

Private fostering
Standard letter to parents

Children Act 1989 – Private Arrangements for Fostering Regulations 1991

Dear-----

We understand that you have placed or intend to place your child (*insert name*) with (*insert name and address of carer*).

As we understand that this carer is not a relative of your child and that the arrangement has lasted or is intended to last for more than 28 days it is subject to the above regulations. This gives the local authority the legal responsibility to check on the suitability of the people looking after your child, to ensure that the premises are safe and suitable and to generally safeguard and promote your child's welfare.

We do this by visiting the carer and seeing you child, carrying out checks with the police and other agencies if necessary and by staying in regular contact. We have to make visits every six weeks over the first year of the arrangement, then every twelve weeks.

Although we have these responsibilities and in exceptional circumstances can prohibit arrangements we would like to stress that you keep all your responsibilities as the child's parent. You can also help by:

- Making sure that the carer has all the information they need, for example about your child's health and educational needs, likes and dislikes etc.
- By having a clear agreement, preferably in writing, setting out financial arrangements, notice period etc.
- Seeing your child regularly and including them as far as possible in family life. It is also helpful to make sure that they know, as far as their age allows, when they will be returning to you.
- Meeting the carer and social worker if there are any issues about your child's needs that should be 'ironed out'.
- Letting Children's Social Care know when the private fostering arrangement begins and ends – this is a legal requirement.

It is usually helpful for us to meet the parents of privately fostered children at the beginning of these arrangements wherever this is possible. We will be contacting you

again regarding this. In the meanwhile, if you have any queries regarding this letter, if you would like us to arrange for it to be translated or if you would like us to arrange an interpreter please contact (*insert name of worker or manager responsible*)

Si inglés no es su lengua materna, contacta por favor a un asistente social en el encima del número para solicitar a un intérprete.

Si l'anglais n'est pas votre première langue, s'il vous plaît contacter un assistant social sur le nombre ci-dessus mentionné pour demander un interprète.

Se inglês não é sua primeira linguagem, por favor contata um assistente social no acima de número solicitar um intérprete.

Если Вы хотели бы перевести это письмо на испанского языка или хотели бы в нас устроить переводчика, пожалуйста войдите в контакт с Работником патронажа.

Yours sincerely

Name

Title

0208 XXX- XXXX