

# Unannounced Visits

August 2019



# 1. Introduction and Legal Framework

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The requirement for unannounced visits to foster carers is set out in the Statutory Guidance and the National Minimum Standards for Foster Carers.

## **Fostering Services, Guidance and Regulations (2011)**

5.67 Every foster carer should be allocated an appropriately qualified social worker from the fostering service (the supervising social worker) who is responsible for overseeing the support they receive. It is the supervising social worker's role to supervise the foster carer's work, to ensure that they are meeting the child's needs, and to offer support and a framework to assess the foster carer's performance and develop their skills. They must make regular visits to the foster carer, including at least one unannounced visit a year.

## **National Minimum Standard 21: Support and Supervision of Foster Carers**

21.8 Each approved foster carer is supervised by a named, appropriately qualified social worker who has meetings with the foster carer, including at least one unannounced visit a year.

The purpose of the visit is also set out in the Guidance and Standards.

## **Fostering Services, Guidance and Regulations (2011)**

3.82 Every foster home must be visited without appointment by a supervising social worker of the fostering service at least once a year, as a check on the standards of care being provided.

## **National Minimum Standard 10: Providing a suitable physical environment for the Foster Child**

10.5 The foster home is inspected annually, without appointment, by the fostering service to make sure that it continues to meet the needs of foster children.



