make sure that all privately fostered children in East Sussex are safe and supported. We work with you to check and assess how suitable the arrangements are for you and the child you are looking after and make sure they are getting the support they need.

Am I now the legal guardian of the child I am looking after?

The child's parents still have full parental responsibility even though you are looking after them. Both you and the child's parents should tell us before you agree to look after the child.

What will happen when I call you?

We will ask you for the following information:

- the name of the child or young person
- your details
- your address

- when the arrangement started or is due to start
- the reasons why the child is living with you – or why your child is living with somebody else

What happens next?

We will visit both you and the child or young person within seven working days and explain our role in more detail.

For more information

For more information about private fostering and to tell us about a child or young person you are looking after please contact:

Children's Services
Single Point of Advice (SPOA)
St Mark's House,
14 Upperton Rd,
Eastbourne BN 21 1EP,
Tel: 01323 464222.

Email: 0-19.SPOA@eastsussex.gov.uk