

Arkansas

Road to Fostering

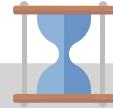
For more information, visit www.fosterarkansas.org.



Division of Children & Family Services



Let's Get Started!



How long does the foster applicant process take?

The process can take 6 months or more due to the required paperwork, training and other steps detailed below. The Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) hopes to have informed foster parents who feel like part of a team. We appreciate your patience.



1 Submit an online inquiry at www.fosterarkansas.org to begin the process in becoming a foster family and/or parent.



3 The staff then will send you the required background check forms for completion required for all members of the household older than 13.



5 A visual home inspection will be conducted to see what Minimum Licensing and other policy standards are met, and which standards will need to come into compliance.



7 Complete PRIDE Training and begin thinking about creating your Foster Family Support System.

Training can take 5-8 weeks to complete



9 CPR & First Aid Training should be completed at this point in the journey.



11 DCFS Orientation and Final Walk Through to Open Your Home.

2

Once your inquiry is received, you will be contacted by a member of the Centralized Inquiry Staff to complete a phone screening.



4

Initial background checks will be run to see if you or a member of your family has a history that would prevent you from being a foster family.



6

At this point, MidSOUTH Training Academy will contact you for enrollment in upcoming Parent Resources for Information, Development and Education (PRIDE) sessions.



8

Schedule your physical and begin gathering other required documentation, i.e. financials and proof of insurance, pet vaccinations, etc.



10

The home study is completed at this time and explores in-depth applicants' social and family history, current family make up, support systems, etc. to assess if they are ready and able to serve children.



Placements will vary based on the age of the child(ren), his/her needs and availability of open homes in his/her area.