



Events and Notification Guidance

Events and Notifications (Schedule 6 & 7 Monitoring)

The Fostering Agency under Regulation 35 and 36 and Schedule 6 and 7 of the Fostering Services Regulations (England) 2011 and Standard 29 National Minimum Standards 2011 has a duty to monitor and respond effectively to significant incidents involving children placed with foster carers. Schedule 6 matters must be monitored by the Fostering Agency (see appendix A) and Schedule 7 Events require a notification to relevant statutory bodies and partner agencies (see table below).

1. Schedule 7 Notifiable Events

The Fostering Regulations and National Minimum Standards require that the fostering service respond promptly to significant notifiable events relating to a child's physical and emotional wellbeing and that these events are recorded, and a planned response is agreed and followed through by professionals. Incidents may be reported by the foster carer or other professionals or the child themselves. This policy sets out the criteria for a notifiable event and how such events should be managed. This policy lists the statutory bodies and partner agencies that must be notified, including the events that are notifiable to Ofsted. The Fostering Agency should use the online notification form to notify Ofsted of a specified event.

In urgent situations, the fostering service can contact Ofsted by telephone (0300 123 1231). (Refer to appendix B for guidance on Ofsted notifications).

Foster carers and fostering staff must be aware what constitutes a Schedule 7 notifiable event. If a foster carer is unsure what constitutes a notifiable event, it is important that foster carers attend any training provided and are briefed by the Supervising Social Worker.

2. What is a Notifiable Event and what statutory bodies and partner agencies must be notified?

The table below details the Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011 Schedule 7 notifiable events.

Event	Notify: Chief Inspector	Notify: Responsible authority	Notify: Secretary of State	Notify: Area authority	Notify: Police	Notify: Area health authority
Death of a child placed with foster carers	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Information is provided to the Independent Safeguarding Authority under any of sections 35, 36, 39, 41 or 45 of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (1) in respect of an individual working for a fostering service	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Serious illness or serious accident of a child placed with foster carers	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Outbreak at the home of a foster carer of any infectious disease which in the opinion of a general practitioner attending the home is sufficiently serious to be so notified	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Allegation that a child placed with foster carers has committed a serious offence	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Involvement or suspected involvement of a child placed with foster carers in child sexual exploitation	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Serious incident relating to a child placed with foster carers necessitating calling the police to the foster carer's home	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
A child placed with foster carers is missing from the placement	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Any serious complaint about any foster carer approved by the fostering agency	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Instigation and outcome of any child protection enquiry involving a child placed with foster carers	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No

If a significant event has occurred which appears on the Schedule 7 list, the foster carer must inform their supervising social worker/duty worker or fostering manager on the day of the incident or if it is out of hours the Emergency Duty Team. Schedule 6 and 7 Checklist Recording Forms are provided to foster carers for the purpose of recording and reporting this information.

The Supervising Social Worker must inform Fostering Team Manager or Registered Manager on the same day and complete the electronic notification form on the foster carer file and send this to the relevant fostering manager. The relevant manager must complete the manager section of the notification form and send this to the Registered Manager. The Registered Manager is responsible for ensuring that Schedule 7 notifications are made within 24 hours to the relevant statutory bodies or partner agencies. The Registered Manager following an incident notifiable under regulation 36, contacts the responsible authority to discuss any further action that may need to be taken. The fostering agency may notify the required statutory bodies and partner agencies initially by telephone, but this must be followed up in writing and a record of the notification placed on the child's file. The fostering manager must ensure that the electronic notification record is updated detailing the outcome of any action or investigation and copy is placed on child's file.

The Registered Manager reports on any Schedule 7 notifications in the quarterly report to Worcestershire Children's First Fostering board identifying any patterns or trends or any actions that WCFB must take to improve practice.

3. Other Incidents / Concerns.

If a foster carer experiences an incident which is not a significant notifiable event but which a foster carer is concerned about, you must always share this with your Supervising Social Worker or another member of the Fostering Service so they can provide advice/ guidance on any next steps. Foster carers have a responsibility to report any concerns / incidents to their Supervising Social Worker or duty worker who would inform the fostering manager. There should be no delay in reporting any concerns or incidents

The Registered Manager must also inform the responsible authorities of any serious concerns about the emotional or mental health of a child, such that a mental health assessment would be requested under the Mental Health Act 1983.

4. Events foster carers to record and notify the Fostering Agency/Supervising Social Worker/Child Social Worker under Schedule 6

- Accidents, injuries, and illnesses of a fostered child placed (non-serious).
- Use of any measures of control, restraint, or discipline in respect of a fostered child.
- Medication, medical treatment and first aid administered to any fostered child (foster carers to record using the medication form for each foster child).

Appendix A

SCHEDULE 6 Matters to be monitored by the registered person

- 1.** Compliance in relation to each child placed with foster carers, with the child's care plan.
- 2.** All accidents, injuries and illnesses of children placed with foster carers.
- 3.** Complaints in relation to children placed with foster carers and their outcomes.
- 4.** Any allegations or suspicions of abuse or neglect in respect of children placed with foster carers and the outcome of any investigation.
- 5.** Recruitment records and the conduct of required checks of new workers.
- 6.** Notifications of events listed in Schedule 7.
- 7.** Any child missing from a foster carers home without permission.
- 8.** Use of any measures of control, restraint, or discipline in respect of children accommodated in a foster home.
- 9.** Medication, medical treatment and first aid administered to any child placed with foster carer.
- 10.** Where applicable, the standard of any education provided by the fostering service.
- 11.** Records of assessments.
- 12.** Records of fostering panel meetings.
- 13.** Records of appraisals of employees.
- 14.** Minutes of staff meetings.

Appendix B

Ofsted's guidance is that it does not need to be notified about minor injuries such as sprains, strains or falls that have happened during regular childhood experiences.

This is the case even if the child is taken to the local accident and emergency department to have the injury checked out, unless it results in the child being admitted to hospital for more than 24 hours.

If the injury has been sustained as part of a wider incident, for example a restraint or during a child running away, it may be appropriate to notify Ofsted. Ofsted does not need to know if a child becomes ill and is not admitted to hospital.

Similarly, you do not need to inform Ofsted of self-harm incidents that result in minor or superficial injuries.

Ofsted guidance states you do not need to routinely inform Ofsted when a child goes missing.

Serious concerns over a child's missing behaviour would include if you considered the child to be at grave risk due to age or vulnerability or if they have been missing for a considerable period and their whereabouts are unknown. Therefore, under those circumstances it may be relevant to complete an Ofsted notification. You must assess each case individually, considering any patterns of behaviour or unusual behaviour that may indicate an increased risk to the child.