

Myths and Facts



MYTH: Foster families have to be married, rich and/or homeowners.

FACT: Many single people in Kansas provide foster care, and most have modest incomes. Renters can be foster parents too. Foster parents need to be able to provide adequate space and sleeping arrangements for the children in their care and be financially stable. A modest stipend is provided to assist with children's care.

MYTH: I will have to quit my job in order to stay at home with the children.

FACT: If you work outside the home, you may need to make day care arrangements. Reimbursement is available.

MYTH: Foster children are problem children.

FACT: Most children come into foster care through no fault of their own. Parental issues, neglect and abuse are primarily factors associated with removal of children from their family of origin.

MYTH: A foster child will disrupt my family.

FACT: While adjustments may be necessary, most foster families report their own families grew from the experience.

MYTH: I'll get too attached to the kids.

FACT: This one is not a myth. You will get attached, and when children leave your home it may be hard. But that's a good thing. It means that the children needed you badly and you were able to meet that need.

MYTH: Foster parents have to be perfect.

FACT: Foster parents come from all walks of life - and nearly all will tell you they are NOT perfect. Kids aren't looking for perfection. They only want someone who cares.

Our Mission



To protect and promote the well-being of children.

The Kansas Children's Service League is a statewide not-for-profit agency providing a continuum of programs and services, advocating for children and collaborating with other public and private agencies for increased effectiveness, efficiency and quality. Founded in 1893, our programs touch more than 40,000 children and families each year.



Kansas Children's Service League

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Kansas Children's Service League is the Kansas chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America and Circle of Parents, a Kansas multi-site system of Healthy Families America and a member of the United Way.



Kansas Children's Service League

KCSL Foster Families



Kansas Children's Service League's (KCSL) foster families provide temporary care for children who require a safe and stable living environment outside their family of origin, whether it's their birth parents, adoptive parents or guardians. Foster families often serve as a support to the family no matter the circumstances. They and the child's family have ongoing communication and work together toward returning the child safely to his or her home. This provides a better transition for the child and both families involved when it comes time for the child to leave a foster family's care and allows the foster parents to continue to be a source of support for the child.

Steps to Become a KCSL Foster Family

1. Contact KCSL and request an information packet. The materials will explain the process and answer some basic questions.
2. A KCSL representative will contact you to answer any questions and assist you with next steps if you decide to move forward.
3. Complete TIPS-MAPP class. TIPS-MAPP (Trauma Informed Partnering for Safety and Permanence - Model Approach to Partnerships in Parenting) will help you make an informed decision about what type of foster care is right for you.
4. Begin Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) licensing process. Your KCSL foster family social worker will help you with this step.
5. Complete family assessment and DCF licensing requirements. You will be contacted by KCSL when a child comes into care that fits your preferences and family profile.

Foster Home Care Options



Foster families have a variety of home care options to choose. A foster family social worker will assist you with any questions you may have and will help you in selecting the best care type for your family. KCSL foster family social workers offer the utmost support through open lines of communication, home visits and advocacy.

Emergency Foster Homes: Licensed homes that accept emergency placements from law enforcement and KCSL family support services including after hours, weekends and holidays. Children may or may not be in the state's foster care system.

Family Foster Homes: Licensed homes for children in foster care working to reunite with their family of origin or for those needing adoption while they are waiting to be matched with a family.

Foster Home Respite Care: From time to time, foster parents need a break. Respite care families provide coverage for other foster parents for partial days or overnight help in situations when the primary foster family needs time away.

Therapeutic Foster Care: An individualized family-based treatment option for children and youth with serious emotional and behavioral disorders. Foster families receive additional and specialized training to provide this level of care.

Children's Residential Services: Care for developmentally disabled children, ages 5 through 21, to avoid placement in institutional or other congregate residential settings when they cannot remain with their families of origin. Foster parents receive training specific to caring for the child's disability and 24/7 support from KCSL.

What Makes a Foster Family Successful?



To be a foster parent, it takes flexibility, patience, tolerance and a sense of humor. Successful foster parents:

- Want the child(ren) to return to their family of origin.
- Are fully prepared for foster care and assist the child with adjustment.
- Maintain connection with the child's family of origin to ensure the child preserves their sense of identity and experiences a reduce sense of loss.
- Use friends, family members, faith community, schools, businesses and social services as a support system.
- Find humor in every day life (even in crisis) and practice self-care.
- Will carefully listen to the child(ren) in their home and support their individual goals.

To learn more about becoming a foster family, call

877-530-5275
or visit kcsl.org.