



# DID YOU KNOW?

August 2017

## Foster Care

**Anyone, 19 years of age or older, who wants to care for a child in their home can apply to become a foster caregiver.**

### Where and how to apply?

Applying to become a foster caregiver requires four steps:

1. Call either the BC Federation of Foster Parent Associations (1-800-663-9999) or the Indigenous Perspective Society (1-844-391-0007 x 229). Be prepared to provide some personal information such as: your name and age, names and ages of the people you live with and the space you have available in your home.
2. The foster organization will invite you to a local information and orientation session designed to help prospective foster caregivers make the decision about fostering. Attendance to the information and orientation session is required before an application can be made.
3. After the information session, individuals who want to foster can formally make an application to become a foster caregiver. Required supporting documents include: Four personal references, a medical assessment, a criminal record check, and prior contact check.
4. A social worker will then conduct a number of in-home interviews.

### Types of different foster care

**Restricted Care:** foster care provided by relatives or family friends

**Regular Care:** foster care provided by a family to children who require general level of care

**Specialized Foster Care:** foster care provided to children with mental or physical disabilities, or emotional or behavioural problems

**Respite or Relief Foster Care:** foster family who take children for short periods, so that the parents/foster caregivers can have a few days without the children

### For more information on foster care:

#### Ministry of Children and Family Development

[www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/organizational-structure/ministries-organizations/ministries/children-and-family-development](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/organizational-structure/ministries-organizations/ministries/children-and-family-development)

#### BC Federation of Foster Parent Associations

1-800-663-9999  
[www.bcfosterparents.ca/](http://www.bcfosterparents.ca/)

#### Indigenous Perspectives Society

1-844-391-0007 x 229  
[www.fostercaregiversbc.ca/](http://www.fostercaregiversbc.ca/)

This fact sheet contains legal information, not advice and is accurate as of the above date. For legal advice, please contact a lawyer.