

# Become a Foster Parent! Service Alternatives

## FAQ

**How is getting licensed with Service Alternatives (SA) different than getting licensed with the state?**

SA CONTRACTS WITH THE STATE TO LICENSE AND SUPPORT TREATMENT FOSTER HOMES. AS AN SA FOSTER PARENT, YOU ARE STILL LICENSED WITH THE STATE YOU SIMPLY HAVE OUR AGENCY OVERSEEING YOUR LICENSE AND PROVIDING AN AMAZING LEVEL OF SUPPORT. THE CHILDREN WE PLACE HAVE HIGHER NEEDS AND REQUIRE ADDITIONAL SUPPORT IN ORDER TO BE SUCCESSFUL. OUR FOSTER PARENTS RECEIVE AN EXTRA LEVEL OF TRAINING AND THEY HAVE OUR AGENCY TO CALL FOR SUPPORT ANYTIME. WE ALSO PROVIDE CASE MANAGEMENT SUPPORT AND A TEAM APPROACH. YOU'LL RECEIVE MONTHLY RESPITE AND REIMBURSEMENT.

**How are foster children cared for financially?**

Foster Parents receive monthly reimbursement to provide for the care of the child in their home. This reimbursement should be used for basic needs as well as activities that will benefit the child. All foster children have all medical and mental health needs paid for through Apple Care/Coordinated Care.

**Are there age restrictions when it comes to getting licensed?**

In order to be a licensed foster parent you must be at least 21 years old. Other than that, people must be healthy enough to provide care for the child placed in their home.

**I have a past conviction on my record. Can I still get licensed? It depends upon what it is and how long ago it happened. It's possible. We will need to do a background check which will be the deciding factor.**

**What are the requirements to become a foster parent?**

You will be asked to complete a background check, have housing that is stable, sanitary, free of hazards, structurally sound, adequate in size and have at least one bedroom designated for a foster youth. You must have a stable source of income and be a responsible role model for children. You will also complete a variety of trainings during the licensing process as well as participate in an assessment process with your licensor. It is the licensor's job to make sure that all licensed homes are safe for foster children.

**As a Foster Parent, what rights do I have?**

Some of the rights of foster parents include having the right to accept or refuse placement of a child, being reimbursed for the child's care, having knowledge of those things concerning the foster child that will be needed to keep you and your family safe and the child safe and to have all of the information and paperwork in regards to the child's history that SA has access to.