

The Process of Becoming a FOSTER PARENT

HOW THE FOSTER CARE PROCESS WORKS

OhioGuidestone educates, performs home studies and certifies foster parents in accordance with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services rules. The following steps are what you should expect should you pursue foster care with us:

Step 1: Group Informational Meetings/ Individual Orientations

We offer both group informational meetings, as well as individual orientations, as needed, with one of our experienced Social Workers for those inquiring about foster care. These meetings will provide you a comfortable opportunity to discuss your personal questions about foster care. We will also at this time discuss the application process, home study and how we can provide you the support you need to be a successful foster parent. Many of our group informational meetings will have a current OhioGuidestone foster parent present to personally discuss with you the foster care process and their reason why they chose and continue to work with OhioGuidestone.

Step 2: Background Checks and Clearings

After you decide to become a foster parent, you will need to undergo a series of background checks and clearings. You must pass both a State of Ohio and FBI background check, the cost of which is covered by OhioGuidestone. A Central Registry clearing will be conducted to determine if you have any history of substantiated abuse or neglect of a child in the State of Ohio. A Social Service clearing will be conducted through Cuyahoga County to determine if you have ever had any involvement with Cuyahoga county Department of Children and Family Services. These background checks and clearings will be done for everyone in your household ages 18 and over.

Step 3: Pre-Service Training

All foster families are required to complete a 6-week introductory course to foster parenting. We offer many training classes in our office located in Cleveland, Ohio. Our trainings are held on evenings to fit around work schedules. Training formats include lecture presentations, films, group work and self-evaluating home work.

Step 4: Homestudy Process

An OhioGuidestone assessor will conduct a series of three or four home visits with you to complete the required homestudy documentation. Along with the documentation listed below, your assessor will ask you a series of in-depth questions to learn more about you, your family dynamics, your communication style, your lifestyle, your motivation in becoming a licensed foster parent and your commitment to the foster care process. If you are getting licensed with a spouse or partner, both people need to be present. If you have children or other household members, they will need to be available for questions as well. Once all necessary documentation and information is collected from you, your assessor will turn your file over to the foster care licensing specialist at the agency and it will be reviewed. If the licensing specialist has no further questions and requires no further documentation, we will recommend to ODJFS that you become licensed as a foster parent. Once your license is received, we will be able to place foster children in your home.

- Application
- Safety Audit
- Fire Inspection
- Financial Statement and Supporting Documentation
- Personal References
- Physical Exam Including TB Test
- Evacuation Plan
- Pet Vaccinations



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& COMMUNITIES