



## what must I do if I intend to foster a child privately?

The law requires that you tell your local council at least six weeks before the arrangement begins that you intend to privately foster a child, unless the arrangement is made in an emergency in which case the notification must be made within 48 hours.

Make sure the child's parents give you as much information as possible about the child, including their health, eating preferences, school, hobbies, religion and ethnic or cultural background. This will help you to understand the child and take better care of him or her.

Allow the child access to Social Work professionals and designated advocates.

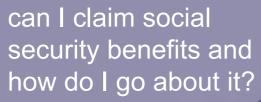
It is an offence not to notify within the time specified. If in doubt, you should seek advice from the local council. Telephone 0345 678 9021.

## how can I get help while I am privately fostering?

You can contact your local council for advice on caring for the child(ren) you are privately fostering.

#### will I get any support?

The local council has a duty to provide private foster carers with whatever advice and guidance necessary to assist them in caring for the child.

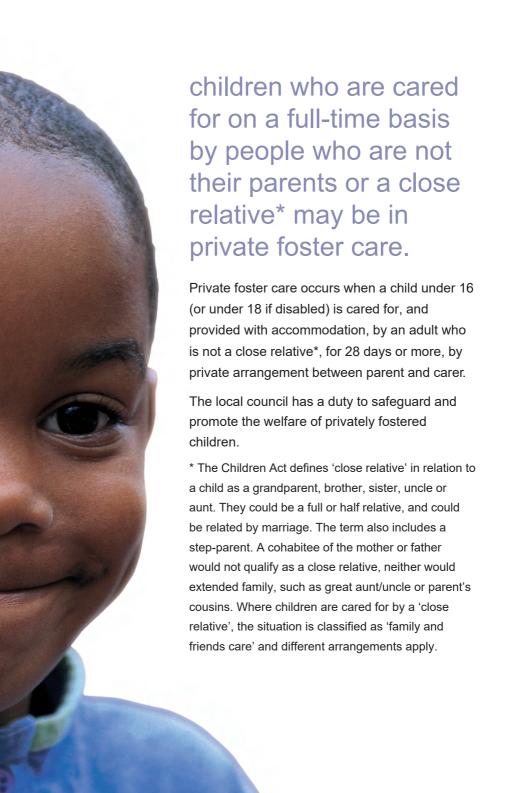


You may be able to claim tax credits and/or social security benefits such as Child Benefit, and possibly Income Support or universal credit, if you receive Child Benefit. Contact your local Benefits Agency Office who will be able to advise you.

# what if the child leaves my care?

You must tell your local council within 48 hours that the child has left your care. You must also give the name and address of the person who will be caring for the child.

Shropshire Council may offer advice and support to young people between the ages of 16 and 21 who have been privately fostered. We will need to determine whether the young person is eligible for advice and support and if so, what we can offer. Financial support or assistance with accommodation will only be offered in exceptional circumstances, where there is a risk of the young person suffering significant harm and no other agency has a responsibility to provide this service.



## where do I go for further information?

If you require further information on the contents of this leaflet, please contact Shropshire's Customer Service Centre on **0345 678 9021**.

Safeguarding Children Shropshire Council Shirehall Abbey Foregate Shrewsbury SY2 6ND

https://www.shropshirefostering.co.uk/



Childrens Safeguarding

photographs posed by models