



“OPEN YOUR HEART-OPEN YOUR HOME”

Potomac Center Foster Care Services

5636 US HWY 220-S

Moorefield, WV 26836

304-538-8111

FOSTER PARENT REQUIREMENTS

- ❖ A study of the physical structure of the home with safety and sanitary inspection.
- ❖ State and Federal Criminal investigation background checks on everyone over the age of 18. **You will be required to pay the fee for fingerprints which will be \$35.75 per person. (This fee will be due at the time of your appointment).**
- ❖ Completion of First aid and CPR for both parents.
- ❖ Medical evaluation for all adults and children initially and every 5 years after approval.
- ❖ Immunization records on all children in the home.
- ❖ Complete all required pre-service training. (Training is FREE and completed to accommodate your schedule)
- ❖ WVDHHR Child Protective Services reference check.
- ❖ Families can be married, residing together or same sex couples.
- ❖ Must have adequate income to meet the needs of the family without foster care monies.
- ❖ **Payment for foster children in your home will be:**
 - Ages 0-5 \$790.00 Monthly
 - Ages 6-12 \$851.00 Monthly
 - Ages 13-21 \$942.00 Monthly.
- ❖ In addition to the payment each child will receive a WV Medicaid card for medical services needed.
- ❖ Must have adequate transportation with valid license and insurance.
- ❖ Must have homeowner's insurance.

SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR FOSTER HOME

Foster home settings must be deemed safe prior to the approval of home and each year with re-certification. The home cannot present any health or safety hazards and must be clean and comfortable to ensure the well being and

respect of the family in the community. Homes must meet the following standards prior to placement of a child in your home:

- ❖ Each child must have their own individual bed. Cannot be a cot or roll away bed.
- ❖ A maximum of 4 children are permitted to share a bedroom. (Must be same sex).
- ❖ Child cannot share a bedroom or a bed with an adult, or a child of the opposite sex. A child less than 2 (two) years old may temporarily share a bedroom with the foster parent, only after agency approval.
- ❖ A child's bedroom must not be used for any other purpose, i.e. office, laundry room, etc.
- ❖ A child's bedroom must have a door and a window.
- ❖ A battery-operated smoke detector is located near the child's bedroom.
- ❖ Home must be equipped with a battery-operated carbon monoxide detector, unless everything in the home is generated by electric.
- ❖ A 5 # fire extinguisher is located in the KITCHEN!
- ❖ All electrical circuits be protected by a maximum of 20-amp fuse or circuit breaker and conform to reasonable standards.
- ❖ Mobile Homes must be manufactured after 1976. Mobile homes must be equipped with push out window frames that are the type of sash/windows that rise up and can be used as an emergency exit.
- ❖ Non-municipal water used in the home must be tested to be determined safe.
- ❖ All animals owned by the foster/adoptive parents that come in contact with a child in placement are vaccinated as required by state law.
- ❖ If the child's room is located on the upper floor of the house, it must have a fire escape ladder available for emergencies.

- ❖ Heat sources such as fireplaces, furnaces, stoves, radiators, water heaters, and other heaters must have safeguards including thermostatic controls, automatic shut off valves, vents, and screens that are functioning, when required on the heat source.
- ❖ Ashes from burning coal or wood must be kept in a metal container clear of wood floors and walls. The exhaust pipes for wood stoves, fireplaces and coal burning stoves must be maintained to keep them free of creosote.
- ❖ If the home has an in ground or stationary above ground pool, it must be enclosed by a fence not less than 4 feet high. It must have a locking gate,

door and/or ladder to prevent unsupervised access to the pool by children.

Foster care providers are selected on the basis of their patience, flexibility, genuine interest and sincerity of purpose in providing care for an individual. The family should demonstrate evidence of an active home with total family involvement. The individual placed in the foster care home should be made to feel a welcome part of the family and environment. Potential foster care families must recognize the rights and needs of the individual and be willing to accept the person as a family member.

If you have any questions please call me at 304-538-8111. I look forward to working with you during this process.

Sincerely,

Teresa Berg

Teresa Berg, Foster Care Program Manager