

TERMS AND CONDITIONS LETTERBOX CONTACT

1. Letters and parcels should be sent to Families Forward unsealed and unwrapped. Families Forward will then check the contents to ensure they are appropriate for the children, or in line with any Court Order that is in place. If necessary, anything deemed to be inappropriate will be returned to the sender with an explanation as to why that decision has been made. All contents are noted in the family file. Families Forward will not wrap presents. If presents are received that are wrapped we will check with any legal representatives and/or CAFCASS to see if they should be sent unopened. In these circumstances Families Forward cannot be held responsible for their contents.
2. Families Forward will aim to send all mail out on Tuesday. This should be borne in mind when sending commemorative cards, eg Eid, birthday, Easter. However, due to Christmas closure, any items intended as Christmas gifts should be received by Families Forward by 18 December in order to guarantee Christmas delivery. All items are sent by first class recorded delivery which is tracked and the receipt recorded on the family file. Where items are not delivered or collected, and then returned to Families Forward, the sender will be informed. The non-resident party would be liable for the cost of resending the items.
3. Where it is ordered by the Court that a session be held to handover the item(s) to a child, and their reaction monitored, this will be charged as a supported session at £45.00. The cost of this session is to be met in advance by the non-resident party, unless otherwise stipulated and agreed. Items to be handed over in this way, along with payment, should be received at least a week in advance to give time to arrange a session, and the items checked to ensure they are appropriate to be passed on. If they are not appropriate, the non-resident party will be informed as to the reasons why.
4. For the first contact, an invoice will be sent to the non-resident party after the event to cover the contact fee of £20.00 plus any additional postage costs. For all further contacts, the contact fee of £20.00 should be paid to Families Forward by cheque, cash or direct to the bank before or along with the items to be sent. We will not post any items out until this is received. An additional postage costs will be invoiced and can be paid alongside the contact fee for the subsequent contact. The cost of indirect contact includes the postage for the first class recorded delivery of a small letter. However, if the cost of postage is greater than this, the full cost will be charged to the client account. The price of indirect contact also includes a letter to the Court to inform them of the frequency and appropriateness of contact, if this is requested in writing. Invoices will also be sent to the non-resident party for items sent from the resident party to the non-resident party (this could be school reports, photographs, cards from the children). Items will not be sent if the account is in arrears.
5. Once delivery is tracked, a text message will be sent to the sender to inform of successful receipt of the item.

6. **Feedback and complaints**

- 6.1 Families Forward wishes to ensure that all those who use our service receive a courteous and professional response and one that is appropriate to their needs regardless of gender, race, language, religion or disability. We welcome and value your feedback.
- 6.2 If you are not satisfied with the way Families Forward is working with your family, you can make a complaint, in line with the Families Forward Complaints Procedure, which you can request at any time. In the first instance we encourage you to speak to your key worker, or the Centre Co-ordinator. However, if your issue is not resolved by these means, you may wish to make a formal representation as described in the Complaints Procedure.

7. **Quality Assurance**

Families Forward is an enhanced accredited centre with the National Association of Child Contact Centres. In respect of the accreditation process, this agency will perform quality assurance checks on our work. Information shared for this purpose will be considered solely as a reflection of Families Forward and the quality of work they provide, and on the understanding that confidentiality is protected. Any party has the right to refuse to give such permission. No files will be shared unless both parties give permission for Families Forward to do so.

8. **Security and retention of information**

All records, both electronic and on paper, will be kept securely and will only be used for the purpose of facilitating the contact required. Unless there are safeguarding concerns that need to be referred to the appropriate agency, information will not be passed to any other party without the prior consent of the individual concerned, or their parent if they are under 16. Families Forward do not pass on any personal details to agencies not involved in the contact process. Paper copies of documents will be kept for six months following the closure of the file, at which point all records generated by Families Forward, including the referral form, will be scanned and retained electronically and the paper file will be securely and confidentially disposed of. All electronic records will be retained for three years following closure, and then will be securely and confidentially deleted.

9. **Declaration**

Please sign the attached declaration slip to acknowledge receipt and adherence to the Terms and Conditions of Use of services provided by Families Forward.

April 2018

Patron: Her Honour Judge Anderson
Registered Company Number: 5323430
Oaktree House, 408 Oakwood Lane, Leeds LS8 3LG
Telephone 0113 235 9322 Fax 0113 240 1209

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS
LETTERBOX CONTACT**

PLEASE SIGN BELOW:

I have read and understood the above 'Terms and Conditions, and agree to abide by them.

I agree that my file may be shared with other agencies for quality assurance purposes only

I do not agree that my file may be shared by other agencies for quality assurance purposes only

I agree that the information held by Families Forward may be used for the purpose of the facilitation of the contact requested

I understand that information held by Families Forward will be retained either electronically or on paper for no more than three years.

Name (please print) _____

Signature _____

Date: _____

April 2018

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