



Requirements for Foster/Adopt Parents

Our goal is to provide the highest quality standard of care for our children. This list is a guide and may not include everything. There may be other requirements depending on the applicant's situation. Decisions will be made on an individual family basis and on what is best for our children.

Who can foster or adopt:

- Applicants must be 21 years of age or older.
- You can be married, single, divorced, and/or widowed with children or without children. You can be married or single.
- You must have a social security number for background screening.
- Your life and home are stable. "Stable" means that you are not about to move and are not having financial, marital, or emotional difficulties.

Classes:

- Treat this like Foster/Adoptive Parent College
- Complete orientation and a nine training classes called NTDC (National Training and Development Curriculum). Attendance to orientation and all 9 classes and completion of all homework is required for a certificate of completion.
- Homework requirements – missing 3 assignments will result in the participant being selected out
- Complete a Life Story
- Big commitment
- Missed classes and assignments must be made up within 30 days from the last day of your training cycle. If you have not completed everything within the 30 day time frame you will be required to take the classes again in another training cycle.
- If you live in a county other than Orange, Osceola, and Seminole, please check with your county to make sure it is all right to attend our classes.

Finances:

- Applicant's income must meet all their household and living expenses and they must have enough funds to provide for a foster child for approximately 6 to 8 weeks before they receive the foster care board check.
- Applicants must provide verification of employment or income source (W-2, W-9, or pay stubs).
- You can work outside the home or be retired.
- Potential Disqualifiers
 - TANF
- You can rent or own your own home or apartment.

Home & Safety:

- The home must have adequate sleeping space/bedroom for a foster child. Each child should have at least 40 square feet of living space per room.
- You must provide the child with a bed or crib (no drop side cribs) and space for their personal belongings. Temporary bedding such as pack and plays, play pens, sleeper sofas and trundle beds do not qualify for bedding.
- Applicants must pass a home health inspection (for fostering only).

- There must be a fire extinguisher (2A10BC) on each floor and it must be inspected annually (for fostering only). You must also have smoke detectors outside each bedroom area and on each floor.
- Medication and poisonous chemicals must be in a locked area (closet, box, etc). Cleaning supplies and alcohol must be out of reach of children.
- Have a car seat for each child under 40 lbs or a booster chair for every child between 40 – 90 lbs and under 4'11.
- Have transportation readily available 24 hours a day. Does not include Uber/Lyft/Public Transportation.

Background Screening:

- The following background checks will be conducted – FBI, FDLE, Locals, Child Abuse registry, Civil Checks which include domestic violence history, calls for service, and driver's license check.
- Applicants cannot have any active criminal cases or be on probation. Applicants found guilty or pled guilty or No Contest to a misdemeanor or felony crime could be disqualified pending a review of the crime charged.
- For Child Abuse Registry Checks, any Verified Sexual Abuse where person is responsible or household member named in report is disqualifying.
- Applicants wanting to foster must have a designated back-up baby sitter who completes the required background screening.

References:

- 2 personal references for each adult.
- References from adult children.
- 1 relative reference (for adoption only)
- School references on school aged children.
- Childcare references for all children in childcare arrangements.
- References and documentation regarding any previous out of home caregiver licenses.

Personal History

- Participate in a home study that involves an in-depth review of the applicant's life and history, where they will be expected to openly and honestly answer questions.
- Copy of social security card, driver's licenses, and vehicle liability insurance.

Relicensing

- Must renew your license and home study every year.
- Most complete 8 hours of ongoing training each year. If you have a pool or live adjacent to a body of water, water safety training is an annual requirement.