

## THE IRM CYMRU PROCESS FOR PROSPECTIVE FOSTER FAMILIES

### ARE YOU APPLYING TO BE A FOSTER CARER? OR AN APPROVED FOSTER CARER?

Have you been told the fostering agency is:

- 1) minded not to approve you; or
- 2) that they want to change your terms of approval, and you don't agree; or
- 3) terminate your approval

Then you have what is called a *qualifying determination*

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

If you don't agree:-

You can apply to the Independent Review Mechanism (IRM) for a review of the proposed decision; or Apply to your agency and ask them to re-consider.

Can I do both? – No.

### WHAT EXACTLY IS THE IRM?

It is not an appeals process.

It is a panel that is independent of your agency made up of people with personal and professional experience of fostering, it will look 'afresh' at the information and make a recommendation to your agency.

### DOES THE AGENCY HAVE TO ACCEPT THE IRM PANEL RECOMMENDATION?

No – it looks at all the information and comes to a final decision.

### DO I HAVE TO PAY FOR THE IRM PANEL?

No – your fostering agency meets the cost of this.

### CAN I DISCUSS THIS? OR GET MORE INFORMATION?

Yes – please contact us.

### CONTACT DETAILS FOR IRM CYMRU

Contract Manager – Claire Sharp  
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Or go to the web-site [www.irm.cymru](http://www.irm.cymru) for more information.