



Private Fostering in Hackney

A Guide for Parents and Carers



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE



Private Fostering

Is someone else looking after your child or children?

Or, are you looking after someone else's child?

If the answer is yes to either of these questions then this leaflet will provide you with important information.

There are many reasons why a child may be in a private fostering situation. They include:

- Children living with a family friend because of a family crisis
- Children (sometimes a teenage parent) living with neighbours
- Children whose parents may be studying or working unsociable hours
- Refugee and homeless children
- Children with parents overseas
- Trafficked children

If your child is being privately fostered or you are caring for someone else's child then read on.

What is private fostering?

Private fostering is a private arrangement between a parent and a carer. When a child under 16 (or 18 if disabled) is cared for and provided with accommodation, by an adult who is not a relative, for 28 days or more, it is called private fostering.

A relative in this situation is either a grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt. They can be a full or half relation and could be related by marriage. Relatives also include step-parents.

Partners of the mother or father of a child would not qualify as a relative; neither would extended family members such as great aunts, great uncles or parent's cousins.



Private Fostering

What is the Council's role?

Hackney Council has a legal duty to ensure that children and young people in this situation are safe and properly cared for. Under the Children's Act, you must tell the Council if you are entering into a private fostering arrangement.

Parents

If someone else is or will be looking after your child you must:

- Check that the placement is suitable for your child.
- Contact Hackney Children's Services at least six weeks before the arrangement begins or within 48 hours of the arrangement being made in an emergency.

You can call the Access and Assessment Team on **0208 356 5500**.

What should you tell the carer?

You should make sure that the person who is looking after your child has as much information about them as possible. This will include information about their health, school records, religious and cultural requirements, eating preferences, hobbies, likes and dislikes.

Are you giving up your rights to your child?

You are not giving up any rights to your child as your child is only being looked after temporarily. You still retain parental responsibility for your child and should be involved in all decisions concerning your child's development and upbringing. Frequent contact with your child is important so you can help make these decisions.

Under the Children's Act, you must tell the Council if you are entering into a private fostering arrangement.

What will Hackney Children's Services do for me and my child?

Hackney has a duty to find out whether the carer is suitable to care for your child. We will make regular visits to see your child and will provide support and advice where appropriate.

What if I can't find out what is happening to my child?

If you have any concerns about your child's welfare, do not hesitate, contact us for assistance.

It is an offence not to notify the Council of such an arrangement.



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Carers

If I intend to foster a child privately, what do I need to do?

You need to contact Hackney Children's Services as soon as the arrangement is made or at least six weeks before the child comes to you. If it is an emergency situation Children's Services should be notified within 48 hours.

You can call the Access and Assessment Team on **0208 356 5500**.



What information do I need to have?

You should make sure the child's parents give you as much information as possible about the child, including their health, school records, religious and cultural requirements, eating preferences, hobbies and likes and dislikes. This will help you understand the child and take better care of him or her.

If I need help or advice while I am privately fostering where do I go?

You should contact us at Hackney Children's Services for advice and in some cases a range of support services may be available to you.

Will I be able to claim Social Security benefits?

You may be able to claim tax credits and/or social security benefits such as Child Benefit and possibly Income Support or Job Seekers Allowance, if you receive Child Benefit. Your local Benefits Agency office will be able to advise you.

What do I do when the child leaves my care?

You must tell Hackney Children's Services within 48 hours that the child has left your care. You must also give the name and address of the person who will be caring for the child in the future.

It is an offence not to notify the Council of such an arrangement.

**If you would like to know more about Private Fostering contact us; Access and Assessment Team:
Telephone 0208 356 5500**



If you would like to find out what this document says please tick the appropriate box, put your name, address and phone number at the bottom of this page and return it to the address below.

Bengali



এই দলিলে কি লেখা আছে সে সম্পর্কে যদি আপনি জানতে চান তাহলে অনুগ্রহ করে উপযুক্ত বাক্সে টিক দিন, এই পাতার নীচে আপনার নাম, ঠিকানা ও ফোন নম্বর লিখুন এবং এটি নীচের ঠিকানায় ফেরত পাঠান।

French



Si vous désirez connaître le contenu de ce document, veuillez cocher la case appropriée et indiquer votre nom, adresse et numéro de téléphone au bas de cette page et la renvoyer à l'adresse indiquée ci-dessous.

Kurdish



Ger hun dixwazin bizanibin ku ev dokument çi dibêje, ji kerema xwe qutika minasib îşaret bikin, nav, navnîşan û hejmara telefona xwe li jêrê rûpel binivîsin û wê ji navnîşana jêrîn re bişînin.

Polish



Jeśli chcesz dowiedzieć się, jaka jest treść tego dokumentu, zaznacz odpowiednie pole, wpisz swoje nazwisko, adres i nr telefonu w dolnej części niniejszej strony i przeslij na poniższy adres.

Urdu



اگر آپ یہ جاننا چاہتے ہیں کہ دستاویز میں کیا لکھا ہے تو ازراہ کرم مناسب باکس میں صحیح کا نشان لگائے اور اپنا نام، پتہ اور فون نمبر اس صفحہ کے نیچے لکھئے اور اسے نیچے دیئے گئے پتہ پر واپس بھیج دیجئے۔

Somali



Haddii aad jeclaan lahayd in aad ogaato waxa dokumeentigani sheegayo fadlan calaamadi godka ku haboon, ku qor magacaaga, cinwaanka iyo telefoon lambarkaaga boggan dhankiisa hoose ka dibna ku celi cinwaanka hoose.

Spanish



Si desea saber de lo que trata este documento, marque la casilla correspondiente, escriba su nombre, dirección y numero de teléfono al final de esta página y envíela a la siguiente dirección.

Turkish



Bu dökümanda ne anlatıldığını öğrenmek istiyorsanız, lütfen uygun kutuyu işaretleyerek, adınızı, adresinizi ve telefon numaranızı bu sayfanın alt kısmına yazıp, aşağıdaki adrese gönderin.

Vietnamese



Nếu bạn muốn biết tài liệu này nói gì hãy đánh dấu vào hộp thích hợp, điền tên, địa chỉ và số điện thoại của bạn vào cuối trang này và gửi lại theo địa chỉ dưới đây.

Chinese



如果你想知道這份文件的詳細內容，請在方框內打鉤，在本頁下面寫下你的名字、地址和電話號碼並寄到下面的地址。

If you would like this document in any of the following formats or in another language not listed above, please complete and send the form to the address below.

In large print



In Braille



On Disk



On audio tape



In another language, please state:

Name:

Address:

Tel:

Return to: Fostering Team, Hackney Service Centre,
1 Hillman Street, E8 1DY

Notes

Use this page to record important information about the child you are looking after.

Childs' name:

First name:

Family name:

Date of Birth:

Age:

Date child arrived to stay with you:

Religion:

Doctor name and address:

School being attended:

Childs hobbies, likes and dislikes

Parent information:

Mother's name:

Father's name:

Address:

Telephone: