

Program FAQs



WHAT ARE THE BASIC ROLES OF FOSTER PARENTS? WHO ARE THE CHILDREN AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION?

Children of all backgrounds and ages need adoption. Many have special needs or situations, such as:

- Eight years of age and older
- Part of a sibling group
- Multiple foster home placements and/or traumatic separation from caretakers
- Challenging behaviors
- Physical and/or mental challenges
- Prenatal exposure to drugs and/or alcohol
- At-risk for HIV/AIDS
- Legal risk adoption placements (when parents' rights have not yet been terminated)
- Open adoption with various levels of contact with the birth family

WHO CAN ADOPT A CHILD?

In order to adopt in Delaware, you must be:

- A Delaware resident between the ages of 21 and 65
- Single individuals, traditional and non-traditional couples, and couples married at least one year
- In satisfactory health
- Able to financially support a family, and provide safe, adequate housing
- Able to arrange adequate child care if one parent is not at home full-time
- Committed to maintaining the optimum health and safety of the child
- Emotionally stable and able to love a child born to other parents
- Able to accept the child's background, uniqueness, and limitations while encouraging the child to reach his/her potential
- Individuals of any race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, or ethnic group are eligible to adopt.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS TO ADOPT?

Prospective adoptive parents are offered information about adoption and an opportunity to evaluate whether adoption of a child is right for them. The prospective adoptive parents must:

- Attend an information meeting
- Complete an application form
- Attend group preparation meetings
- Prepare a written autobiography
- Successfully complete a criminal background check and child abuse history clearance
- Provide references
- Have a physical exam, including a TB test
- Meet with staff in your home and in our office for a series of interviews
- Children & Families First then completes a written home study that is used to match waiting children with adoptive families.

WHAT IS THE COST TO ADOPT A CHILD?

- \$150 non-refundable application fee
- \$550 non-refundable preparation fee that is due prior to training classes
- \$800 home study fee that is due prior to the completion of the study.

NOTE: All home studies must be updated annually, in order to remain open. There is a \$200 annual fee for this service if needed.

WHAT SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTIVE PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN?

For those who would like to find out more, please call (302) 658-5177 or (800) 220-3092. In addition, we offer Foster Care and Adoption Information Sessions the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. at our offices statewide:

2005 Baynard Blvd
Wilmington, DE 19802

410 S. Bedford St.
Georgetown, DE 19947

91 Wolf Creek Blvd., Suite 1
Dover, DE 19901

