



Ashtabula County Children Services

3914 C Court, Ashtabula, Ohio 44004 440-998-1811

FOSTER PARENTING SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOL

THANK YOU for opening your heart and considering becoming a foster and/or adoptive parent with this County. Please review the 10 questions below. This is not a test and we will not be asking to see your answers. If you answer 'Yes' to all the questions then you are likely ready to start!

If you answered 'No' to any of the questions, you may want to discuss those questions with a case worker before starting the training process. Just call 440-998-1811.

CIRCLE ONE

Y N 1. I AM 18 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER.

Y N 2. I HAVE ENOUGH ROOM IN MY HOME FOR ANOTHER CHILD.

Each foster and birth child must have his/her own bed and space and must not sleep in the same bed with an adult. A child may share a room with another foster child or your child, but never with an adult 18 or older. No adult may move out of their bedroom to sleep on the couch in order to make room for a child in foster care.

Y N 3. I HAVE ADEQUATE INCOME TO MEET MY CURRENT FAMILY'S NEEDS.

While you don't have to have a lot of money, you do need to have a stable source of income (TANF does not qualify as a stable income). During your family assessment, you will be asked to provide information about your income. NOTE: All foster parents are reimbursed for the care they provide a child.

Y N 4. I AM ABLE TO MEET THE PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL DEMANDS OF BEING A PARENT.

Being a parent, especially to children in foster care, can be physically and emotionally challenging and it's important to be healthy and have a good support system. You'll be asked to take a physical exam and participate in interviews as part of the home study and certification process. You will be asked for at least 3 references, with 2 of these being personal references and 1 being a relative reference.

Y N 5. I HAVE NEVER BEEN INVOLVED WITH ANY CHILD WELFARE AGENCY DUE TO ABUSING OR NEGLECTING A CHILD.

If you have received supervision or services due to child abuse or neglect allegations, it may impact your ability to be certified as a foster or adoptive parent. Each case will be carefully reviewed.

Y N 6. I HAVE NEVER BEEN OUT OF COMPLIANCE FOR CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS.

If you have been out of compliance, you'll need to discuss it with an agency worker on an individual basis.

Y N 7. NO ADULT OR CHILD IN MY HOME HAS A CURRENT OPEN CRIMINAL CASE OR IS ON PAROLE OR PROBATION. FURTHER, NO ONE IN MY HOME HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN OR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

If so, please discuss with an agency worker before moving forward with the process. You and others in the household age 18 or older will undergo background checks.

Y N 8. I CURRENTLY LIVE IN THE HOME/APARTMENT WHERE I INTEND TO FOSTER OR ADOPT AND THIS HOME IS SAFE FOR CHILDREN. THE PLUMBING AND ALL APPLIANCES ARE IN GOOD WORKING ORDER.

The home must be clean and free of safety hazards and in compliance with all applicable state and local laws and ordinances concerning health and safety. You must have at least 1 working smoke detector on each floor. If there are firearms they must be securely stored. Any pets are friendly, safe and disease free.

Y N 9. I AM WILLING TO ATTEND AN ORIENTATION AND TAKE THE FREE TRAINING CLASSES AND FULFILL ANY OTHER TRAINING REQUIREMENTS. IF YOU HAVE A PARTNER OR SPOUSE, THAT PERSON WOULD NEED TO TAKE THE TRAINING AS WELL.

Y N 10. I AM WILLING TO MEET THE NEEDS OF ANY CHILD THAT IS PLACED IN MY CARE AND BE PART OF A TEAM.

This includes being a partner with this Agency and its workers in ensuring the child's well-being by complying with court orders, supporting visitation, ensuring that medical appointments are kept, helping the child with school, and taking him or her to therapy appointments and after school activities if necessary. Able to provide a safe and nurturing environment to any child in your home.