What do I need to do?

Following your enquiry, a social worker will visit your home to give you more information.

If you decide to continue with an application, an assessment will be carried out. The assessment process involves a social worker visiting your home several times, obtaining Garda clearance, a letter from your GP and two references.

Support & Training

Throughout the assessment process you will be provided with practical support and training. Supported Lodgings carers receive ongoing training and support from the Social Work service. The young person in your care will have their own Social Worker. Financial support is provided. The young person will have a medical card and their school costs and other discretionary payments are available.

TUSLA
An Ghníomhaireacht um Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

To find out more...

For further information on Supported Lodgings, or to speak with a social worker, you can contact the fostering service within the team for Separated Children Seeking International Protection.

Separated Children Seeking International Protection

Child and Family Agency,
Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital,
Lower Grand Canal Street,
DO2P667.

Telephone 01 647 7000

The Team for Separated Children Seeking International Protection is currently looking for people to provide Supported Lodgings care to young people from 16 years onwards.

Supported Lodgings

Information Leaflet

TUSLA
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Child and Family Agency

The Team for Separated Children Seeking International Protection is currently looking for people to provide Supported Lodgings care to young people from 16-years-old onwards.

What is Supported Lodgings?

Supported Lodgings is an accommodation scheme for young people aged 16+ who are unable to live at home but are not ready to live independently.

Supported Lodgings placements are seen as a 'stepping stone' aimed at providing young people with practical and emotional assistance in the safety and security of a family environment.

It enables them to develop their independence skills so they can eventually live on their own. It helps equip them with essential life skills and to reach their full potential as they grow into confident and successful adults.

Who can be a Supported Lodgings carer?

Supported lodgings carers will be expected to create a safe and supportive environment where the young person can develop their confidence and life skills to eventually enable them to live independently. This will include helping them to budget, cook, clean, do their washing, complete forms, make and attend appointments and interviews.

They will need to have a spare room and be willing to share their house with a young person, which includes giving them a key.

As each young person in Supported Lodgings will be in the care of Tusla – Child and Family Agency, the normal care planning and review processes will apply which means working closely with the school and social work teams.

Carers undergo an assessment process and will pass through a Foster Care Committee, but it is shorter than the fostering assessment.

Supported Lodgings carers are a diverse group, and can be couples, cohabitating or same gender, with or without children. They can be single, widowed, separated or divorced from various cultural backgrounds, employed or unemployed. They can own their own home or rent.

Who are separated children?

Young people arriving in to Ireland unaccompanied by a responsible adult and seeking asylum from political, religious or other forms of persecution form a small but significant enough part of the looked after population. The needs and circumstances of these young people are complex.

What do they need?

- **Help settling into a family**

  Separated children need support living in a family, and to learn the routines, opportunities, expectations and rules of family and community life in Ireland.

- **Help developing relationships**

  As well as having to negotiate the bureaucracy of being in care, the young person and the carers have to negotiate the reality of difference – ethnicity, culture, religion and language. Questions of identity and belonging are difficult when a young person has an emotional distance from home.

- **Help linking into education and social networks.**

  Schools and social networks provide unaccompanied young people with consistency and daily rhythms, which are essential for settling. Introducing the young person into education and health services as well as participation in sports and leisure is important.

- **Help preparing for adulthood**

  The approach of adulthood brings the likelihood of the asylum process to the fore. It can be a very stressful time. Alongside the complex transitions made by other care leavers, (school to work; from care to independence) there is also the stress of going through the asylum process.