

# Private Fostering

Information for Parents and Carers



*Is your child living with someone who is not a close relative?*



*Are you looking after a child who is not a close relative of yours?*

**NORTHUMBERLAND**

Northumberland County Council





Private Fostering is where parents make arrangements for their child to live with somebody else (not a close relative) for 28 days or more. If you answer YES to ALL of the following questions the child is likely to be privately fostered:



Is the child under 16 or under 18 if they have a disability?



Is the child going to be living with somebody else for more than 28 days or have they already been living with somebody else for more than 28 days?



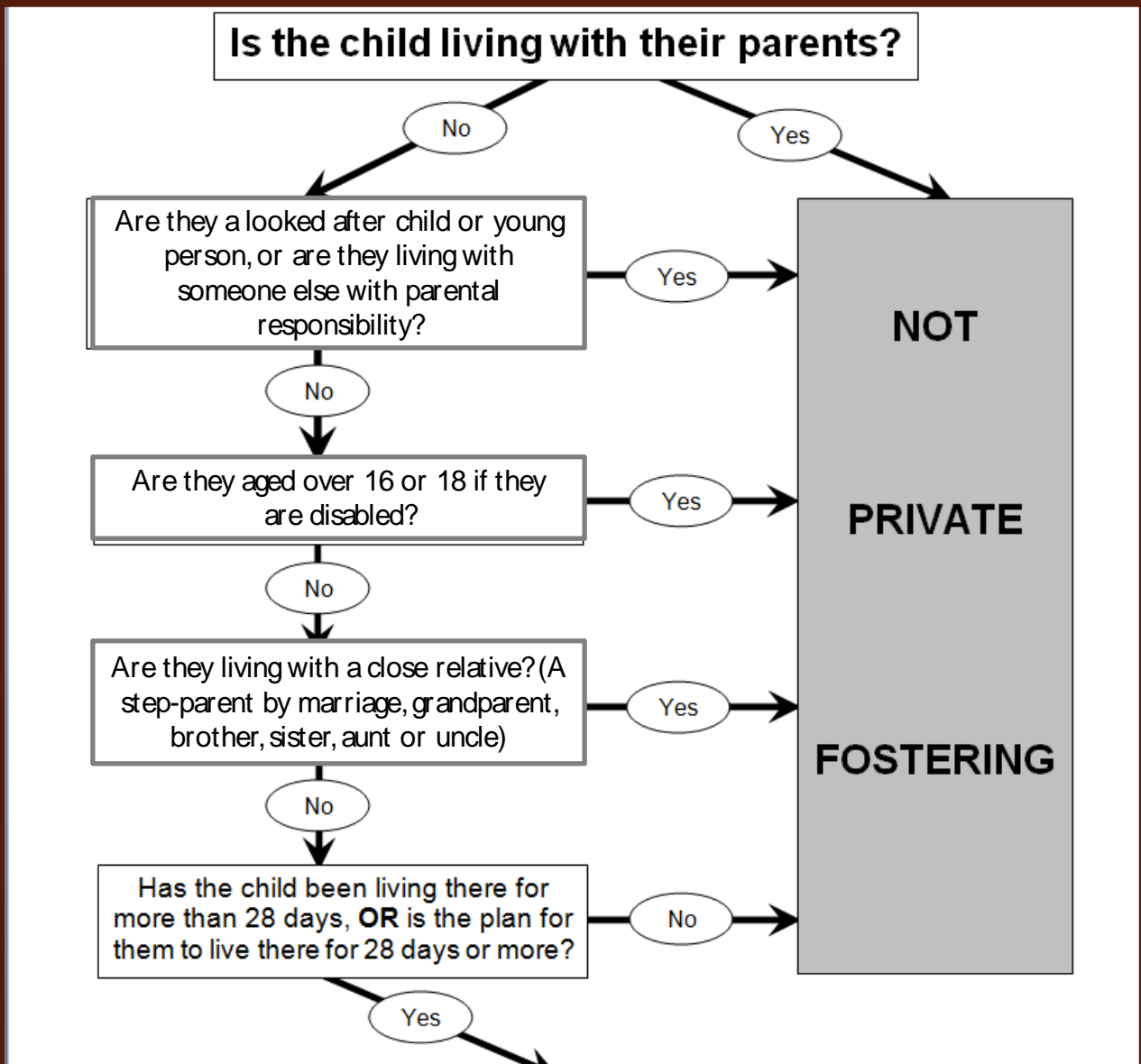
Is the child living with somebody who is not a close relative? This could be a cousin, great aunt, great uncle or a family friend.

You are legally required to let Children's Services know if your child is being privately fostered. They have a duty to make sure that privately fostered children are well cared for and safeguarded from harm.

You could be missing out on a range of services and support available for children, carers *and* families.

## Some examples of situations when private fostering arrangements are made:

- ✓ Parents working away from home
- ✓ Parents studying or working unsocial hours
- ✓ Illness
- ✓ Children from abroad who come to this country for education or health care
- ✓ Parental separation, divorce or arguments at home.



**THIS IS PROBABLY A PRIVATE FOSTERING ARRANGEMENT**

# What you need to do:

If you are making (or have made) arrangements for your child to be privately fostered, or you are the Private Foster Carer of somebody else's child, you need to contact Client Relations on 01670 623978.

## What Client Relations will do:

- The team will arrange for the relevant Children's Services team to contact you to arrange a visit with the child and the private foster carers
- Talk with the child about where they are living
- Let the private foster carers know about any support that might help them to look after the child
- Keep in touch with you about the arrangements for the child.

For further information visit:

[www.northumberland.gov.uk/private\\_fostering](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/private_fostering)

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Should this document be required in a different language or a format suitable for people with sensory impairments the service will make arrangements to provide this.