



## Finding an Agency That's Right for You

You'll be working with an agency toward becoming a licensed foster parent. The points below are designed to help you determine which agency is the best fit for you!

- ⊙ **Ask for referrals from people you know.** Check with friends, foster/adoptive parent groups, and faith communities to see if they recommend a particular agency.
- ⊙ **Narrow down the list of agencies that interest you.** Consult the FCNP agency map listing to find all of the agencies located in your area. If you are drawn to an agency that does not appear to be listed in your county on the FCNP agency map, still call and ask if they license foster parents in your area. Inquire about the typical ages and needs of the children placed by the agency.
- ⊙ **Get to know them.** Meet with the agency workers to find out what services and support they offer. Ask to speak to current foster and adoptive parents to learn how their experience has been.
- ⊙ **Agency procedures.** Ask for the agency's standards of practice, such as how long it takes them to return phone calls, protocol for after-hour emergencies, etc. How often do they check in with their families during the waiting process? Are there any agency-specific policies that affect foster care parents differently than other agencies? Are there any out-of-pocket fees?
- ⊙ **Set your training schedule.** Ask the agency when and how often they offer PRIDE training and request a schedule. Does your agency accept other agencies' PRIDE training? Does the agency have other required trainings?
- ⊙ **Know your timeline.** Ask how long it typically takes the agency to license a foster home. What is the average waiting time for placement? What is the timing of receiving foster care support checks?
- ⊙ **Be prepared.** Ask the agency about foster parent requirements and expectations regarding parenting time and transporting foster children to appointments. How does the agency facilitate a typical birth family visit?
- ⊙ **Ask about agency resources.** Does the agency have a foster/adoptive parent mentoring program and/or support group? Does the agency offer respite care? Transportation reimbursement /assistance? Therapy Service? What general post-placement services, trainings and support services does the agency provide?
- ⊙ **Trust your instincts.** Choose an agency you are compatible with and don't work with an agency you haven't personally investigated.



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