



**my  
county  
council**

**Are you being cared for  
by friends or family?**



**Northamptonshire  
County Council**



## What is private fostering?

Private fostering is when you are under 16 (or 18 if you have a disability), and you live with an adult who looks after you instead of your mum or dad or close family member.

The person who looks after you will not be very closely related to you like your uncle or gran. Your mum and dad or close family member will have agreed that this person can look after you.

We say private foster caring' because this means it has not been arranged by a social worker.

## What if I am not happy?

If you are not happy where you are living it is important that you talk to someone about it. The social worker who comes to see you has a special job to make sure that you are happy. You can talk to them or you may want to talk to someone else.

### Some of the people you might talk to could be:

- ❑ School counsellor/ school nurse/ teacher
- ❑ Connexions worker
- ❑ A grown up friend
- ❑ Someone you see where you go and pray

Special people are employed to make sure children and young people are being listened to. These people are known as Children's Rights Workers. You can contact them via **0300 126 1000**, requesting to speak to Children's Rights Service.

You could also speak to someone at Childline by telephoning **0800 1111**.

## Why does a social worker have to be involved?

By law your parent and your carers must tell the local authority social workers that you are living in someone else's house. The social worker works for the local authority and their job is to make sure that children are properly cared for.

They come to see you and where you live to make sure you are happy living with the carer. They will talk to the person looking after you and to your mum and dad or family to see if they can help anyone.



## What might I need to know?

**It would be important for you to have:**

The names and addresses of your carers and telephone number:

The name and number of your social worker in case you want to contact them:

The name, address and telephone numbers of other people who could help you especially in an emergency for example school counsellor, doctor, police:

## Things it might be important for your carer to help you with

To do a good job, carers need to help you with lots of things, these could include:

- Schoolwork
- Keeping in touch with family and friends
- Behaviour
- Your culture and religion.  
This might mean special foods, places you go to pray, beliefs you have or other people who have been important to your family
- Being healthy and seeing the doctor when you need to
- Disability needs
- Pets
- Hobbies and activities

## Can I still see my mum, dad and family?

It is very important that your mum and dad or close family members stay in touch with you. The social worker will do as much as possible to help your carers and family make this happen.





This information can be provided in other languages and formats upon request including braille and audio.

For more information contact **0300 126 1000**.

**[www.northamptonshire.gov.uk](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk)**