



BFFC's IFA Resignation Procedure

For decision For discussion For information

SUMMARY

This procedure sets out guidance around foster carers who are considering leaving BFFC and puts this into context with legislation.

OWNER

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VERSION

V1.0

DATE

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REVIEW

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Legislation and Guidance

1) Regulation 28(13) of the Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011 governs the resignation of a foster carer.

“A foster parent may give notice in writing to the fostering service provider at any time that the foster parent no longer wishes to be a foster parent, in which case the foster parent’s approval is terminated with effect from 28 days from the date on which the notice is received by the fostering service provider.”

The Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011 (legislation.gov.uk)

2) Statutory guidance is given in the Children Act 1989 Guidance & Regulations Volume 4: Fostering Services (updated 2015) – Paragraph 5.59

“Reviews and terminations of approval of foster carers:

A foster carer may at any point give written notice that they wish to resign from the role, in which case their approval is automatically terminated 28 days after receipt of the notice by the fostering service (regulation 28(13)). The decision-maker does not have the power to decline a resignation as any resignation takes effect automatically after 28 days, but this need not prevent the fostering service from forming a view about the person’s future suitability to be a foster carer. Fostering services may wish to advise a foster carer who indicates that they are considering giving written notice of their resignation that once this is given, it automatically takes effect after 28 days regardless of whether the foster carer withdraws their notice. Should a foster carer who has resigned want to foster again, their suitability would need to be reassessed in line with the 2011 Regulations. Once a foster carer has resigned the fostering service has no responsibility to confirm resignation through panel, although it may be helpful to notify the panel to inform its monitoring role.”

Resigning with children and young people in placement

Where carers are planning to resign from Brighter Futures for Children’s Independent Fostering Agency (BFFC’s IFA), it is expected that they give serious consideration to the impact on any children in placement. They should wherever possible be supported either to keep the child until the natural end of the placement or to give sufficient notice so that suitable alternative arrangements can be made, and the child is properly prepared for the move.

Resigning and transferring to another agency

Where carers wish to transfer to another agency, whether or not a child is in placement, the Transfer Protocol and related principles developed by The Fostering Network should be followed.

Carers must give written notice of their intention to transfer.

- 1) [transfer of foster carers protocol \(thefosteringnetwork.org.uk\)](http://thefosteringnetwork.org.uk)
- 2) [transfer protocol principles \(thefosteringnetwork.org.uk\)](http://thefosteringnetwork.org.uk)

Resignation of foster carers before or during an investigation

If the resignation is submitted before or during an investigation into a complaint, standards of care or allegation against the foster carer, this will not prevent the investigation from being concluded and the reference will be based upon the outcome of the investigation and the report being presented at panel.

References

We will form a view as to the future suitability of the person to be a foster carer, which would inform any references requested by other agencies or future applications to BfFC's IFA.

If requested by another agency and with the consent of the foster carer, a reference will be provided within one month of the receipt of a written request.

With the written consent of the individual concerned, another fostering provider which is assessing the foster carer for approval may inspect the records of the BfFC's IFA. This applies whether or not the foster carer is still approved by the BfFC's IFA at the time. The statutory timescales which must be adhered to and details of what information must be shared are set out in the 'Assessment and Approval of Foster Carers: Amendments to the Children Act 1989 Guidance & Regulations – Volume 4 Fostering Service'.

Depending on the outcome of an investigation into allegations of abuse by a foster carer, the BfFC's IFA will consider whether a referral to the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) would be appropriate'.

Approvals

Foster carers cannot be approved by more than one agency simultaneously.