

# HOW TO BECOME A FOSTER PARENT

Contact your local or state agency over the foster care system.  
<https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/adult-child-serv/foster-care>  
There is no single way to be the "perfect" foster parent. Family stability and personal maturity, being an advocate for children and a team player will help you be an outstanding foster parent! (You do not need to be married, own a home, be wealthy, have kids of your own, be young, or be a stay-at-home parent.)



## BEGIN ATTENDING YOUR PRE-SERVICE PARENT TRAINING CLASSES.



## START THE APPLICATION PROCESS.



- Income verification through your employer.
- Criminal record screening at all three levels — local, state, federal
- Letters of reference from your employer as well as from personal acquaintances
- Age verification by birth certificate or other legal means

## MEET YOUR CASEWORKER

- Be responsive to the caseworker's requests in a responsible, timely, and open manner. Honor your caseworker's requests for documents and information.
- Pledge to maintain confidentiality about children in foster care as well as the details surrounding their families.
- Accommodate your caseworker on required home inspections and criminal background checks.

## WAIT FOR YOUR CASEWORKER TO MAKE THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS



It can take upwards of a year from when you first contact the foster parent agency until you are given a foster placement.

## LEARN AND PREPARE

Learn as much as possible about the placement process from your placement coordinator.



## BEGIN LIVING WITH YOUR NEWLY-PLACED FOSTER CHILD!