



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. What is the difference between being a foster family and an adopt only family?

A. Foster parents are an invaluable part of a team that works together to ensure the health and safety of children. The foster family maintains placement of child(ren) on a temporary basis until they are able to be reintegrated into their home of removal, or until they can reach permanency through alternative means such as adoption, custodianship, or guardianship. If a child is not able to return to their biological family, the majority of children in care are adopted by their foster parents. Fostering first has the advantage of reducing the number of moves the child who may be placed in your home and allows the child to live with the family before an adoption is finalized. It also enables a potential adoptive family to make connections with birth parents or other relatives that can be maintained in the future.

Adopt only families are matched with children in foster care who are legally free for adoption. These families take permanent placement of the child after being selected as the adoptive resource and work with the child(ren)'s case team to develop and implement a successful transition period based on the needs of the child(ren).

Learn More about which path to adoption might be best for you by reviewing our Guide to Foster or Adoption located on our website.

Q. Do I have to be married to become a foster and/or adoptive parent?

A. No, you don't need to be married to adopt from foster care. Many single people have built a loving family through foster care adoption. Learn more about the adoption of foster child requirements for a [single parent here](#).

Q. Do I have to have my own home to become a foster and/or adoptive parent?

A. You do not have to own your own home; in fact, many foster parents rent their residence.

Q. Are there income requirements to adopt?

A. There is no specific income requirement for potential foster and adoptive parents. However, you will need to show that you have the means to support yourself and your future family. You will be asked to complete a budget and discuss finances during your home study process.



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Q. What is the cost to adopt from foster care in Kansas?

A. Adopting a child from foster care is often funded by the state, and in most cases there are few or no fees. Adoption assistance exists to remove the financial and other barriers that may prevent a family from adopting from foster care and ensure that a child's special needs are met until they legally become an adult, between the ages of 18 and 21. Review the [Adoption Assistance Brochure](#) for more information.

Q. I have heard that many children in foster care have “special needs.” What does that mean?

A. Many children available for adoption through foster care have identified special needs that may include physical, mental, emotional, or developmental disabilities. Some children require specific services to address these needs. Learn more by reviewing our level of needs definitions on our website.

Q. Can I adopt a child from Kansas if I reside in another state?

A. Yes, if you're considering an adoption across state lines, you'll need to become familiar with the [Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children \(ICPC\)](#). It also means that you'll need to travel to the state you plan on adopting from to meet your future child. Your foster agency will be there to help walk you through the [interstate adoption process](#).

Q. Who are the children in foster care in need of adoptive families?

A. Children in foster care range in age from birth to 18. Children enter foster care for a variety of reasons related to abuse or neglect. Most, if not all, of the children legally free for adoption have experienced significant trauma, including the trauma of being separated from their families. Providing patience, understanding and unconditional love is paramount in assisting children in the healing process. The average age of children available for adoption through Adopt Kansas Kids is 12 years old. Explore our [resource page](#) to learn more.



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Q. What are the requirements to adopt a child in foster care with Native American heritage?

A. The [Indian Child Welfare Act \(ICWA\)](#) outlines a number of requirements that must be met before you can welcome a child in foster care into your home with Native Indian heritage. To learn more about what that looks like, check out [more information here](#).

Q. Why should I consider adopting an older child?

A. Thousands of teens in foster care are looking for the love, support, and encouragement that families provide throughout their lives—not just until they turn 18. As we all know, you never outgrow the need for a family. Everyone needs a sense of belonging. Learn more about how [adopting an older child](#) can bring a lifetime of rewards.

Q. Why should I consider adopting a sibling group?

A. Research suggests that siblings placed together experience lower risk of failed placements, fewer moves, and many emotional benefits. Even when siblings have been separated in foster care, the goal is to find them a safe, permanent home where they can grow up together. Read more about the [benefits of adopting siblings](#).

Q. Where can I find information, resources, training, and support?

A. The Kansas Post Adoption Resource Center is dedicated to strengthening adoptive families in Kansas. Visit our [website](#) for more information.