

# Frequently Asked Questions

## How do children get to our home?

Most often, the Social Worker or Intake Worker will bring the child(ren) to your home. However, there are times when the foster parents come to the Department to pick up the children.



## What school district do they go to?

Ideally, if a child can stay in the same school and not have to switch that is best for the child. However, most often a child will attend the school that is in the foster home provider's district. With the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), collaboration between the school and Dept. of Human Services can fund transportation to keep the child in the same school if it is deemed necessary for that child.

## Are we eligible for WIC?

Yes, you can apply for WIC in the county that you reside.

## What do they have for medical insurance coverage?

Foster children have Title 19 Medical Assistance that allows them to go to whatever medical and dental providers that accept Medical Assistance.

## Do birth parents know our address?

In most cases, yes they will. On very rare occasion if there is imminent safety concerns, such as parents planning to take the child, the Court will order that the address of the foster parents be withheld.

## What would happen if a birth parent showed up to our home?

If a parent shows up unannounced, and it was not approved by the Department, politely ask them to leave. If they do not, contact the police.

## How long are children typically in care for?

This is unpredictable as each case is unique with its own set of circumstances. Sometimes the child(ren) may be in a foster home for a few days, a week or a month because a relative is found and able to take the child(ren). Other times, the child(ren) is in care for several months or up to two or three years.



## **What happens when a child goes back to their birth family? What's the process?**

The Social Worker will keep you informed as to the status of the case and if reunification will occur, so you are aware of when to expect the child(ren) to be leaving your care. Trial reunification is up to 90 days. If the parent(s) are not successful, the child(ren) may come back into your care if you still have openings for placements. At times, the parents continue to need some support for the child(ren), so you may be asked to provide some ongoing respite care.

## **How much information do you receive about the child(ren)?**

You should receive all available and known information about the child(ren)'s behaviors, health and emotional needs, as well as any pertinent historical information needed to ensure you can care for the child and keep them and your family safe. When you receive a call inquiring if you can take placement, ask any questions you need to help you determine if you can take placement of this child.

## **Can you rent and still do foster care?**

Yes, you can rent. Our Department must receive documentation from your landlord that states they will allow the residence to be licensed as a foster home. You will also need to obtain renter's insurance as required by DCF 56 licensing code.

## **Can you end a placement if it is not working?**

Yes, you can. You should always contact your child's caseworker as soon as possible to talk with them about issues or problems you are having with the placement. If other supports or services can't be put into place to maintain placement, you can give a 30 day notice to the Department to have the child removed. In some cases, if imminent safety issues are present, the child may have to move immediately. The Department will work diligently to move the child sooner than the 30 days, if a placement can be found sooner than the 30 days.

## **Can foster child(ren) travel out of State with your family?**

Yes, it is possible in most cases. The Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard outlines parameters regarding this. Also, the child's caseworker should be aware of any plans to travel out of state. They can also help you determine if any other special parent or court approval is needed in extra-ordinary cases.

