

Requirements and Training to become a Foster Parent with Family Ministries

Family Ministries recruits foster parents and foster to adopt parents in Tennessee. All Family Ministries' foster parents must:

- **Be legally employed or have verifiable monthly income above the poverty line**
- **Be single or legally married for at least one year**
- **Have homeowner's or renter's insurance**
- **Have a current driver license**
- **Have car insurance**
- **Have reliable transportation**
- **Be at least 21 years of age**
- **Pass a background check**
- **Complete Family Ministries' foster parent training**
- **Complete a home study**

It usually takes about four months to complete foster parent certification and home study. To complete the application process, potential foster parents must:

- **Be interviewed by staff to make sure they meet requirements.**
- **Complete 45 hours of training to be certified. 30 hours of additional training are required each year to remain certified. During the training, parents learn how to help children with emotional and behavioral problems. Parents are taught discipline practices and specific ways to help the child.**
- **Complete a home study and safety inspection.**
- **Pass a criminal background check and provide positive references.**

PATH

(Parents as Tender Healer) Trainings

To become a certified foster parent, you must attend PATH training classes. The PATH training classes help prospective foster parents decide whether providing foster, adoptive or kinship care to children is appropriate for them. PATH is based on the belief that children grow and develop better in families, where they can build lasting relationships. The

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early trauma experienced by many children in the child welfare system has a lifelong impact on how they feel about themselves, their ability to trust and their willingness to build relationships. Foster families will address issues that are different from those faced by families that are formed by birth. This curriculum addresses these core issues in a way that prepares prospective



resource families for their new and complex role. The skills needed to be a successful resource parent differs from those needed to rear children from birth. Everything in this training including the written material, video presentations, in-class assignments, role-plays, class discussions and interactions, as well as the homework, is designed to help resource parents begin to understand the children and develop the skills needed to parent them successfully.

Fees

Family Ministries provides training for foster parents at no cost. A stipend is provided to foster parents for every foster child placed in your home.

▶ **Contact a recruiter for a class schedule at 423.470.2300 or 1.877.424.4537**

Free Will Baptist Family Ministries, headquartered in Greeneville, TN, has been providing unconditional love and support to young people and their families since 1939 through residential group homes, foster care, The Hope Center and The Oaks Retreat Center. Family Ministries is expanding its services to a new population group with the Laurels Retirement and Assisted Living Center and Governor's Bend Retirement and Assisted Living Center in Erwin, TN.