

FOSTER PARENT ORIENTATION

Brown County Human Services

WHAT DOES FOSTER CARE MEAN TO YOU?

WHAT IS FOSTER CARE?

- Temporary arrangement for children whose guardians are struggling and are unable to care for them
- Types: Relative, emergency shelter care, family foster home, respite, group residential



Every child deserves a family



IVY HOUSE

According to *MN Rule 9560*, foster care is defined as “the 24-hour-a-day care of a child following placement by the commissioner or a licensed child-placing agency with legal placement responsibility pursuant to a court order or voluntary placement agreement, in any facility that regularly provides one or more children, when unaccompanied by a parent or guardian, with a substitute for the care, food, lodging, training, education, supervision, or treatment they need which for any reason cannot be furnished by a parent or guardian in the child’s home.”

MN Rule 9560

WHY WE NEED YOU:

- Children need a safe and accepting family to go to when their family is temporarily unable to care or provide for them
- Caring for children truly takes a village and we need you to be a crucial part of it
- Someone to provide: love, support, supervision, transportation, food, education, routine, care, treatment, trust, safety, happiness, lodging, positive relationships, flexibility, compassion, and so much more



REUNIFICATION

[HTTPS://YOUTUBE.COM/SHORTS/ISADCRAD8EQ?FEATURE=SHARE](https://youtube.com/shorts/isadcrad8eq?feature=share)



- Everyday people. Caring for kids, keeping families **connected**
- Be **Respectful**; you do not have to agree with the case, but you do need to respect the process and act professionally
- **Build relationships** with the biological parents, if possible. Keep them updated with events, provide pictures, send artwork, be **involved** in meetings and visits
- Try to stay **positive**, be a role model

Foster parenting is one of the hardest life experiences anyone can go through. Often, foster families feel as though they are not heard or supported. Biological parents may feel the same way. Supporting reunification, even when you don't feel like it is not easy, but it is possible.

MINNESOTA STATISTICS

- Brown County foster family home placements:
 - 2021: 22 relative, 20 non-relative
 - Jan.-Oct.2022: 21 relative, 28 non-relative
- As of 2021 approximately 4,700 children and young adults entered out-of-home placement the most common reasons were:
 - Caretaker drug abuse 34%
 - Allegations of neglect 14%
 - Child mental health needs 9%



- For children who left OHP during 2021,
 - 53% reunited with birth parents or legal guardians
 - 18% were adopted
 - 17% achieved permanency with a relative or caregiver
 - 9% aged out

7 STEPS TO BECOME A FOSTER PARENT:

1. Contact MN ADOPT
2. Select an agency
3. Complete the application and fact sheet
4. Initiate a background study
5. Open home for a visit and study
6. Receive foster care license
7. Participate in training



STEP 1: CONTACT MN ADOPT

- Provides information about foster care and licensing process
- Available to answer questions at 612-746-5133
- Helps to locate fit agency based on specific interests and situations
- Complete inquiry form and sends information to agency selected



STEP 2: SELECT AN AGENCY

- Discuss needs for:
 - Foster parents
 - Requirements
 - Supports
 - Interests
- Select Agency that is the best fit for you



STEP 3: COMPLETE THE APPLICATION AND FACT SHEET

- About yourself and where you live
- Emergency evacuation plan
- Household members
- Schools in the area
- Home questions
- Sleeping arrangements
- Experience
- Caregivers
- Transportation
- References
- History
- Physical and Chemical Health
- Must be completed for every person in the household 18 years old and up



STEP 4: INITIATE A BACKGROUND STUDY

- Background Study for everyone in the home 13 years and older
- Fingerprint cards
- Encouraged to be open about self and household member(s) past history may be able to negotiate qualification to foster



STEP 5: OPEN HOME FOR VISIT AND STUDY

- County or private agency will assign a social worker to visit you and your family
- A home study assessment will be completed at this time
- Process includes:
 - Interviews with you and family members
 - Assessment will be completed by the social worker
 - Policies and procedures
 - Home Safety Checklist



STEP 6: RECEIVE FOSTER CARE LICENSE

- Agency will notify state and a license will be issued
- License expires within 1-2 years prior to expiration date
- Before the expiration date the assessment will need to be updated to renew license



STEP 7: PARTICIPATE IN TRAINING

- Minnesota Child Welfare Training System through Trainlink
- Tools to have a successful foster care experience



STIPEND/MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

- Children in Foster Care are automatically eligible for MA
- Three types of benefits under Northstar:
 - Medical Assistance
 - Basic Monthly rate
 - Difficulty of care supplemental monthly rate



FOSTER PARENT:

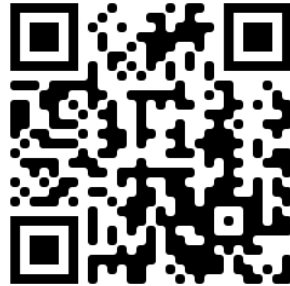
(GUEST SPEAKER)

CHILD PERSPECTIVE:

(GUEST SPEAKER)

ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

Scan for
Foster Parent
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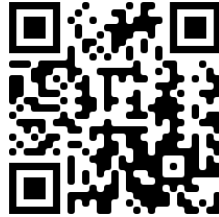


Thank you to supports: Brown County Human Services, Ivy House, Friends, Family, and acquaintances who shared this event.



THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TONIGHT!

Scan for
Foster Parent
Page:



You might be temporary in their lives.
They might be temporary in yours.
But there is nothing temporary
about the *love* or the *lesson*

-Tonia Christle



"There are no
unwanted children.
Just unfound families."

- Anonymous -

FOSTERING
forever

*As foster parents,
we are asked to not only care
for the basic needs of a child,
but also sit alongside them
as they digest the hurt
and damage they have
undeservingly experienced.*

-Carrie Dahlin
www.CarrieDahlin.com
Fostering the Future campaign 2014

CITATIONS

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