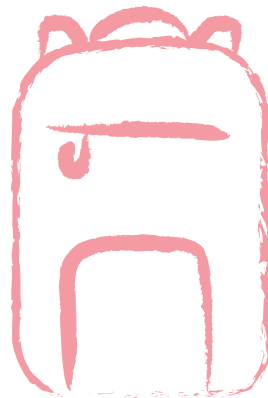


Are you living with someone other than your parents?



Many children and young people go to stay with someone other than their parents for periods of time, but if you are under 16 years old (18 years if you have a disability) and you are living with someone who isn't your parent, a close relative or a foster carer for more than 28 days, then you are privately fostered.

- Private fostering includes living with someone like a great aunt, great uncle, cousin or a friend's family. You are not privately fostered if you live with immediate family such as a step-parent, your brother, sister, grandparents, aunt or uncle or if you live with a foster carer approved by Solihull Council.



The law says that the local authority (Solihull Council) must check that the living arrangements are the best thing for you and that you are safe and happy.

Some reasons why people are privately fostered include:

- A teenager living with their girlfriend/ boyfriend's parents
- Staying with another family if your parents are overseas
- Staying at a friend's house because of problems at home

What should I do?

If you think you might be being privately fostered but you aren't sure you can call **0121 788 4300** or visit **<https://bit.ly/2krupeZ>**

Check with your parents or the people looking after you that they have told Solihull Council where you're living and ask them to give us a call to let us know if they haven't done so yet.

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What will happen next?

If you are being privately fostered, a social worker will come out to visit you at your carer's home to check that you are safe and well looked after. They will ask you how you feel about your living arrangements. You can speak to the social worker if you have any worries or concerns and they will help you. If the social worker agrees that you are safe and well looked after they will visit you every six weeks for the first year that you are living there to check that things are going well.

What should my carer do for me?

Your carer should look after you in the same way that a parent would. They should;

- Make sure you attend school and help with homework
- Take you to the doctor/dentist/optician when you need to go
- Give you healthy meals
- Make sure you have a warm bed and clean clothes
- Listen to your feelings and help you if you are sad or unhappy
- Let you see your friends and have fun
- Help you follow your religious beliefs and customs
- Help you to stay in touch with your parents as much as possible

Someone else is looking after you and you think you might be being privately fostered

OR

You are feeling sad/unhappy about who is looking after you or where you are living. Please call us on **0121 788 4300**.

You can also speak to a teacher or an adult you trust and they will help you.

You can also call Childline for free any time of day or night on **0800 1111** for help. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/2krupeZ>

