



Private Homestay Arrangements

If you are not using the services of Canada Homestay Network and are arranging homestay privately for your child, you accept all risks and responsibilities for these arrangements.

Whether you are making the arrangements directly or working through a placement agency, we strongly suggest you ask yourself the following questions before agreeing to have your child live in that home:

- How are you determining the suitability of the home for your child? Have you communicated with the host(s)? Have you seen photos of the home? Do you have a local friend or family member that could go to the home, meet the family, and have a tour including the student's bedroom?
- If working through a company, what is their process for adding host families to their list of available homes? Have they inspected the home? Have they thoroughly interviewed all members of the home?
- Do all members of the home who are over 18 years of age have a valid police check and vulnerable sector check through the Calgary Police Service?
- Is the home clean and safe? Will your child have their own bedroom with study area and closet?
- Do you know who else will be living in the home at the time your child will be studying in Calgary? Do they host other international students? Do they have experience hosting international students?
- Do they have pets? If so, do you know the details?
- Has the family agreed to offer three nutritious meals per day plus all snacks?
- Do you understand that every address in Calgary has a designated school and your child must attend the school designated for the home address you are arranging?
- Do you understand that if your child moves outside of the school's boundaries during the school year, he/she can finish the school year at that school and then will be required to move to the designated school for the start of the next school year?
- If working with a placement company, will they support you to find another home if the arrangements do not work out for whatever reason?
- If you entered into a direct placement arrangement, what is your alternate plan if your child needs to move?

- Does the host family understand the expectations for hosting a minor child? Whether they are taking custodianship of your child or you have another custodian, there are strict guidelines in place for all host families. Details as follows:

Hosts shall:

- be 25 years of age or older.
- be Canadian Citizens or Permanent Residents.
- be a full-time resident in the city of Calgary.
- ensure that the school and Global Learning have current custodian's contact information on record (i.e., address, phone number, e-mail, cell number, English speaking contact).
- be easily accessible at all times.
- be in contact with parents in times of emergency.
- understand that you are acting as the student's parent(s) and have discussed expectations with the biological parents regarding homework, behavior, free time, curfews and anything else to do with the smooth operation within your home.
- *sign papers and permission forms from the school.
- *attend disciplinary meetings called by the school administration (suspensions) if required.
- *attend parent/teacher interviews regarding the student's progress, concerns, and educational planning for the student.
- provide support and encouragement for the student by attending performances, displays, etc.
- *provide the school with a notice in writing if the custodian will be absent from the city, detailing length of absence and the alternate custodian arrangements that have been made (including full contact information).
- *be willing to be a liaison between the school and the parent.
- *attend Orientation Meetings (high school), which will help clarify the role of the custodian, the expectations of the school, and the Alberta school program.
- *assist in setting up initial appointments for assessment and registration at the school (elementary and junior high) and attend those appointments with the student.

- take an active role in supporting the student.
- be accountable for making alternate arrangements (in discussion with the biological parents) in the case where the current custodian is no longer able to continue with custodianship for any reason. The CBE is not responsible for arranging alternate care of the student.

*may not be applicable if host parent is not the custodian (should be discussed with custodian to determine roles and responsibilities)