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|  | Date: | 16 December 2022 |
| Your Reference: | [Surname] Fostering Assessment |
| Our Reference:  | [Mosaic ID Number] |
| Enquiries to: | [Assessing Social Worker] |
| Section: | Fostering Service  |
| Tel: | [Social Worker’s Tel] |
| Email: | [Social Worker’s Email] |

Recipient address line 1

Recipient address line 2

Recipient address line 3

Recipient address line 4

Dear [INSERT NAME],

**Re:** [NAME OF APPLICANT]

The above person has made an application to become a foster carer for South Gloucestershire Council and has given me written permission to contact you in regard to this. A record of their consent is attached.

Before people are approved as foster carers, we are required to undertake a number of checks and references, and one of these is with their current and previous employers. As the applicant is self-employed they have nominated you as a character reference. This reference will contribute to a wider assessment regarding the suitability of the applicant to be a foster carer.

**EMAIL OPTION**

I would therefore be very grateful if you could complete the enclosed form and email it back to me using the email address below. You may not be able to answer all of the questions and if that is the case, please enter “N/A” or “unable to comment” in that box.

If you do not wish to complete a reference, I would be very grateful if you inform me of that decision by emailing: fosteringbusinesssupport@southglos.gov.uk

**POSTAL OPTION**

I would therefore be very grateful if you could complete the enclosed form and return it in the enclosed pre-paid envelope. You may not be able to answer all of the questions and if that is the case, please enter “N/A” or “unable to comment” in that box.

If you do not wish to complete a reference, I would be very grateful if you inform me of that decision by emailing: fosteringbusinesssupport@southglos.gov.uk

Please remember to tick one of the boxes at the end of the form to show your agreement or otherwise for us to share your reference with the applicant. If you ask for your reference or parts of your reference to remain confidential, we will respect this.

If you would like to discuss any aspect of the applicant’s suitability to become a foster carer, or have any questions about this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you in anticipation of your help with this matter.

Yours sincerely,

p.p. [Business Support Worker]

**[Name of Assessing Social Worker]**

Fostering Service

South Gloucestershire Council

**Character Reference Form**

| **NAME OF APPLICANT** |
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| **PERSON COMPLETING THE REFERENCE** |
| **Name** |  |
| **Job title**  |  |
| **Organisation** |  |
| **Email** |  |
| **Telephone** |  |

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| **How long have you known the applicant, and in what capacity?** |
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| **Is there any reason why you wouldn’t trust the applicant with confidential information?** |
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| **Do you have any reason to question the applicant’s reliability?**  |
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| **Please give details of any incidents or events involving the applicant that have caused you concern.** |
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| **Please describe any experiences or qualities you feel the applicant has which are relevant to looking after children within the applicant’s home.** |
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| **Please describe any concerns you have about the applicant’s suitability to be a foster carer looking after children and young people.** |
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| **Please tick one of the following boxes to indicate your consent to sharing the information you have provided:** |
| --- |
| * I am happy for my reference to be shared with the applicant.
* I wish for my reference to remain confidential.
* There are parts of my reference that I want to remain confidential and would like to discuss this with you.
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| --- | --- |
| **Signature** |  |
| **Date** |  |

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| **PLEASE RETURN THIS REFERENCE TO:** |
| **Name** | ICS CAH Business Support BMR |
| **Fostering Service** | South Gloucestershire Council  |
| **Email**  | Email: fosteringbusinesssupport@southglos.gov.uk |
| **Postal Address** | Department for People Business Support Central PO Box 1955 Bristol BS37 0DE |