



## **Yolo County Foster Care Licensing Questions and Answers**

Yolo County is in need of families that can provide care, mentoring and love for foster children. These children need to live away from their own families temporarily for a variety of reasons, such as illness or death of a parent, family break-up, severe neglect, physical or sexual abuse or chronic substance abuse of the primary family.

### **Why must foster homes be licensed?**

California law requires that any home caring for a child must be licensed if the child is not closely related to the foster family. It provides protection of the children who must live apart from their parents.

### **Who Places Children in Yolo County?**

Yolo County Department of Employment and Social Services, Probation or other counties can place children. Each child placed by the county has a social worker or probation worker. You, as the foster parents, will be expected to cooperate openly with the child's placement worker on problems and questions concerning the progress, development or welfare of the child. The plans for the child usually include visits from parents or relatives with arrangements for visits made through the child's worker.

### **Who are foster parents?**

Foster parents are those persons who provide full-time care for up to six children who must temporarily be separated from their own families and cared for away from their homes. Every child needs care and guidance in a safe, clean, and comfortable home.

### **Foster parents should be:**

- Over 18 years of age.
- In good health (determined by your physician).
- Without a conviction of a crime. (Other than a minor traffic violation and some types of criminal exemptions as stated by law.) Police records will be evaluated through State and FBI fingerprint checks.
- No substantiated allegation of Child Abuse, determined by the Child Abuse Index Check (CACI) and review of the State Child Welfare Service Case Management System.
- Able to meet their own needs financially.
- Every member of the family must be willing to accept a foster child as part of the family.

### Who issues the license?

The California State Community Care Licensing division provides licensing services and issues the license. The licensing regulations are established in the Health and Safety Code and are supplemented by federal regulations.

### How much information is required?

In order to approve your home as a foster family home, the licensing social worker needs to have facts about your home and family. These facts will pertain to:

- Your lifestyle, family, family members and relationships.
- Your home (size, number of rooms, sleeping arrangements, etc.)
- Your income and your household's income.
- Criminal background clearances.

The child welfare principle of the "Right Home for the Right Child" is used in order to place each child properly. It is expected and required that the Department of Social Services obtain all needed information to study and evaluate prospective foster parents and their homes before making the recommendations to issue the license.

### What is the cost of securing a license?

**No licensing fee is charged** for the license of any home caring for six (6) or fewer foster children. However, there may be fees charged by other agencies; for example, law enforcement or Department of Justice agencies when they must complete criminal record history and Child Abuse Index clearances or training requirements needed for licensing.

### Will I need a medical clearance?

A medical clearance will be required of both parents and any adult in the home. All members of the foster family must be in good health, both physically and mentally free from disabilities that would create problems for the care of foster children. The foster parents must be able to carry out the extra responsibilities of caring for foster children without harming them, their own health or the health and care of their family.

### Other expectations:

**Supervision:** A foster child in your home needs full-time care and supervision, regardless of age. They must be under the general supervision of a reliable adult who has received clearance from Yolo County Licensing.

**Discipline:** Corporal punishment that includes spanking, striking, whipping, slapping or any other form of discipline that inflicts the child with physical pain is not allowed, even though the child's parents may have given consent. Disobeying this regulation is cause for the revocation of a foster home license.

**Religious Beliefs:** The religious beliefs of the child or his family must be observed and respected. Each child must be given the opportunity to attend religious services and activities of his or her faith or that of his or her parents, except where permission to do otherwise has been given by the parent.

Can we adopt a foster child placed in our home?

Yes, if the rights of the biological parents have been terminated. If you are interested in adopting, please speak with the licensing social worker.

How do we become licensed?

Applicants must contact [Susan Sadler](#) with Community Care Licensing at (916) 263-4706.

**Applicants are required to...**

- Complete an application packet,
- Submit to a background check via Live Scan,
- Attend 21 hours of pre-licensing training,
- Complete a pre-licensing visit, completed by Community Care Licensing,
- Obtain Pediatric CPR and First Aid Certificates,
- Maintain all regulations as required by the State of California.

Ongoing requirements include: Each year foster parents are required to complete a minimum of 12 hours of continuing education and maintain current First Aid and CPR certifications. Periodic home visits by the licensing social worker are also required.

What are some of the health and safety requirements our home must meet?

- Reasonably clean, orderly homes and in good state of repair. They must have enough space to give children a comfortable and sanitary home.
- Enough indoor and yard play space for children. A child must have a place for his/her clothing and personal belongings.
- A separate bed for each child with adequate bedding and a clean comfortable mattress. Your own children shall not be moved into an inadequate space to make room for the child.
- Bedrooms shall have privacy with adequate ventilation and have an exit route. Two children may share a bedroom. Children of the opposite sex over five years of age shall not share a bedroom. Except for infants, children over two years of age shall not sleep in the same room as an adult. Infants will be provided with an appropriate safe and sturdy bassinet or crib.
- An approved smoke detector installed in the bedroom hallways.
- Screens must protect fireplace and open-faced heaters. Gas heaters must be vented and installed with permanent connectors or protectors.
- Medicines, disinfectants, cleaning solutions, poisons, firearms and other dangerous items shall be stored where inaccessible to children. They must be kept in a safe, locked place.
- Storage space for poisons firearms and other dangerous weapon shall be locked. Ammunition must be locked separately.

- Homes with a private water supply (wells) must have the water tested by a licensed commercial laboratory our County Health Department.
- Swimming pools must meet the following requirements:
  - ✓ All built-in pools must have a five-foot, see-through fence and a self-latching gate.
  - ✓ Above ground pools must be fenced or otherwise be inaccessible when not in use.
  - ✓ For further details, contact the licensing social worker.

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**If you have any further questions**

**Please contact Julliana Shon**

**Yolo County Child Protective Services Foster Care Recruitment and Retention**

**(530) 666-8488**