



Basic Foster Care License Requirements

The most important requirement is that you love kids. Review the checklist below to see whether you would meet license requirements.

- Live in Brown County
 - Can own or rent a home or apartment
 - Home or apartment must meet fire safety codes
- Have appropriate sleeping space in the home
 - There must be enough bedrooms for everyone
 - Foster children can share a bedroom with a child of the same sex, if the room is large enough
 - They cannot share a bedroom with an adult or a child of the opposite sex
- Be at least 21-years-old, financial stable and responsible
- Be single or married
- Complete an application for foster care and cooperate with the Licensing Social Worker
- Allow the State of MN to complete a criminal history background check on all household members who are 13-years-old or older
- Abide by a “No Corporal Punishment” rule
- Be available to transport children to visitations and medical appointments
- Provide the County with three personal references
- Participate in a home study that includes interviews with all household members
- Attend on-going training (12 hours annually for each adult in the household)

Other things you should know

- Applicants should be one year from a major life change such as a marriage, divorce, birth of a first child, or a significant loss, and two years from successfully completing chemical dependency treatment.
- It is not necessary for an applicant to have children of their own, but it is important to have experience with children.
- Working full time outside of the home will require flexibility to accommodate the needs of foster children. The Foster Care Social Worker will help develop a plan for visitations, transportation to medical and therapy appointments and discuss childcare.
- Foster parenting is not considered a job so you need to have enough income to meet your own household needs.
- Child Care or after-school care must be considered. School-aged children and teens need an adult to get them to off to school and will need a supervised plan for after school. Foster parents may need to transport children to appointments several times a week so some form of reliable transportation is required.
- The Licensing Social Worker will help applicants determine the approximate ages, gender, and needs of the children who could be a good fit for the home. However, foster parents make the final decision about which children to care for.

Here is a link to the **Minnesota Rules for Foster Family Settings**: <https://mn.gov/dhs/partners-and-providers/licensing/foster-care-for-children-and-adults/>