

Basic Licensing Requirements for Foster Parents

Age

An Individual must be **21** years old

Marital Status

Single, Married, Divorce or Separated (must be married, divorce or separated at least one year prior to licensing)

Citizenship

Must be a resident of Durham County

Income

Income must be sufficient to meet your own needs. Financial statement must be completed for initial licensure and re-licensure. (If you've received emergency assistance to help with your rent, lights, food etc. from public or private agency within the last year, you cannot be considered for the foster care program)

Criminal Background Check

- Criminal History-A criminal record check must be completed for every household member 18 years old and older.
- Fingerprints Checks for every household member 18 years old and older. Forms will be provided by DSS and the agency will also pay the required fee if member is a Durham County resident for 5 years or more
- Sexual Offenders/Child Abuse and Department of Corrections checks are done for all members 18 years old and older.

A household may not be eligible for licensure if the applicant or any member of the household 18 years or older has the following charges and/or convictions; assault charges, drug charges, pattern of deviant behavior, or other charges deemed them unfit to have responsibility for the safety and well being of children. Some charges and convictions are waived after 5-7 years and will be determined on a case by case basis. Charges/convictions related to child abuse and neglect, murder and domestic violence are not waived and home will not be licensed as long as the member with these charges remains there.

Training

The State of North Carolina requires thirty (30) hours of pre-service training. An additional 20 hours of training is required biennially (10 hours per year) for re-licensure. All household members 21 years old and older must complete all training requirements. (Exceptions will be on a case by case basis). The Agency provides all necessary training for licensure and re-licensure.

Home Study/Assessment

Several consultations are required to complete the family assessment. Our Social Workers will do a home study as part of the licensure process and once licensed, there are minimum quarterly face-to-face home visits by the Foster Home Licensing Social Worker. In addition, during the home study process, the following must be completed:

- Fire Inspection
- Medical Exams: full exams required for each household occupant every 2 years with a TB test (for adults only) at initial licensure.
- Foster Parents must have a working telephone (that functions w/out the use of electrical power) AND Utilities in the home at all times.
- References: Telephone or written contact with the references as provided by the applicant.