



# Significant incidents and Notifications

Practice guidance for foster carers

## **OWNER**

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## **VERSION**

V 2.0

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Company number 11293709  
Brighter Futures for Children: Fostering  
Service registration, number: 2502331

## When do I need to tell BfC's IFA and the Child's social worker about incidents

### STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

Fostering Services National Minimum Standards:

- [Standard 29 - Notifications of Significant Events](#).

The Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011:

- [Schedule 7 - Events and Notifications](#).

This information tells you what constitutes a significant incident and notifiable event, what you need to do after they occurred and what the agency's responsibilities are.

Wherever an event listed in the notification table(Schedule 7) and in line with Schedule 6(see significant incidents) happens, your main priority is to make sure the child is as safe as possible. You must then contact your supervising social worker, the duty worker if you can't get hold of your supervising social worker or the Out of hours support( if the incident occurred out of hours) at the earliest time possible. They will require detailed information from you such as times, venues, current and previous whereabouts and persons involved. It is also paramount that the child's social worker is informed which can be either done by yourself or the fostering social worker but you both need to be clear on who will do this as they need to be informed immediately after you have reported the incident to the agency. Once this information has been obtained, an OFSTED notification will be completed and sent within 24hrs of the incident. This is usually overseen by the Registered Manager of the fostering agency.

A copy of the form will be:

1. Sent directly to the relevant Statutory Authority(ies) within 24 hours – excluding weekends and bank holidays as per schedule 7;
2. Placed on the relevant child and your file;
3. Placed in the folder for all Schedule 6 and 7 incidents.

Once you have shared information with the agency verbally, you are required to complete and send Brighter Futures for Children's IFA's incident form to your supervising social worker/duty worker within 72hrs of the incident.

### Notifications

**SCHEDULE 7**  
Events and notifications

Regulation 36(1)

Column 1 Event	Column 2 To be notified to:					
	Chief Inspector	Responsible authority	Secretary of State	Area authority	Police	<b>[F1 integrated care board]</b> <b>[F2 and F3 NHS England]</b>
Death of a child placed with foster parents	yes	yes	yes	yes		yes
Information is provided to the <b>[F4 Disclosure and Barring Service]</b> under any of sections 35, 36, 39, 41 or 45 of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 <b>M1</b> in respect of an individual working for a fostering service	yes	yes				
Serious illness or serious accident of a child placed with foster parents	yes	yes				
Outbreak at the home of a foster parent of any infectious disease which in the opinion of a general practitioner attending the home is sufficiently serious to be so notified	yes	yes		<b>[F5 yes]</b>		<b>F6...</b>
Allegation that a child placed with foster parents has committed a serious offence		yes			yes	
Involvement or suspected involvement of a child placed with foster parents in <b>[F7 sexual exploitation]</b>	yes	yes		yes	yes	
Serious incident relating to a child placed with foster parents necessitating calling the police to the foster parent's home	yes	yes				
A child placed with foster parents is missing from the placement		yes		<b>[F8 yes]</b>	<b>[F8 yes]</b>	
Any serious complaint about any foster parent approved by the fostering agency	yes	yes				
Instigation and outcome of any child protection enquiry involving a child placed with foster parents	yes	yes		yes		

- F1** Words in Sch.7 substituted (1.7.2022) by The Health and Care Act 2022 (Consequential and Related Amendments and Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2022 (S.I. 2022/634), reg. 1(2), Sch. para. 1(1)(3) (with Sch. para. 1(2))
- F2** Words in Sch. 7 table substituted (1.4.2013) by The National Treatment Agency (Abolition) and the Health and Social Care Act 2012 (Consequential, Transitional and Saving Provisions) Order 2013 (S.I. 2013/235), art. 1(2), **Sch. 2 para. 160(3)(b)(i)**
- F3** Words in Regulations substituted (6.11.2023) by The Health and Care Act 2022 (Further Consequential Amendments) (No. 2) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 2023/1071), reg. 1(1), **Sch. para. 1**
- F4** Words in Sch. 7 substituted (1.12.2012) by The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 (Disclosure and Barring Service Transfer of Functions) Order 2012 (S.I. 2012/3006), arts. 1(1), **33** (with Pt. 4)
- F5** Word in Sch. 7 table inserted (1.4.2013) by The National Treatment Agency (Abolition) and the Health and Social Care Act 2012 (Consequential, Transitional and Saving Provisions) Order 2013 (S.I. 2013/235), art. 1(2), **Sch. 2 para. 160(3)(a)**
- F6** Word in Sch. 7 table omitted (1.4.2013) by virtue of The National Treatment Agency (Abolition) and the Health and Social Care Act 2012 (Consequential, Transitional and Saving Provisions) Order 2013 (S.I. 2013/235), art. 1(2), **Sch. 2 para. 160(3)(b)(ii)**
- F7** Words in Sch. 7 substituted (27.1.2014) by The Children's Homes and Looked after Children (Miscellaneous Amendments) (England) Regulations 2013 (S.I. 2013/3239), regs. 1(1), **29(a)**
- F8** Word in Sch. 7 inserted (27.1.2014) by The Children's Homes and Looked after Children (Miscellaneous Amendments) (England) Regulations 2013 (S.I. 2013/3239), regs. 1(1), **29(b)**

## Significant Incidents and Schedule 6 information

Significant Incidents are not always as clear as notifiable events and sometimes they can overlap; however, if you have any doubts or are uncertain whether you need to report an incident to the agency, seek advice from your supervising social worker/duty worker or Out of hours support.

Below are the incidents that must be reported to BFfC's IFA within the previously mentioned timescales and the Incident Form/Medical record must be completed

- Assault by a foster child on you or a member of your household
  - Serious accident or injury to you whilst carrying out your duties
    - Any event which may result in media interest
    - All accidents, injuries and illnesses of children placed with you.
    - Any allegations or suspicions of abuse or neglect in respect of children placed with foster carers
    - Use of any measures of control, restraint or discipline in respect of children living with you or other foster carers
    - Medication, medical treatment and first aid administered to any child placed with you.
- (Please note that the use of medication is recorded on BFfC's IFA's Medication record, any planned medical treatments shared in time beforehand, and emergency medical treatments/first aid reported at the earliest time possible)

Please ensure that there is no delay in reporting significant incidents and notifiable events to the agency as it is important that we can support you and the child/ren at the time and afterwards. Depending on the incident, we will visit you instantly or offer ongoing phone support. If applicable, we will also update the individual safer care plans including risk assessments and support needed to reflect the significant incident.