



Private Fostering in Hackney

A Guide for Parents and Carers

Is someone else looking after your child or children in Hackney?

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. Please read on.

What is private fostering?

Private fostering occurs when a child or young person under the age of 16 (under 18 if disabled) is cared for, and provided with accommodation for 28 days or more, by an adult who is not a

relative, by private arrangement between the parent and carer.

Usually a birth parent chooses and arranges a private fostering placement and private foster carers do not hold parental responsibility.

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.



Under the Children Act 1989, you must tell the Council if you are entering into a private fostering arrangement.

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

- Children and young people that have to live away from their family as a result of separation, divorce or disputes at home.
- Children and young people sent to this country for education or health opportunities.
- Cultural exchange students.

- Children and young people from overseas whose parents are studying or working during unsociable hours, which makes it difficult for them to use ordinary child care provisions.
- Any child or young person whose parents have made a private arrangement for them to be looked after by someone else.

These are only examples. There may be other arrangements which do not fall into any of these categories.



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What is the Council's role?

Hackney Council has a legal duty to ensure that children and young people in private fostering arrangements are safe and properly cared for.

Under the Children Act 1989, 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 Hackney Children's Services on **020 8356 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?

- 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 their development and upbringing.
- Frequent contact with your child is important so you can help make these decisions.

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

- If you are thinking about asking someone else to look after your child then we can provide advice about the arrangement.
- 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 as appropriate.

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



Carers

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

- Inform Hackney Children's Services at least 6 weeks in advance of your intention to privately foster a child or, where a child is received in an emergency, not more than 48 hours after the child's arrival.
 - Allow a social worker to visit the private foster carer's home and see the child. Provide information as required. Allow the social worker to inspect your home and make reasonable recommendations.
 - Report any changes in the household.
 - Comply with any legal requirement.
- For example, Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks are undertaken on all those in the household over the age of 16.
- Make an agreement with parents about their expected level of involvement in the day-to-day care and decision-making about their child.
 - 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.



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- Promote the child's welfare in your home.
- Notify Hackney Children's Services within 48 hours when a privately fostered child or young person leaves your care, stating why and giving the name and address of the person into whose care they have been moved.

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

You should contact 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 benefits?

You may be able to claim Universal Credit and the Council will be able to advise you about this.

 If you would like to know more about Private Fostering, contact Hackney Children's Services on: **020 8356 5500.**

Notes

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

Child's name:

First name:

Family name:

Date of Birth:

Age:

Date child arrived to stay with you:

Relationship of child to you:

Religion:

Doctor name and address:

School being attended:

Childs hobbies, likes and dislikes

Parent information:

Mother's name:

Father's name:

Address:

Telephone:

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 çû 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 لگائیے اور اپنا نام، پتہ اور فون نمبر اس صفحہ کے نیچے لکھنے 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 número 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

如果你想知道這分文件的詳細內容，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

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In another language, please state:

Name:

Address:

Tel:

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