

HOMESTAY PROVIDER RESPONSIBILITIES

THE CHILDREN ACT 1989 (PART IX)

The Children Act 1989 (Part IX) and the implications for hosting young overseas students.

Homestay providers accommodating children under school leaving age (16 years) now have legal responsibilities under the Children Act 1989 (Part IX).

The law concerned is to provide a necessary element of protection for children who are potentially at their most vulnerable away from their families. This vulnerability can be even greater when the child is from abroad and has only limited ability to communicate in English.

The following are NOT allowed to host children:

- (a) Anyone who has had a child removed from their care by order of a court
- (b) Anyone who has been convicted of an offence against a child
- (c) Anyone whose parental rights over a child have been taken over by a local authority
- (d) Anyone who has had an order made against him/her refusing or cancelling registration under the Nurseries and Child Minder Act 1948 or the Children Act 1989 (Part IX)

If any of the conditions apply to you, your spouse, partner, any other member of your household or visitor to your home, you must make it known to us immediately that you will be unable to host our students. For this reason, I am obliged to ask you to sign the declaration at the bottom of the Host Family Application Form prior to hosting any of our students.

These checks, which have to be made, are no reflection on you but are a safeguard for foreign children whose care we are entrusted with. We are sure you wouldn't want anything less for your own child, or a child close to you, who was going to stay with strangers.

Thank you for your understanding.

Twin Accommodation Team