

FOSTER CARE

The Orleans County Department of Child and Family Services Foster Care is a program that places a child in the care of the foster parents when they have been removed from their biological home. There are many reasons why children are removed from their biological home, including abuse and neglect. Children may be in the foster home for as little as a week or for many months. The main goal of foster care is to reunite the child(ren) with their parent(s).

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Open your home to a foster child

These precious, hurting children need loving families to provide a safe and nurturing home for them while their parent(s) work to make better choices in their own lives.

Become Respite Foster Home

Many foster families have out-of-town activities, family emergencies or for other reasons cannot care for their foster child(ren) for a day, weekend or week. Certified respite care providers can step into the role of caregiver for this time.

Become an Emergency Foster Home

Emergency homes foster families take children for short periods when the need arises. Emergency foster parents *may receive children with virtually no notice (this may be in the middle of the night, weekdays or weekends), and the children are often highly traumatized.* Emergency homes typically take have the children for less than 30 days.

HOW DO I BECOME A FOSTER PARENT?

1. Contact your Foster Home Coordinator, 585-589-3161, to set up a meeting to gain a complete overview of foster care in Orleans County. This meeting also gives you a chance to ask any questions you may have regarding foster care.
2. Complete an application form, Child Abuse and Law Enforcement Clearance Forms, and provide references.
3. Have a physical and medical form completed by your doctor.
4. The Foster Home Coordinator will complete a home-study. This process includes getting to know you and your family, visiting your home, discussing the kind of child(ren) you would like to care for and talk about any special concerns.
5. Complete trainings pertinent to foster parenting.

We are looking for adults who:

Are at least 21 years old, Are single or married

Are able to provide a safe and healthy home

Want to make a difference in the life of a child

Can work as part of a team with caseworkers, other community agencies, and the child's family