



Private Fostering

How do I know if I am privately fostered?

Information for children and young people in private fostering arrangements

How do I know if I am privately fostered?

This leaflet explains more about private fostering and how Lambeth Private Fostering Service can help you.

What is private fostering?

If your parents or your close family asks an adult to care for you a period of 28 days or longer in their home then you are in **private fostering arrangement**.

Your person looking after you will be known as your **private foster carer**.

Why does Lambeth Children and young People's Service need to know who looks after me?

The law says that the local council needs to know who is looking after you and where you are living to make sure that you are not in danger and being properly cared for. The Private Fostering Service needs to know about every child or young person living in a private fostering arrangement in Lambeth so they can check that the child/young person is safe and happy.

When the council hears about a child living in a private fostering arrangement, it will arrange for a social worker to visit your home every six weeks to carry out an assessment of your carers and the environment in which you live. These visits and assessments of your carer are to ensure that you are happy in the home and feeling safe. You will also be asked about what you think about your situation and so will your parents if it is possible to contact them.

What should my private foster carer provide for me?

Whilst in a private fostering arrangement the carer should provide you with all the everyday care that you need.

Examples of this are:

- Ensure that your health needs are taken care of by taking you to the hospital or doctor if you are sick, injured or require vaccinations
- Make sure that you go to school and learn
- Make sure that your skin and hair are properly looked after
- Take you to the dentist to ensure that your teeth are properly looked after
- Help you stay in touch with your family
- Help you follow any religions and customs that are important to you
- Give you regular meals
- Make sure that you have a chance to make friends and take part in activities that you enjoy.

What should my private foster carer not do?

- Change your name
- Take you overseas without telling your parents first and ensuring that they agree
- Move you to another family without making an arrangement about this first with your parents and informing the council
- Change your school without making an arrangement about this with your parents first

If you are living in a private fostering arrangement your carer must notify Lambeth Private Fostering Service as soon as possible.

What do I do if I have problems with my private foster care arrangement?

You can contact your Private Fostering Service social worker or Private Fostering Service administrator on **020 7926 7081** and ask to speak to social worker.

Or write to:

Private Fostering Service,
9th Floor International House,
6 Canterbury Crescent,
Brixton, SW9 7QE

If you are concerned about your safety contact Referral and Assessment Duty on **020 7926 7868**.

You can visit or write to:

Referral and Assessment Duty,
4th Floor, International House,
6 Canterbury Crescent, Brixton,
SW9 7QE

Below are some other numbers that you could contact for assistance:

ChildLine 0800 1111

This is a special helpline for children who are at risk of being hurt or abused or in trouble. The helpline is open 24 hours and you can call them for free on the number above or find them on your computer on **www.childline.org.uk**

NSPCC 0800 800 5000

If you are experiencing a bad time at home, or being bullied at school, or you are worried or scared about something, you can find them on your computer on **www.nspcc.org.uk**

Child Law Advice Line 0845 120 3747

This organisation provides legal advice to children, you can call them on the above number or you can find them on your computer on **www.childrenslegalcentre.com**

Access to records

Under the Data protection Act 1998 you have the right to make a written request to view all or part of records held on you by Lambeth Children and Young People's Service. Your social worker or local office will be able to assist you in making this request.

What to do if you are unhappy with the service?

It is your right to make a complaint and by telling us about it, this will help us make things better for you and help us to improve our services.

If you wish to make a complaint speak to your social worker or their manager or ask for a copy of the Comments, Compliments & Complaints leaflet. You can also phone **020 7926 9624** or **020 7926 9777** or email **CYPScontakt@lambeth.gov.uk**

Bengali

এই তথ্য অন্য কোনো ভাষায় আপনার প্রয়োজন হলে অনুগ্রহ করে ফোন করুন **020 7926 7081**

French

Si vous souhaitez ces informations dans une autre langue veuillez nous contacter au **020 7926 7081**

Portuguese

Se desejar esta informação noutro idioma é favor telefonar para **020 7926 7081**

Spanish

Si desea esta información en otro idioma, rogamos nos llame al **020 7926 7081**

Twí

Se wope saa nkaeboy yi wo kasa fororo mu a fre **020 7926 7081**

Yoruba

Tí ẹ ba fe ìmoràn yíí, ní èdè Òmíràn, ẹjẹ, ẹ kàn wà l'ágogo **020 7926 7081**

If you would like this information in large print, Braille, audio tape or in a community language please call 020 7926 7081 or on Type talk: 18002 020 7926 5555.