

Name _____ Date _____

Babysitter or childminder?

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/1/hi/uk/8278189.stm>

Adapted from BBC News 28.09.2009 © BBC MMIX

An *uproar* has broken out after two police officers were told they had acted illegally by caring for each other's children.



Detective Constables Leanne Shepherd and Lucy Jarret cared for each other's children when they were working shifts, but Ofsted said they were breaking the law.

But what is the legal position on the issue?

Ofsted said the ***arrangement*** broke the 2006 Childcare Act because it lasted for longer than two hours a day, and constituted receiving "a reward".

According to an Ofsted spokesperson: "Reward is not just a case of money changing hands. The supply of services or goods and in some circumstances reciprocal arrangements can also constitute reward."

The watchdog said the women would have to be registered as childminders. Ofsted says close relatives of the child such as siblings, grandparents and aunts and uncles are exempt from registration.

According to the Childcare Act, carers who are not a close family member also do not have to register if:

- The childcare takes place in the parents' home
- or it only takes place between 1800 and 0200
- or the childcare takes place fewer than two hours a day, or 14 days a year.

Registered childminders must pay an annual fee of £103 to Ofsted. Ofsted's guide to registration says registered childminders must attend an ***appropriate*** training course, carry out a risk assessment of the premises on which the childcare takes place and ***prepare*** a written statement of procedures to be followed in the event of complaints.

The law also allows Ofsted to carry out ***checks*** to ensure that childminders ***comply*** with these rules. Critics ***reacted*** angrily after the case was publicised. The charity Kidscape said it defied "common sense" and Thames Valley Police, who employs the two women, said the pair had its "***full*** support".

However, the watchdog said it was in discussion with the government about how the legislation is applied. Minister for Children, Schools and Families Vernon Coaker ***confirmed***: "My department is speaking to Ofsted about the interpretation of the word 'reward' in this particular case."

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A

Look at the words in the text that are in ***bold and italics***. They are listed on the left below. Can you match them with a word on the right that can replace them in the text?

For example **uproar** can be replaced by **furore**

uproar —————> **furore**

arrangement

total

appropriate

inspections

checks

apt

comply

verified

reacted

agreement

full

conform

confirmed

organise

prepare

responded

B

ion words

There are several words in the text that end in "ion".

Find the ones that have similar meanings to the following words or phrases.

- a) situation
- b) signing up
- c) dialogue
- d) meaning
- e) law

C.

ing words

There are several words that end in "ing" or include "ing"

Find the ones that have similar meanings to the following words or phrases.

- a) to look after
- b) brothers and sisters
- c) to obtain
- d) educational
- e) infringing

D.

What are your views on this matter? Use the space below to explain.

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ANSWERS

A

arrangement
appropriate
checks
comply
reacted
full
confirmed
prepare

agreement
apt
inspections
conform
responded
total
verified
organise

B

- a) position
- b) registration
- c) discussion
- d) interpretation
- e) legislation

C.

- a) caring
- b) siblings
- c) receiving
- d) training
- e) breaking