

AM I READY TO BECOME A FOSTER/ADOPTIVE PARENT?

Crossroads NOLA is a faith-based 501-c3 nonprofit organization committed to making a difference in the lives of children in foster care in the Greater New Orleans area. The core of our work focuses on recruiting, equipping, and supporting local foster families from the faith community in an effort to increase the number of safe, loving families available to care for local children. Crossroads NOLA has a partnership with the Department of Children & Family Services (DCFS) enables us to recruit foster families, guiding and supporting them through the certification process and beyond.

This questionnaire is designed to help you determine if you are ready to become a certified Foster/Adoptive Parent. Circle "T" for true or "F" for false, for each statement below.

1. I AM IN GOOD PHYSICAL, SPIRITUAL, EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH. T/F

Being a foster parent is sometimes demanding. You must be healthy and emotionally stable to care for foster/adoptive children. Everyone in your home must provide a medical statement completed by a physician indicating they are free of communicable diseases and physically able to care for a foster child. Anyone in the home that has received mental health services should be prepared to give information about services provided.

2. I AM LEGALLY SINGLE OR LEGALLY MARRIED. T/F

Foster/Adoptive Parents can be single, married, divorced or widowed. We recommend waiting two years after a change in your status before beginning the certification process.

3. I HAVE ENOUGH ROOM IN MY HOME FOR A FOSTER/ADOPTED CHILD. T/F

You must have adequate bedroom space for a foster/adopted child. The child must have his/her own bed. A foster/adopted child may share a bedroom with another child of the opposite sex if both are under the age of 6, but the child cannot share a bedroom with anyone over the age of 18 years old, except in approved circumstances.

4. I AM READY TO HAVE A SAFETY INSPECTION OF MY HOME. T/F

It is important that your home is safe and free of hazards. During the home study process, our Foster Care/Adoption Specialist will conduct a safety inspection of your home. If a pool or body of water is on or near your property, you must have the required safety features in place.

5. I HAVE ADEQUATE INCOME TO MEET MY CURRENT FAMILY'S NEEDS. T/F

You do not have to be rich to be a Foster/Adoptive Parent; however, you must have enough income to meet your own family's needs.

6. I HAVE NEVER HAD A VALID CASE WITH AN AGENCY DUE TO ABUSE OR NEGLECT. T/F

If you have had a valid Child Protection case, you may not be able to become a Foster/Adoptive Parent. This includes validated cases of abuse or neglect or if your own child was placed in foster care or adopted. The Dept. of Children and Family Services will review your records within the state of Louisiana as well as any other state where the applicant(s) have resided.

7. NO ADULT IN MY HOME HAS EVER BEEN CONVICTED OF A CRIME. T/F

If you or any adult residing in your home has been convicted of certain criminal offenses, you cannot become a Foster/Adoptive Parent. Each adult member in your household over the age 18 will be fingerprinted. If you have specific questions regarding which crimes are prohibited, please contact the Foster Care/Adoption Specialist.

8. I AM READY TO BEGIN THE HOME STUDY PROCESS. T/F

You are ready to begin the home study process if your life and home are stable. "Stable" means that you are not about to move and are not having financial, marital or emotional difficulties or making any major life changes in the near future.

9. I UNDERSTAND THE NEED FOR A STRONG SUPPORT SYSTEM. T/F

Our goal is that no family fosters alone. Foster families often need support in the most practical ways as they adjust to new placements in the home. Having a strong support system is vital in your role as a foster parent, and can alleviate some of the physical, emotional, and mental demands your family will experience. Crossroads NOLA will work with you to identify a team of Family Partners who will be available to provide additional support.

IF YOU ANSWER "TRUE" TO ALL OF THE STATEMENTS, YOU ARE READY TO BEGIN THE PROCESS OF BECOMING A FOSTER/ADOPTIVE PARENT!

The first step to becoming a foster parent is to attend an info meeting. Please visit crossroadsnola.org/infomtq to find a convenient meeting to attend.

IF YOU ANSWERED "FALSE" TO ANY STATEMENT, YOU ARE NOT AUTOMATICALLY ELIMINATED FROM BECOMING A FOSTER PARENT.

Please contact our staff at 504-482-9135 to learn how to get your home and family ready for foster care.