

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS TO BE A LICENSED FOSTER PARENT

Age

An Individual must be **21** years old to foster or adopt a child

Marital Status

Single, Married, Divorce or Separated (must be married, divorce or separated at least one year prior to licensing)

Citizenship

Must be a resident of Durham County

Income

- Income must be sufficient to meet your own needs. Financial statement must be completed for initial licensure and relicensure. (If you've received emergency assistance to help with your rent, lights, food etc. from public or private agency within the last year, you cannot be considered for the foster care program)
- Criminal History-A criminal record check must be completed for every household member 18 years old and older.
- Fingerprints Checks for every household member 18 years old and older. Forms will be provided by DSS and the agency will also pay the required fee if member is a Durham County resident for 5 years or more
- Sexual Offenders/Child Abuse and Department of Corrections checks are done for all members 18 years old and older.
 - A household may not be eligible for licensure if the applicant or any member of the household 18 years or older has the following charges and/or convictions; assault charges, drug charges, pattern of deviant behavior, or other charges deemed them unfit to have responsibility for the safety and well being of children. Some charges and convictions are waived after 5-7 years and will be determined on a case by case basis. Charges/convictions related to child abuse and neglect, murder and domestic violence are not waived and home will not be licensed as long as the member with these charges remains there.
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Training

The State of North Carolina requires thirty (30) hours of pre-service training. An additional 20 hours of training is required biennially (10 hours per year) for re-licensure. All household members 21 years old and older must complete all training requirements. (Exceptions will be on a case by case basis). The Agency provides all necessary training for licensure and re-licensure.

Home Study/Assessment

- A minimum of 3 in home visits and one office visit is required (some assessments may require more)
- Medical Exams-full medical exams are required for each household member. A TB test is required for adults only. (Initial Licensure only, not required for re-licensure)
- A Foster Parent Agreement, Discipline Policy and Confidentiality Policy must be agreed to and signed by applicants
- Must have a working phone number (house or cell)
- References-a minimum of three written references provided by applicant(s)