

A QUICK GUIDE TO PRIVATE FOSTERING ARRANGEMENTS

What is the law governing private fostering?	What are the responsibilities of private foster carers?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the child or young person is living in the care with someone OTHER than a blood relative they are LIKELY to be privately fostered. It is NOT care provided by a registered LA or independent foster carer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To advise Early Help & Safeguarding Hub on 01482 395500 of their intention to privately foster a child at least 6 weeks in advance or where in an emergency not more than 48 hours after.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private fostering is when a child under the age of 16 (18 if the child has a disability) is cared for by someone who is not their parent or a 'close relative' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that they have received as much information about the child as possible.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close relatives are defined as step-parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters uncles or aunts (whether full blood, half blood or marriage) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide the child with safety, adequate care and fulfil all of their physical and emotional needs.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The INTENTION is for the placement to last for 28 days or more. The odd break does not negate the intention. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To enable social workers to fulfil their duties under legislation and regulations, including spending time alone with the child
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Privately fostered children are safeguarded by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children Act 1989 (Part IX), the 2004 Children Act (s44) Private Fostering Regulations 2005 and National Minimum Standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To notify Children's Social Care within 48 hours when a child leaves their care and to provide the name and address of the person into whose care the child has been moved.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> East Riding of Yorkshire Council Children's Social Care must be notified of all private fostering arrangements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A private foster carer can look after three children who are not siblings but can care for more than three if they are brothers and sisters.

**EAST RIDING LEAD ON PRIVATE FOSTERING ARRANGEMENTS:
Ruth Kingdom
IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR QUERIES PLEASE CALL EAST
RIDING SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ON (01482)396999**

<p style="text-align: center;">What are the main responsibilities of parents or persons with parental responsibility?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">What is the task of the professionals involved?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To advise Children’s Social Care of the private fostering arrangement and the address of the proposed private foster carers. This should be at least 6 weeks in advance where planned and within 48 hours in an emergency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting a private fostering arrangement is NOT a breach of confidentiality.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide prospective carers with as much information about the child as possible, including their health, dietary preferences, school, hobbies, religion, and ethnicity etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private foster carers are legally required to notify their Local Authority but many do not, often because they do not realise they have to. If professionals are aware of arrangements they should check that Children’s Social Care is aware.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to exercise their parental responsibility and to ensure that the proposed private fostering arrangement is suitable for their child. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ideally notification should come from the parents and carers but professionals can play an important role in explaining to parents and private foster carers the need to notify the Local Authority.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To agree a financial arrangement with the private foster carers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If there is any doubt that the Local Authority have been notified professionals should make the notification to ERCSC so that they can then undertake their duties.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In some instances the parents may not be available which means that they are unable to comply with the above requirements, however the child may still be privately fostered. IT IS A LEGAL REQUIREMENT FOR PRIVATE FOSTER CARERS AND PARENTS TO NOTIFY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY OF THEIR PRIVATE ARRANGEMENT. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you become aware of a possible private fostering arrangement and would like further advice or discussion please contact East Riding Safeguarding Children Board on 01482 396999.