

Private Fostering

Is your child living with another family?

Are you looking after someone else's child?

If so, you may be involved in private fostering arrangements.

The law says that Children's Social Care must be told about all private fostering arrangements. This is so we can make sure the children are well looked after and give support to the carers.

**To find out more, read the information on
the back of this leaflet**



What is private fostering?



Private fostering is when a child or young person under 16 years old (or under 18 if they have a disability) lives with someone who is not a close relative, guardian or person with parental responsibility, for 28 days or more. Close relatives include parents, step-parents, aunts, uncles and grandparents.



It is not private fostering if Children's Social Care made the arrangement, or if the person looking after the child is an approved foster carer.

People become private foster carers for all sorts of reasons. They can be a friend of the child's family or someone who is willing to look after a child they do not know, for example children on extended holiday exchanges or children whose parents live overseas.

The law says you must tell Children's Social Care if you know about any private fostering arrangements

You can do this by contacting:



Children and Young People's Team
0300 123 2224 or
email - childrens@somerset.gov.uk

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