

How to become a licensed Foster Parent/Approve Adoptive Parent

To become a licensed foster parent/approve adoptive parent, you must meet requirements established by the State of Ohio and the Carroll County Department of Job and Family Services. These requirements include but are not limited to the following:

1. You must be at least 21 years of age.
2. Single adults with appropriate child care experience or couples living together for at least one year can apply. If you are married, you must be married for at least one year before you may apply.
3. Attendance is mandatory for pre-service and annual training.
4. You must be gainfully employed or have sufficient income to meet the needs of your family.
5. Child care arrangement must be approved by the agency.
6. Physical examinations need to be completed on every household member and four letters of reference are required.
7. You must have a telephone and transportation with insurance available for your use.
8. Your home must pass a fire inspection. Smoke detectors are needed on every level of occupancy in your home. A portable fire extinguisher is also necessary.
9. A FBI and BCI&I Criminal Background Check needs to be completed. Fingerprinting will be conducted with all adult members of the home. No family member can be convicted of any of the following (but not limited to) offenses: endangering children, corrupting another with drugs, selling drugs, any crime against a child, any crime of violence.

After completing an over the phone inquiry (**call 330-627-7313 to complete the phone inquiry**), A Foster/Adoption pre-application questionnaire will be mailed to you. You must complete this questionnaire and return it to the Carroll County DJFS. A review of all information gathered is taken into consideration. If there is no disqualifying information, you will be assigned an Adoption Foster Care Licensing Specialist to help you through the licensure and approval process. This worker will conduct the home Informational Meeting and provide you with the initial application to become a foster/adoptive parent. This worker will coordinate your pre-service training required for your certification. A worker will then complete the Assessment for Child Placement (Home Study). It will be important for you to effectively communicate with your worker to ensure all information is accurate and complete. The home study process requires good team work between the family and the worker.

After your Assessment for Child placement is complete, your social worker will jointly license and approve your home to foster and adopt children. Your worker will work with you to match children in your home that fit the child's needs and for which your family is best suited. In order to aid you in understanding the special needs of the foster children to be placed in your home, you will be given confidential information regarding the background and special needs of the children. This information is only for your use and should not be given out to family or

friends. Your social worker will assist your family through the initial placement of children in your home. This worker will provide information, consultation, and support as your family makes its transition into fostering children.

Your certification for foster care is issued by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and is reviewed annually by your worker. A new license for foster care is issued every two years if all rule requirements are in compliance. Your worker is responsible for knowing that required standards are maintained, and for this purpose he or she will need (at any time) to see any part of your home which is used by the children in your care.

All licensed and approved homes working with the Carroll County Department of Job and Family Services must adhere to the policies, values and positions of the agency.