

Cornerstones of Care Understanding the Adoption Process through Foster Care

Adoptive parents and families provide permanent, safe and stable homes for children. Adoption is the permanent, legal transfer of parental rights and responsibilities from a child's birth parents to the adoptive parents. Adoption is an option for children who have been in foster care and whose birth parents are unable to provide them with adequate social, emotional and physical care. Adoption from foster care is often referred to as "special needs adoption" and is our agency's emphasis. Children are legally free for adoption only after the court has terminated the parental rights of the birth parents.

Typically, children who are waiting to be adopted from child welfare programs are of minority heritage who are age five or older, and have siblings who are also waiting to be adopted. They have lived in multiple out-of-home placements and have developmental, emotional, physical, or medical disabilities or delays due to abuse.

To be an adoptive parent you must be at least 21 years of age, single or married, with or without children, in good physical and emotional health, and able to handle the everyday responsibility of caring for a child with special needs. You don't need a big house or a lot of money to help - you must have adequate income and space for additional children. You can own or rent a home, apartment, condo or other residence. You must complete child abuse/neglect and criminal records checks. You must be willing to participate in and complete a free training and assessment program. Upon successful completion of training and an approved home study you will become a licensed foster and/or adoptive family resource.

Interested? Contact Cornerstones of Care at 816-508-6206 or homes4kids@cornerstonesofcare.org for more information.

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Building a Foundation for Children and Families

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