

Request for document translation

Are you looking after someone else's child?

If you need any part of this document explained in your language, please tick box and contact us either by writing or by phone using our contact details below.

- ☐ **Albanian** Nëse ju nevojitet ndonjë pjesë e këtij dokumenti e shpjeguar në gjuhën amtare ju lutemi shenoheni kutinë dhe na kontaktoni duke na shkruar ose telefononi duke përdorur detajet e mëposhtme.
- ☐ **Bengali** এই ভাষায় কোনো অংশ আপনার নিজ ভাষায় বুঝতে চাইলে, দয়া করে বাংলাটিতে (বক্সে) টিক চিহ্ন দিন এবং চিঠি লিখে বা ফোন করে আমাদের সাথে যোগাযোগ করুন। নিচে যোগাযোগের বিবরণ দেওয়া হয়েছে।
- ☐ **French** Si vous avez besoin que l'on vous explique une partie de ce document dans votre langue, cochez la case et contactez-nous par courrier ou par téléphone à nos coordonnées figurant ci-dessous.
- ☐ **Korean** 만일 본 서류의 어떤 부분이라도 귀하의 모국어로 설명된 것이 필요하다면, 상자속에 표시를 하고 우리에게 전화나 서신으로 연락하십시오.
- ☐ **Polish** Aby otrzymać część tego dokumentu w polskiej wersji językowej proszę zaznaczyć kwadrat i skontaktować się z nami drogą pisemną lub telefoniczną pod poniżej podanym adresem lub numerem telefonu.
- ☐ **Portuguese** Caso você necessite qualquer parte deste documento explicada em seu idioma, favor assinalar a quadrícula respectiva e contatar-nos por escrito ou por telefone usando as informações para contato aqui fornecidas.
- ☐ **Somali** Haddii aad u baahan tahay in qayb dukumeentigan ka mid ah laguugu sharxo luqaddaada, fadlan sax ku calaamadee sanduuqa oo nagula soo xiriir warqad ama telefoon adigoo isticmaalaya macluumaadka halkaan hoose ku yaalla.
- ☐ **Spanish** Si desea que alguna parte de este documento se traduzca en su idioma, le rogamos marque la casilla correspondiente y que nos contacte bien por escrito o telefónicamente utilizando nuestra información de contacto que encontrará más abajo.
- ☐ **Tamil** இத்தப் பத்திரத்தின் எந்தப் பகுதியும் உங்களுக்கிடையே விவரிக்கப்படுவது உங்களுக்கு வேண்டுமானால், தயவுசெய்து பெட்டியின் அடையாளமிட்டு, கீழுள்ள எங்கள் விவரங்களைப் பயன்படுத்தி எழுத்தமூலமாக அல்லது தொலைபேசி மூலமாக எங்களைத் தொடர்பு கொள்ளவும்.
- ☐ **Urdu** اگر آپ اس دستاویز کے کسی حصے کا ترجمہ اپنی زبان میں حاصل کرنا چاہتے ہیں تو دئیے گئے باکس میں صحیح کائنات کا بے اور ہمارے ذیل رابطے پر یا تو ٹیلیفون کے ذریعے یا پھر تحریری طور پر رابطہ کریں۔

- ☐ Large print ☐ Braille ☐ Audiotape

Your contact:

Name.....
Address.....
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Telephone.....

Private Fostering
Merton Civic Centre,
London Road,
Morden SM4 5DX
Tel: 020 8545 4347

Are you looking after someone else's child?

If so, you may be a private foster carer. This leaflet explains what private fostering is, and what parents and carers need to tell us.



What is private fostering?

Private fostering is an arrangement that is made privately – that is not involving the council. A private foster carer is someone other than a parent or close relative who takes on the day-to-day care of a child. The parent keeps overall responsibility for the welfare of the child. It is an arrangement that lasts for a period of 28 days or more in agreement with the child's parent.

Private fostering applies to a child under the age of 16, or under 18 if disabled. Private foster carers may be from the extended family – such as a cousin, a great aunt, a friend or someone unknown to the child who is willing to privately foster. We do not consider close family to be private foster carers.

Those who have the following relationship to the child are not considered as private foster carers:

- Grandparent
- Brother or sister
- Aunt or uncle (whether of full blood or half blood by marriage)
- Step-parents.

Why are children privately fostered?

There are many situations where a private fostering arrangement may be made.

Some of the most common are:

- Children sent from abroad to stay with an extended family member, usually to study
- Teenagers who have moved out of their parents' home and are staying with friends
- Those living with host families while studying (perhaps at language school)
- Children who need to be cared for away from home due to a parent's ill health.

What must the council do?

Making alternative care arrangements in any of the examples given can be stressful for all concerned. Our aim is to make sure that private foster carers, parents and children get the help they need during what can be a difficult time.

We have specific duties to ensure private fostering arrangements are appropriate and working well for the child. These include:

- Checking the suitability of private foster carers
- Telling private foster carers, parents and children who to contact for advice and support
- Making regular visits to the child
- Monitoring the overall standard of care.

What should you do?

The law says private foster carers and parents have to tell their council about all private fostering arrangements. It is an offence not to tell us unless you have reasonable cause. If you are a private foster carer or a parent and you are proposing to make a private foster arrangement you must tell us at least six weeks before the arrangement starts. If it is an emergency arrangement you must tell us immediately. If a child is already living in a private fostering arrangement you must tell us immediately.

Enquiries about private fostering.

If you have any enquiries about private fostering arrangements you should contact us at:

Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Team

Address: Children, Schools and Families Department,
Merton Council, Civic Centre,
London Road, Morden SM4 5DX
Email: childrensdaysservice@merton.gov.uk
Telephone: 020 8545 4226 or 020 8545 4227