

Virginia's Foster Home Approval Process

Foster care provides a temporary, safe and stable home for children who have been removed from their homes for reasons of neglect, abuse, abandonment, or other issues endangering their health and/or safety. Every effort is made to help children remain with their family; however, sometimes it is necessary for a child to come into foster care and be placed with a foster family. Foster families provide a safe and stable environment for children while working together with the local department of social services, the child and the child's family to support birth-family reunification. In some cases if reunification is not possible and the child is not able to return to their home a child's relatives may consider being a placement option for them. Foster parents must be at least 18 years of age. They can be single, married, divorced or widowed and have the time and energy to give to a child.

Procedure for becoming an approved foster or kinship family:

- ◇ Complete a provider application
- ◇ Attend a one-time orientation meeting to learn more about foster care in Virginia
- ◇ Complete pre-service training
- ◇ Complete a Mutual Family Assessments (MFA) home study,
- ◇ Submit to a national Fingerprint Criminal Record check, CPS Central Registry search
- ◇ Submit documentation regarding health & a tuberculosis screening
- ◇ Provide DMV checks
- ◇ Provide verification of income/ ability to meet household expenses

For more information:

**Virginia Department of
Social Services
Constituent Services
Phone: (804) 726-7511**

**NewFound Families
Foster, Adoptive, and Kinship
Association
Phone: 1-888-2Foster(1-888-236-7837)**

