

Requirements and Expectations of Foster Families

- Foster parents go through a screening process with the agency to determine their appropriateness to provide foster care.
- Foster parents must be 21 years of age or older, single or married, stable, law abiding citizens.
- Foster parents must be willing to open their home to children of all ages.
- Foster parents may rent or own their home. If renting, a foster parent must have landlord approval to provide foster care.
- Foster parents must have sufficient financial resources to provide for themselves, their family, and additional children.
- Foster parents must provide food, clothing, and shelter for the child.
- Foster parents receive a monthly reimbursement for the care of the children they foster.
- Foster parents and all members of the household that are 18 years of age and older must be fingerprinted. All members of the household that are between the ages of 13 and 17 must submit to a DCFS background check.
- Foster parents must have a physical and TB skin test. Children under school age must have a physical. School age children are required to have a physical, however, a copy of their most recent school physical is sufficient.
- All dogs and cats, both inside and outside pets **must** be up to date on rabies/vaccinations.
- The bedroom to be used by a foster child must have a minimum of 40 square feet and enough space for their belongings.
- The foster home shall be clean, orderly, and free of observable hazards, such as, but not limited to, clutter, exposed wiring, broken windows, etc. The home shall be clean and well ventilated.
- Smoking in a foster home is against the law. It is not permitted in a foster home or vehicle used to transport foster children.
- Foster parents attend and successfully complete the PRIDE pre-service training prior to licensure as a foster family.
- Foster parents must provide transportation for the child for school, medical appointments, counseling, court, extra-curricular activities, etc.
- Foster parents or other members of the household must have a valid driver's license and proof of auto insurance.
- Foster parents must provide adequate supervision which is age appropriate.
- Foster parents must work with other members of the foster care team, including DCFS, schools, therapists, and any other service provider.
- Foster parents must accept agency supervision.
- Foster parent must be willing to accept children of any ethnicity into their home.
- **One cannot become a licensed foster parent if he or she is prescribed medical marijuana.**