

What is Private Fostering?

- When a child under the age of 16 (under 18 if disabled) is cared for by someone who is not their parent or a 'close relative'.
- A private arrangement made between a parent and a carer, with the intention of lasting for 28 days or more.

If a private fostering arrangement is made, there is a [legal obligation](#) on carers and parents to notify the local authority.

Who could be a Private Foster Carer?

- Extended family such as a cousin or great aunt.
- Friends of the family.
- Parents of a friend of the child.
- Someone previously unknown to the child's family who is willing to privately foster a child.

How do I notify Hampshire Children's Services?

If you are told or made aware of a possible private fostering arrangement you must notify Children's Services:

- ♦ Professionals should complete the [Inter Agency Referral Form \(IARF\)](#)
- ♦ Members of the public can telephone 0300 555 1384 or email childrens.services@hants.gov.uk

Children's Services will need to be sure that the child is safe, healthy and happy and can offer support to private foster carers and parents where needed.



Hampshire
Safeguarding
Children
Partnership

For more information about private fostering in Hampshire, please visit the [Hampshire County Council website](#).