

Child and Family Services

**A Guide to Becoming
a Foster Parent in
Montana**

*Keeping Children Safe and
Families Strong.*

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Becoming a foster parent is a big decision.

The process starts with a heartfelt wish to help children in need.

Once you've decided to become a foster parent in Montana, you'll need to complete the following steps to get licensed.

Please keep in mind, there are plenty of people to help with the process.

If you have not already done so:

Contact CFSD to request an inquiry packet (includes a foster care application):

Complete the foster care application and return it to your local office:

The application helps us understand you, your home and your situation. The licensure process makes sure your home is a safe and stable environment. Once the application is received you will be notified of the next available Resource Parent training.

Complete the Release of Information form and a finger print card for the Motor Vehicle, Child Protective Service (CPS) and criminal background checks:

To protect the safety of children in foster care, the family resource specialist is required to review the CPS, criminal and motor vehicle background information for you and all people over the age of 18 living in your home.

Complete a Personal Statement of Health.

You will have to fill out a form (that we give you) that says you're healthy enough to foster parent. Everyone living in your home will also have to fill out the form. This is so that we can make sure of the health, safety and well-being of children placed in your home.

Complete Resource Parent Training

Training is provided to you for free to help you succeed as a foster parent. You must finish this training in order to be licensed as a foster parent.

Ensure your home meets fire and safety standards.

You and the family resource specialist will be review the foster parent licensing agreement. Among the items on this checklist are things you need to do to make sure your home is safe in the event of a fire or other disaster. Your worker does a walkthrough of your home with you to ensure it meets fire and safety standards.

A family/home assessment will be completed by the family resource specialist.

The study asks a lot of personal questions, and requires additional paperwork but helps make sure that foster children will be taken good care of in your home and also helps the licensing worker find out what type of child would do well in your home.

For More Information:

Call 1-866-9Foster

Or email askaboutfoster@mt.gov

Or go to:

<http://dphhs.mt.gov/CFSD/FosterParent>

