

Requirements/General Information

The desire and open heart to support children and families are among the most important criteria for becoming a Foster or Adoptive Resource Parents. The ability to act as a positive role model, parent, mentor, and constant support to children while their families rebuild is the foundation of Resource Parenting.

Resource Parents are expected to demonstrate maturity and stability during the temporary placement of a child allowing the child to be protected and feel nurtured. They are able to meet developmental goals of each child and maintain family connections. This often requires the Resource Parent to work directly with birth parents towards a reunification plan.

The prospective Resource Parent must meet these minimum criteria:

- ❖ Must be at least ten (10) years older than the child to be placed and if single, be at least 25 years of age
- ❖ Must participate in an information session at your local DFCS or via the internet.
- ❖ Must successfully complete pre-service IMPACT Family Centered Practice training
- ❖ Must complete a medical exam, finger print checks, as well as undergo both child welfare and criminal records checks screenings. If you or any other adult household members (over age 18) have not been a resident of Georgia for a and Neglect registry of each state of prior residence
- ❖ Must provide proof of current residence and financial stability

Non-Discrimination Policy

Division of Family & Children Services (DFCS) shall ensure that no individual is excluded from participation, be denied benefits, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under programs, services and activities for which DFCS has responsibility on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, or disability. DFCS is, therefore, required to make reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or procedures when modifications are necessary to avoid discrimination on the basis of disability.

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Demographics of Children in Foster Care

Children in foster care range between ages 0-18, and may have faced traumatic experiences. These children need stability, love, nurture, and support from an invested caregiver. Children in foster care can be placed in kinship homes, foster homes, adoptive homes, private agencies, group homes, hospitals, or youth detentions centers. Most often, these children return home or may be placed with relatives. However, there are some children who may not be reunified with family and become free for adoption.

If a child is available for adoption, the parents may have volunteered to give up their parental rights, but usually these rights were terminated by the court system due to abuse, neglect or abandonment. Many of the children are in the adoptive category of "Special Needs."

What does "special needs" mean?

There are many children in the custody of the DHS awaiting adoption who meet the definition of special needs for the purpose of adoption.

Children who meet the definition of special needs for the purpose of adoption include any child who:

- ❖ at the time of adoptive placement has been in the care of a public or private agency or individual other than the legal or biological parent for more than 24 consecutive months
- ❖ a child with a physical, mental, or emotional disability as validated by a licensed physician or psychologist a child who is a member of a sibling group of two or more placed in the same home

Contact us TODAY to hear more!

We welcome you to one of our scheduled Information Sessions to learn more ways to serve! Can't make it to the session - no problem! We will be glad to meet you at times and locations that are most convenient for you. Call us at (877) 210-KIDS or contact your local DFCS office today to obtain the schedule for your area. You can also visit our website at www.fostergeorgia.com to see how you can participate on-line.

(877) 210-KIDS | www.fostergeorgia.com

Become a Foster or Adoptive Parent

(877) 210-KIDS

www.fostergeorgia.com



Georgia Division of Family and Children Services

Change the Blueprint of a Child's Life



Yes! I am interested in becoming a foster or adoptive parent.

Please follow up with me soon!

(Please complete this section and return to your agency representative.)

First name Last name

Street address

City County ZIP code

Phone # Email

I'm interested in learning more about:

- becoming a foster parent
- becoming an adoptive parent
- ways to volunteer

(Tear off here.)

Caregiver Types

The DFCS caregiver practice model is called Partnership Parenting. Partnership Parenting is a trauma-informed, shared parenting model between caregivers and birth parents that is designed to keep parents parenting while their children are in out-of-home placement.

The premise of partnership parenting is to keep birth parents connected and involved with parenting their children. This model has proven to have achieved permanency for children faster, reduce the incidents and effects of trauma due to placement, preserve existing parent/child bonds, and help parents improve their ability to care for and protect their own children.

In an effort to be inclusive, "caregiver" is used to collectively refer to all Resource Parent types, including those who serve through Child Placing Agencies (CPA's).

Becoming a foster or adoptive resource parent is so rewarding, and takes both dedication and compassion. You and your family should collectively decide which caregiving role is the most suitable for you.

The current caregiver role types supported by the Partnership Parenting model are as follows:

Partnership Parents

Partnership Parents (PPs) are Resource Parents who provide temporary homes for children in foster care. They are expected to work in partnership with birth families and act as parenting mentors whenever possible. PPs share parenting responsibilities with birth parents through "parenting opportunities." Parenting opportunities are any favorable times, occasions, situations, or conditions that allow a parent to safely teach, support, nurture, discipline, care for, or guide children.

Relative Partnership Parents

Relative Partnership Parents (RPPs) are Resource Parents related by blood, marriage, or adoption to children placed in their home. They provide temporary homes for their relative's children who are in foster care.

Relative Partnership Parents continued

They may also serve non-relative children. RPPs follow the same approval process as regular PPs and have all the benefits and responsibilities associated with being a PP, including full foster care per diem reimbursement. RPPs have the same expectations as PPs.

Adoptive Parents

Adoptive Parents are "forever families" who make a lifelong commitment to a child. They serve children whose birth parents' parental rights have been voluntarily surrendered or terminated by a court, thus making the children legally free for adoption. Adoptive Parents may also be relatives in which case they are called Relative Adoptive Parents.

Adoptive Parent-Legal Risk Parents

Adoptive Parent - Legal Risk Parents are adoptive parents who accept for placement children who are not completely legally free for adoption and thus, legal risk exists in accepting the placement.

Resource Parents

Resource Parents (RPs) are a hybrid of a Resource Parent and an adoptive parent. They act as both a PP (temporary foster care placement) and are willing to become the adoptive parent (permanent family) for the child. Children placed with RPs have a concurrent permanency plan, meaning that two permanency goals are being pursued simultaneously. At least one of the permanency goals is adoption with the RP named as the permanency resource. RPs must be able to concurrently fulfill the roles of being a PP and an adoptive parent. A RP may also be a relative in which case they are called Relative Resource Parents.

Volunteers

You may not be ready to commit to becoming a caregiver, but still feel called to serve - and we need your help! You can still make a difference in the lives of children in foster care by lending your time and talents. DFCS is committed to connecting with individuals like you who can expand our scope of reach in providing service and support to those who need it most.

Contact us today to find out how you can serve!

