

Nannies and Foster Care

What you need to know, to decide if it's for you ...

What is Foster Care...

A system in which minors have been placed into a ward, group home, or private home of a state certified caregiver, after removal or separation from parents. The placement is usually arranged through the government or a social service agency.

The main goal of Foster Care Services's is "Reunification". It is the goal of the agency to help the parents and families to learn, grow, and get the necessary tools to gain custody of their children, and place them back in the home.

Types of Caregivers...

Foster Parenting

- ▶ Consist of a person/family who officially take a child into their family for a period of time, without becoming the child's legal parents.
- ▶ They care for the child taking on a parental role, working with the placement agency workers.
- ▶ A child can be placed in a foster home for a short term, or long term placement.
- ▶ They are the child's advocate to the agency and the legal system.

Respite Caregiver

- ▶ When one foster family/parent temporarily cares for another families foster children.
- ▶ It is usually for the family to have a break or go on vacation, if for some reason the child is prohibited.
- ▶ Respite provider must complete the same classes as a foster family, and have home licensed.
- ▶ Also providing parental assistance for children, (e.i. Doctors appointments, transportation, emergency pickups).
- ▶ Does not deal with agency about day to day care for the child

What are some of the *Myths* about Foster Parenting...

- ▶ You cannot file the children on your taxes.
- ▶ You have to be married and own my own home.
- ▶ You have to be in a heterosexual relationship.
- ▶ You have to be wealthy or a stay-at-home mom.
- ▶ You have to have children or parenting experience.
- ▶ Most children in foster care are teenagers. The infants are all drug babies.
- ▶ Children in foster care have trauma beyond repair.
- ▶ It's easier and faster to adopt internationally than US foster care.
- ▶ I have no control over which child is placed in my home.
- ▶ Each child I foster has to have their own bedroom.
- ▶ Most of the children are African American.

Let's talk USA Statistics for Foster Care...

- ▶ There are 400,000 children in US Foster Care System
- ▶ Since 2013, to 2019 - there has been an increase of 50,000 per year
- ▶ Children adopted from care: 50% whites, 22% Latino and Hispanic, 17% African American, 9% Multiracial, 2% American Indian or Alaskan Native
- ▶ Youth waiting to be adopted: 45% Whites, 23% African American, 22% Latino or Hispanic, 8% Multiracial, 2% American Indian or Alaskan Native
- ▶ White children are adopted more, while African Americans are in foster care longer
- ▶ West Virginia has the highest amount of children in foster care, and has had a 45.4% increase since 2012. States with increase foster care children: Alaska, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Montana, New Hampshire, Minnesota, Texas
- ▶ California state has had the largest numerical drop in foster care with about 3,000 children. Other states with a drop: Arizona, DC, Maine, New Jersey, Oklahoma.

Let's talk USA Statistics for Foster Care continued...

- ▶ There are just about 150,000 children in foster care waiting to be adopted.
- ▶ The average age is 7.6 years old, usually in care for 2.5 yrs. When up for adoption. And can wait almost 3 years before actually being adopted.
- ▶ Half of waiting children are under 7 yrs old. 19% of the ready to adopt are teens.
- ▶ Children range from infant to 21yrs olds. Usually aging out by 18 yrs old. Most teens past 18 yrs, are girls with children, or teens with disabilities.
- ▶ States like West Virginia, Ohio, Maryland, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire all saw increase in children because of the opioid overdose death rates.
- ▶ 32% of children in foster homes live with relative foster families.
- ▶ You can have multiple foster children at a time but only six minors at once.

What does the process look like, for Foster Care Licensing...

- ▶ Be age eligible in your state.
- ▶ Locate an agency in your state.
- ▶ Complete an application with the agency.
- ▶ Attend training, for all household adults members.
- ▶ Complete drug test and medical exam.
- ▶ Complete a state approved home study
 - ▶ - including background check, home safety requirements, reference letters, mental evaluation, and drivers info check.
- ▶ Depending on type of foster home, you will need specialized training. (I.e. homes for special needs children).

What About Adoption...

- ▶ Adoption of any child is granted permissible once parents have given up custodial rights, or courts have seen fit to stop parents of such said rights, or if the child has been in the system so long, that they have aged out (become adults).
- ▶ Adoption is an option after licensing of your home is approved.
- ▶ Infants are easier to adopt, because the agencies and courts usually want them in their “forever home” by age 12-18 months, 24 months at the longest.
- ▶ The foster-to-adoptive parents will still receive a stipend for the adopted child, until age 17/18 years old, depending on the state. As well as health care insurance.
- ▶ Continued classes and adoption counseling and help for seen and unseen situations are provided for the family. The agency will provide information for the family to have a community of help and furthered services, post adoption.
- ▶ Court fees, lawyers, and adoption case is all handled by the agency.

What's in it for me...

- ▶ You get to give love unconditionally to a child that needs it.
- ▶ You get to help a child that may not otherwise receive the care you can easily give.
- ▶ You get to be a safe haven and provide stability for these children.
- ▶ You get a childcare stipend to help fund the child needs. Even medical is taken care of by the agency.
- ▶ You get to file the child as a dependent on your taxes.
- ▶ You get to make decisions for the child that you cannot make as a nanny.
- ▶ You have the option to choose what ages and how many you will take on at a time.
- ▶ Children under five, receive WIC, and daycare vouchers to help supplement support.
- ▶ The income given from the agency is not taxable! So you will be giving yourself a pay raise.
- ▶ If you are not a mom, you get to see things from a different perspective.
- ▶ If you are thinking about being a foster parent or respite care provider, getting licensed is not a contract. You can stop at anytime.

Nannying with a family who foster...

- ▶ You must complete certain classes that are state required to be paid, unless the family is paying out of pocket.
- ▶ You will be required to take state and federal background check from certain state approved sites.
- ▶ If paid by both parent and agency, you will be paid by agency, via check and usually on a monthly basis. But each state varies.
- ▶ You should have some experience or skill with: ptsd training, separation anxiety, behavioral reconditioning, blending families, play therapy, and multiple styles of discipline.

Why a Nanny would be an Amazing Foster Parent...

- ▶ Nannies are natural givers, lovers, and patient with children.
- ▶ Nannies understand that there are always reasons behind certain behaviors in children, and work to understand how an individual child works.
- ▶ Nannies are use to giving love to a child on a temporary/short term period.
- ▶ Nannies have ongoing development in education and child psychology.
- ▶ Nannies can easily pass a background exam, and get character witness letters.
- ▶ Nannies have a built in community of childcare providers in there corner for support.
- ▶ Nannies would be great advocates for children who are overlooked and get lost in a system where people only see them as a case number; We are empathetic.