FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHO CAN BE A FOSTER/ADOPTIVE PARENT?

Anyone 21 years of age and older are eligible. There is no maximum age limit. Even retirees can become foster/adoptive parents. Caregivers can be married or single, divorced or widowed.

I LIVE IN AN APARTMENT. AM I ELIGIBLE TO BECOME A FOSTER/ADOPTIVE PARENT?

Yes! Foster/adoptive homes are ordinary homes. Small or large. Spacious or crowded. Rented or owned, What our foster/adoptive homes have in common is love.

WHAT ARE THE FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS TO BEING A FOSTER/ADOPTIVE PARENT?

Foster parents receive an allowance to cover the cost of food, shelter, and clothing. Medical expenses are handled by the agency. Adoptive parents may be eligible for subsidies.

HOW TO BECOME A FOSTER OR ADOPTIVE PARENT

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**REQUIREMENTS**

- You must be over the age of 21
- You must have sufficient income to meet the basic needs of the household
- All household members (adults & children) must obtain a medical statement from a licensed physician
- Applicants and household members must be free of any physical, emotional, or mental conditions which would endanger a child free of any disqualifying felony convictions and no misdemeanor convictions within the past three years (more on this can be found ORC 5101:2-7-02(J)(1)
- All household members (over the age of 18) must complete a criminal background check and meet the ORC standard
- Attend and complete modules I-XII of Pre-service training (in classroom hours)
- Fill out an application for child placement
- Cooperate with a home study assessment (this consists of approximately 4-5 home visits)

Ohio Department of Job & Family Services allows for 6 months for licensing approval

"Foster Care... because a child can never have too many people to love them!"  
-Anonymous-

**TRAINING REQUIREMENTS PRIOR TO LICENSING**

- **Pre-Service:**
  - 12 modules- 3 hours per module =36 hours
  - You do not have to start at Module 1 and do them in chronological order.
  - You can also take pre-service at various counties if that better fits your schedule or by attending Northeast Ohio Adoption Services (NOAS). With the NOAS program, you can obtain all of your hours in one weekend. If interested in NOAS, please call (800)686-6627.
  - If you would like to attend any modules listed, please contact Monica Miller with dates, times, and location to enroll.

- **Other required training:**
  - Portage County Job & Family Services (PCJFS) or the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services (ODJFS) Policy and Procedure
  - Adult & Pediatric CPR/First Aid- you must obtain original certification on your own which can be completed through the American Red Cross and American Heart Association.

If you would like more information on becoming a foster or adoptive parent please contact Monica Miller, Foster Parent Coordinator at (330)297-3809 or email Monica.Miller@jfs.ohio.gov