

## 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](mailto: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.



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