

Manual:	Foster Carers Handbook;
Title:	Significant Changes (FCH/025)
Last Reviewed:	27/02/2017
Next Review Due:	27/02/2020

You are required to notify the Fostering Service of any significant changes in your family and household. You should ensure that this is recorded by the Fostering Supervising Social Worker.

These are some of the sorts of changes the Service considers to be significant:

- Change of address/contact details (telephone numbers).
- You are planning to move house.
- You do move house.
- You are 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 your 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.
- Your working hours change significantly e.g. part-time or to evening and weekend work.
- Change in your 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 who is charged with a criminal offence.
- Any pets introduced into the household.
- A dog owned and kept by you 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.

This list is not exhaustive and if there is any other significant event which you think it is important to share you should contact your Fostering Supervising Social Worker. If in doubt you must discuss with your Fostering Supervising Social Worker.

The Fostering Supervising Social Worker will visit you when notified of a change and discuss the change and its impact with you. This will be discussed with the Team Manager.

The Team Manager will decide whether a foster care review is necessary at that point.

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

Foster carers should inform their Fostering Supervising Social Worker/Fostering Manager or the Emergency Duty Team if out of hours. As soon as possible but no more than 24 hours of a significant event occurring or likely to occur.