

Private Fostering



Norfolk Safeguarding
Children Board

Are you in a good place?

Private Fostering - Advice for young people & children

If you're living with somebody
else's family, we need to know
how it's going.

**Here to listen.
Here to help.**



Norfolk County Council





You've had a change of address. Is it right up your street?

We understand you have a new roof over your head and that you're living with somebody who isn't your mum or dad.

What we need to know is whether you're happy with the arrangement. Have you been given a warm welcome, or is it more of a cold shoulder? Has anyone explained to you what's happening and what Private Fostering actually is? If not, let's take it from the top...

What do we mean by Private Fostering?

If you are aged under 16 – or under 18 if you have a disability – and you live with an adult who is not your mum, dad or a close relative for 28 days or more, it is called Private Fostering and the adult who looks after you is your Private Foster Carer.

Safe, happy and healthy

Now although it's the responsibility of your Private Foster Carer to make sure you're safe, happy and healthy in your new home, it's our job to double-check that you're being looked after properly.

With our support, being in Private Foster Care is certainly nothing to worry about or lose sleep over. If you do have any issues whatsoever, we're here to help.



**Safe,
happy &
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The reasons Private Fostering happens

It's not a decision that your parents or guardian will have taken lightly and there may be many reasons why they've asked someone else to look after you. In fact, it could even be your choice and that you've asked to live somewhere else to give yourself a bit of a break.

Here to listen, here to help

While your Private Foster Carer will be someone your parents or guardian trust completely. We still need to make sure that you're getting all the support required to keep you safe, happy and healthy.

Which is why a Social Worker from Children's Services will regularly visit you and your carers to ask a few key questions such as:

- Do you feel safe where you're living?
- Are you happy in your new home?
- Is the house safe?
- Is this still the best arrangement for everyone?
- Are your mum and dad keeping in touch?

Call us, day or night

Children's Advice and Duty Service

Call: **0344 800 8021** Out of hours: **0344 800 8020**
8am - 8pm (Mon-Fri) In an emergency call: **999**

Following the Social Worker's report

After our Social Worker has spoken to you, your carers, and your mum and dad they will write up a report of their visit. This will be read by a manager from Children's Services who will decide whether the place you are living is best for you.

Thumbs up

If there are no problems and the manager is happy with the report's findings, you can carry on living with your carers.

To make sure the arrangement continues to be a success, the Social Worker will visit every six weeks. Of course, you can ask them to visit more often if you'd prefer and please, if you have questions, don't hesitate to give them a call.

Thumbs down

However, if our Social Worker reports that where you're living isn't great for you, they'll talk to your parents about finding a solution, which may involve:

- Going back to live with both or one of your parents
- Going to live with another relative, like your grandmother
- Going to live with foster carers more suited to your personality and needs

A woman with long brown hair in a ponytail, wearing a pink top and a gold necklace, is sitting on the floor and reading a book to a young girl. The girl is wearing a yellow dress with floral patterns and pink shoes. They are both looking at the book with interest. The background is a blurred indoor setting, possibly a library or a classroom.

**Call us,
day or night**

A sympathetic ear

You may not like where you live, feel unhappy at school or have worries about your health. Whatever's troubling you, you can talk through the issue with your mum, dad, or your carers. If that's too close to home, you can always turn to your Social Worker for a sympathetic ear or even a shoulder to cry on.

Now, if your concerns are about your carers, please don't just try and live with the problem. Talk to your parents, or even ourselves and we'll do our best to sort it out.

Any changes?

There are specific changes that your carer needs to inform us about immediately:

- Moving to a new house and a change of address
- Someone staying or moving in to your house or someone moving out
- Anyone living in your house getting into trouble with the police or committing an offence
- Your carer's financial situation changing such as losing a job or even getting a new one

Many happy returns

The Social Worker won't decide where you live as it is your parents who make this decision. However we will talk to your carer and your parents if there is a problem.

Need to talk?

Remember if you ever need someone to talk to, you can contact your Social Worker at any time. Use the space below to make a note of their details and keep them somewhere safe.

Social Worker's name:

Telephone number:

Email:

Or simply call **0344 800 8020** and ask to speak to the Private Fostering team.

While for information about anything else, simply pop along to **www.norfolk.gov.uk/privatefostering**



If you need this document in large print, Braille, alternative format or in a different language, please contact Norfolk County Council on **0344 800 8020** and we'll do all we can to help.

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www.norfolk.gov.uk/privatefostering



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