

Steps to becoming a foster carer



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Once you have made the decision that you are interested in becoming a foster carer, there are a number of steps you go through to become approved as a foster carer.

The aim of this approval process is to make sure that you:

- are suitable to be a foster carer, and all members of your household are suitable persons to associate with children and young people on a daily basis
- are able to meet the standards of care in the Statement of Standards outlined in the *Child Protection Act 1999*
- are able to work towards achieving goals for the safety, care and protection of children or young people.





To become a foster carer you need to:

Complete a household safety study

This will be completed by the person making the assessment. It includes mandatory safety requirements that must be met prior to approval.

Complete an Application for Approval form

This will provide important information to the department to help with personal history checks for you and your adult household members. This includes consideration of criminal and child protection history, and where necessary, domestic violence and traffic history.

Complete a blue card application

This must be completed by applicants and any other adult members of the household. The department can assist with this process. For more information about the blue card, see the fact sheet 'Blue card'.

Complete a health and wellbeing questionnaire

This will be completed with the help of the person making the assessment. Medicals will be required as part of your approval.

Complete required interviews

These will be conducted by the person making the assessment. You, your children (depending on their age), any adult household members and significant others will be included.

Complete pre-service training

This will provide you with the skills and knowledge you need to commence your role as a foster carer.

Become a foster carer
1300 550 877
www.childsafety.qld.gov.au



If your application is approved by the department:

- You will receive a letter confirming that you have been approved as a foster carer.
- You will receive a Certificate of Approval as a foster carer. This is for an initial 12 months and is renewable every two years thereafter, upon application and approval.
- You will develop a Foster Carer Agreement with the department or non-government foster and kinship care service that details the supports you need to fulfil your role, ongoing training requirements and the types of placements you are willing to consider.

If your application is refused by the department, you will receive a letter stating the reasons for the decision and your right of review.

For more information contact your local child safety service centre or call the foster carer recruitment line on **1300 550 877** or visit **www.childsafety.qld.gov.au** You can also contact Foster Care Queensland on **(07) 3268 5955**.