



Foster Care FAQs

This is not an exhaustive list, but rather a list of common questions families interested in fostering might have. By providing links to websites with more information, we are not endorsing the beliefs of the listed organization. E-mail us with questions, atrisk@grace.church.

1. Why do children enter the foster care system?

Children enter the foster care system for several reasons when child welfare professionals become aware that their parents or caregivers are unable to provide care. Some common reasons include: neglect, physical/sexual abuse, and parental addiction or incarceration.

2. How long are children in foster care?

The purpose of foster care is to provide children with a temporary, safe home. Reunification is the goal; however, sometimes reunification is not possible and parental rights are terminated. At this point, the State will pursue permanent placement options for the child.

3. What are the requirements for becoming a foster parent?

The first step is to contact [MN ADOPT's Fostering Network](#) to learn more about the licensing process and requirements in the state of Minnesota. After choosing either your country agency or a private agency to work with, you will complete a number of requirements, including an application and fact sheet, background study, home visit by a social worker, and training.

4. How long does it take to get certified as a foster parent?

The standard length of time from application to completion of the license is 120 days. However, this time may vary and could be longer depending on individual circumstances.

5. What support/training is available to me as a foster parent?

Specific training is required as part of the foster care licensing process and additional training is needed to renew your license each year. Also, [OneLess](#) would love to come alongside you as you consider fostering. We offer a [support group](#), [reimbursement fund](#), [resource list](#), respite nights throughout the year, and practical resources such as clothing. For more information, please contact us at atrisk@grace.church.

6. Do foster children see their biological parents while they are in foster care? What happens if foster children return to their biological parents?

Since the goal of foster care is reunification, foster children may have visitation with their family. The frequency of these visits will be established by the child's social worker. If the biological parents have their parental rights terminated, then the child will be placed for adoption.

7. Can foster parents adopt their foster children?

If parental rights have been terminated for the child, the State will seek permanent placement options. While the final placement of the foster child is determined on a case-by-case basis, those interested in adopting from foster care should see [MN ADOPT: Getting Started](#) for more information.

8. Why should I choose to foster?

As Christians, we have a unique calling to care for those who are vulnerable. In Scripture, James teaches us that "religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world" (James 1:27). While not all of us are called to adopt, we are all called to "give justice to the weak and the fatherless" (Psalm 82:3). We encourage you to prayerfully consider the ways God is calling you to respond in obedience to this command.

Sources

[MN ADOPT](#)

[MN Department of Human Services](#)

[MN ADOPT's Fostering Network](#)

[Minnesota Child Welfare Training System](#)

[MN ADOPT: Getting Started](#)

[Adoption.org](#)

Additional questions? Email us at atrisk@grace.church.