



DAVE YOST
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL



Interested in Foster Parenting?

You can apply at a county public children services agency or a private foster care agency if you meet these requirements:

- ✓ I'm at least 18.
- ✓ I have enough income to meet the needs of those already living in my home and make timely payment of my own bills.
- ✓ In my home, whether I own or rent, I have enough space available for foster children and their belongings.
- ✓ I do not have physical, emotional or mental conditions that could impair my ability to care for a child. No one else in my home does, either.
- ✓ At least one person in my home can read, write and speak English effectively enough to communicate with a foster child and child welfare agency staff.
- ✓ I and anyone 18 years or older living in my home can pass a background check and have no history of child abuse or neglect.



The state does not bar foster parents based on religious affiliation, marital status or sexual orientation.

Prospective foster parents should research and reach out to several agencies to learn more about their requirements and how they support youth and families.

PROTECTING ★ THE ★ UNPROTECTED



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To become a foster parent, contact the agency for which you would like to work. The agency will lead you through the following steps:

- **Completing the application process.** That could include interviews and home visits; a request for financial statements, health records, a personal statement and character references; a safety audit; and a water test.
- **Completing a background check.** The agency can request expedited processing from the Ohio Attorney General's Bureau of Criminal Investigation by sending an email to FosterCheck@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov.
- **Having a medical professional fill out** the state's "Medical Statement for Foster Caregiver and all Household Members" form, one each for every member of your household. To see what the form entails, visit www.odjfs.state.oh.us/forms/file.asp?id=495&type=application/pdf.
- **Arranging a home safety inspection** by a certified state fire inspector.
- **Completing preplacement training** (a minimum of 36 hours), available through licensing agencies and regional training centers.



For more information about the process of becoming a foster parent, visit FosterAndAdopt.jfs.ohio.gov, an official website from the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services.



www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov