

Summary for Court about the Process for Connected Persons Assessments

Initial Visit to Complete Application Form which gives permission for all background checks. All rooms of house are seen and especially bedroom for fostering. Discuss fostering assessment, expectations for what it means to be a foster carer and need for 3 pieces of ID for DBS.

Begin (Stage 1 Fostering regulations) all background checks. This can take 4-6 weeks, sometimes longer, to receive all this information. The checks are as follows; -

* Local Authority check,
* Previous Local Authority Check,
* Medical with GP (this can sometimes take longer as reliant on applicant to make and keep appointment with GP),
* Medical sent to Medical advisor if concerns identified,
* NSPCC,
* DBS – this can be delayed as many connected person applicants don’t always have the necessary forms of acceptable ID,
* Employer Current,
* Employer previous,
* Ex-partner references,
* CAMHS in relation to any children in household,
* Education Current,
* Education previous,
* Veterinary Assessment (where dogs are present)
* Landlord Reference.

Begin assessment with identifying family tree, Ecomap, chronology of events. Leave applicants homework to inform the assessment where they are able to do on their own.

8 assessment visits on average are needed (Stage 2 of assessment as per Fostering Regulations) as good practice to cover all areas needed for assessment. This will vary dependant on location of carers time available and how many people/children living within the household. If children are placed, we may also attend core groups and need to oversee the placement from a supervisory capacity.

Areas to be covered within the assessment for each applicant; -

* Background Information, from birth to resent day,
* Education,
* Employment,
* Health,
* Ethnicity, cultural/religious beliefs,
* Previous relationships,
* Current relationship,
* Parenting capacity or childlessness,
* Health and Safety,
* Safe Care Plan,
* Pet Assessment,
* Understanding of care plan, risks, child protection, ability to ensure safety of young person,
* Analysis of parenting capacity,
* Information about their children, parenting, boundaries, practicalities of caring for another child,
* Understanding of child development, adolescence,
* Importance of maintaining family contacts/understanding and views of this,
* Finances,
* Recommendation/Analysis
* Interviews of birth children
* Interviews with Ex-partners
* 3 Referee Interviews needed (1 family member 2 non-relatives)

Final report to be written, quality assured and listed for panel. Applicants need to see the report and given the opportunity to feedback on issues of factual accuracy.