

# PRIVATE FOSTERING: WHAT IS IT?

## DEFINITION

A Private Fostering arrangement is a **private arrangement** for a child under the age of 16 (or 18 if they are disabled) to **be cared for by someone who is not a parent or close relative, for more than 28 days**. The local authority is not involved in placing the young person in this private arrangement.

A child/young person is privately fostered if they are living with **extended family such as cousins, great aunts/uncles or a family friend**. They may be living outside their parents' care due to:

- Being asked to leave the family home
- Parent is in prison/hospital/homeless
- To avoid being a Looked After Child
- Parent has left local area and child is staying to complete schooling
- Family difficulties
- Parent has decided to place child with extended family member for a variety of reasons.

## What to do if the above is the case.

If the above is the case. The parent or the school (if they become aware and have not been informed) must **notify the Local Authority Children's Social Services by telephone in one working day** and you/we will be asked to follow this up in writing. Children's Social Care can be contacted via the First Contact Team on 01332 641172.

For further information, click on the links below:

[www.derbyshire.org.uk](http://www.derbyshire.org.uk)

<http://derbyshirescbs.proceduresonline.com/chapters/contents.html>.

**If it is a private fostering arrangement and the child is classified as a child in Need, YOU MUST REFER IT TO CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE.**

<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/social-health/children-and-families/foster/fostering/become-foster-carer/types-fostering/private-fostering/private-fostering.aspx>

If you have any queries/questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Safeguarding Team at Eckington School.