

Significant Changes

SCOPE OF THIS CHAPTER

This chapter outlines the requirement to notify the Fostering Service of any significant changes in a Fostering family or household.

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1. Responsibility to Notify the Fostering Service of Significant Changes

When there is a significant change (see Section 2 – examples of Significant Changes) in a fostering family and household the Foster Care is required to notify the Fostering Service as soon as possible but no more than 24 hours of a significant event occurring or likely to occur.

Foster carers should inform the Supervising Social Worker/Fostering Manager or the Emergency Duty Team if out of hours.

The Supervising Social Worker will visit the Foster Carer when notified of a change to discuss the change and its impact.

This will be discussed with the Team Manager, and the Team Manager will decide whether a foster care review is necessary at that point.

If a Foster Carer does not comply with the above, they may be deemed in breach of their Foster Care Arrangement and risk de registration.

2. Examples of Significant Changes

These following are some of the changes the Fostering Service considers to be significant.

This list is not exhaustive and if there is any other significant event a Foster Care thinks it is may be important to share, or if there is any doubt the Foster Carer should discuss with the Supervising Social Worker.

- Change of address/contact details (telephone numbers).

- A Foster Carer is planning to move house.
- A Foster Carer moves house.
- A Foster Carer is going on holiday (including extended holidays).
- There are major alterations made to the house or emergencies relating to the home environment.
- Any family member dies.
- Any family member, friend or relative joins the family, even for a brief period. It may be necessary to make a police check (including new relationships and partnerships, or ending of).
- Anyone is planning to stay no matter for how long or comes to stay in the household who has a criminal record involving offences against children, or violence against the person.
- A Foster Carer's working hours change significantly e.g. part-time or to evening and weekend work.
- Change in a Foster Carer's working status e.g. if you start or stop work.
- Severe marital difficulties, including one partner leaving home - even temporarily.
- Serious deterioration in the health of any family member.
- Any foreseen or current financial difficulties.
- Any Foster Carer, member of the household or significant individual who regularly visits the household who have received a caution or is charged or is convicted or an offence.
- Diagnosis of a serious illness.
- The birth of a child to any family member.
- Anyone leaving the family.
- Any member of the family is charged with a criminal offence.
- Any pets introduced into the household.
- A dog owned and kept by the family becomes registered under the Dangerous Dogs Act.
- Any application to become a childminder or similar day care.
- Additional or changes to commitments and pressures on the Foster Carers and/or family.