



THANK YOU FOR SAYING "COUNT ME IN"

Welcome to the Clark County Department of Family Services Foster Care Program! You are about to embark on an exciting journey...becoming a foster parent! We have created this brochure to help you understand the Foster Family Assessment, often called the "Homestudy". This brochure can help you organize your paperwork, know what to expect, prepare for the interviews and track your progress. Thanks again for being willing to care for our community's children.

Great foster parents are committed to loving all children unconditionally. Here's your licensure checklist. Track your progress!

- Attended the Information Session**
- Submitted Application**
- Completed Foster Parent Training**
- Submitted All Needed Documentation**
- Passed TB Test**
- Passed Background Checks**
- Passed Home Inspection**
- Completed all Home Visits and Interviews**
- References Returned**
- Completed Homestudy**
- Received Foster Parent License**

Here's how you can stay connected with your Recruiter and Licensing Worker:

Recruiter:	Licensing Worker:
Email:	Email:
Phone:	Phone:

Do you still have questions?

For more information on how you can help a child in need, please call (702) 455-0181 or send us an email at ClarkCountyFosterCare@ClarkCountyNV.gov

You can also visit us online!
www.ClarkCountyFosters.org



A Guide to Becoming a Caring Foster Parent

Open your heart and home to a child
Clark County Department of Family Services



What is a Foster Family Assessment?

A Foster Family Assessment, also referred to as a homestudy, is a mutual process the prospective foster parent completes with the Licensing Worker to determine if a couple or individual can qualify to become a foster parent(s).

At the end of the process, a document is written that describes: you and your family, the reasons why you would like to foster a child, your ability to meet the needs of the children and families we serve, and the types/number of children best suited for your home.

This process will occur while you complete foster parent training and includes a series of interviews, gathering of documentation, background checks, medical exams, home safety inspections, and additional requirements with your Licensing Worker.

Preparing for your Foster Family Assessment

A. Homestudy

Part of the process for you to become a foster family is for us to complete a foster family assessment or homestudy, which will be compiled during the home consultations. The home consultations will help to develop your story.

There are several categories that we will explore together such as attitudes and beliefs regarding foster care; your ability to put someone's needs before your own without feeling threatened; experiencing severe emotional stress; and the value of interpersonal relationships.

Not every applicant will become a foster parent. The homestudy is designed to provide the Licensing Worker with insight into the applicant's level of functioning and suitability for foster care. At the same time, the process encourages the applicant to engage in self-assessment. By conducting the homestudy as a mutual assessment, it is likely that both the Licensing Worker and applicant will reach the same conclusion at the end of the process.

B. Scheduling Home Visits and Interviews

- The Licensing Worker will make 2-3 visits in your home for 3-4 hours each.

- Everyone living in the home will be interviewed— The interview will include topics such as: the family dynamic and the Department of Family Services' expectations of foster parents.
- The interviews also provide you an opportunity to ask questions, express concerns and get information.
- You will be asked about who will be a part of your support system i.e., extended family, community, job/employment, etc.
- Helpful hint: Schedule your next interview while you and the licensing worker are together at your home.

C. References

- Five (5) satisfactory references are needed. References will be called. You can choose up to two relatives, friends, neighbors, co-workers, faith leader, employer, etc.
 - Reference check calls include topics such as:
 - Describe your relationship with the foster parent(s)?
 - How long have you known the parent(s)?
 - Describe their experience with parenting?
 - Any concerning behaviors, etc.?
- Hint: Select people who know you well and would respond to our call.
- Potential References:
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.

D. Paperwork and Document Checklist

(check off as you turn it in!)

HELPFUL HINT: Take clear pictures of these documents on your phone and email them to your Licensing Worker

- Application
- Background Checks/ Court Record documentation for everyone in the home age 18 years and older
- Marriage Certificate
- Nevada Driver's License (copy)
- Car Insurance (copy)
- Social Security Card (copy)
- Financial Stability/Proof of Gross Income
Examples are: Bank Statements, Pay Stubs, Social Security Benefit Letter (Please note: SNAP or any other state funded support cannot be

counted as income. Also, the family must be able to meet their own financial monthly needs and have an excess to cover expenses for a child in foster care until reimbursed).

Pet Vaccinations

- Children's Immunization Record
- Proof of residency, i.e. lease, mortgage, home
- owner's or renter's insurance

Health and Home Safety Regulations and Guidelines

- TB Testing: Foster parents will need to be tested for tuberculosis and provide documentation of a negative result.
- Other assessments may be requested including: drug tests and psychological evaluations for any household member, if warranted.
- Housing: Space in home for children in foster care
Children can share bedrooms, not beds.
Separate bedrooms for each gender are needed for children age 5 and older.
- Home Safety Inspection checklist
 - Working fire extinguishers (2-A 10BC) and smoke alarms
 - Working Telephone (a cell phone is acceptable)
 - Reliable and safe transportation – Including transportation for children in foster care to appointments such as visitation, therapy, medical etc. Must have required car seats based on age/weight of child.

Mandatory Training: Keep Track of your Training!

Training	Date Completed
Initial Training	
Emergency Preparedness	
CPR and First Aid Training (in person)	
Car Seat Training (in person)	
Normalcy Training	