

Prospective Foster and Adoptive Parents

Requirements

The desire to be a support to children and families is among the most important criteria for becoming a foster and adoptive Parent. The ability to lead by example, mentor, share and facilitate while providing temporary care for children is also important.

Foster and adoptive parents are expected to demonstrate the maturity, stability, fitness, skills and competency to successfully protect, nurture, and meet the developmental needs of children; support the case goals and permanency plan for children) placed in their care.

Prospective parents must be at least ten (10) years older than the child to be placed and if single, at least 25 years of age.

Prospective parents complete fingerprint check, CPS, Sexual Offenders Registry, Pardons and Parole, Department of Corrections, the child abuse and neglect registry in any other state that the prospective foster/adoptive parent or any adult household member over eighteen has resided in within the past five years and a medical exam.

Prospective adoptive parents complete the same application process as foster parents. Some of the children available for adoption were given up by their parents voluntarily; however, most were removed from their homes due to abuse, neglect or abandonment.

To view a photo listing of children available for adoption visit the adoption section of our website.

For information on how to become a foster and adoptive or adoptive parent, call 1-877-210-KIDS. Each County DFCS hosts Information Sessions for prospective families. For a complete listing of upcoming meetings please go to Information Sessions.

Some characteristics of current DFCS successful foster and adoptive parents:

- Care deeply about children
- Able to make and keep commitments
- Willing to help another family
- Offer love, without expecting it in return
- Ability and desire to sacrifice

- Are flexible, able to adjust to the unexpected/unknown
- Strong family/neighborhood/church support
- Tolerant of other's mood swings, feelings and beliefs
- Sense of humor
- If married, both spouses are equally committed to foster care.