

# Have you ever considered becoming a Foster/Adoptive parent?



## Foster Care

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services developed rules and guidelines to aid counties in implementing programs for children who cannot safely remain in their own homes. Foster, or substitute care for children is one of the major program components of Ohio's child welfare system and is provided through public and private agencies. The program's main purpose is to reunify children with their families and/or, find other permanent living arrangement when children can not safely return home. Foster or substitute care includes kinship care, foster care, residential substitute care in group homes and treatment facilities, the independent living program for youths aged 16 to 18 who will be emancipated, and the Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children into Ohio from another state, or out of Ohio.

When it is determined that a child must be removed from the home, and a court grants temporary custody of the child to the public children services agency, the caseworker attempts to find a placement with a suitable relative to help maintain family bonds. When a suitable relative is not available, the worker attempts to find a placement with a suitable non-relative with whom the child or family has a relationship. Suitable relatives and non-relatives are either licensed by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services or approved by the local public children services agency. If the agency is unable to place the child with a relative or a non-relative who has a relationship with the family, the child is placed into a licensed foster care setting.

## **For more information on becoming a foster/adoptive parent please contact:**

**Defiance/Paulding Consolidated Job and Family Services**

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