



PATHWAY CARING FOR CHILDREN®

Foster Care • Adoption Services • Mental Health Services

Foster Care Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who can become a foster caregiver?

Adults who are U.S. citizens at least 21 years of age, married or single, can become foster caregivers. They must be willing to attend pre-service training and to go through an extensive clearing process (fingerprints, social services clearing checks, local law enforcement clearing, and personal references).

2. Do I need to own my own home?

No, either owning or renting your home is acceptable.

3. Who are the children in foster care?

Pathway provides care for children who have been abused, neglected or abandoned and who have experienced a great deal of pain in their lives. Because of this, the children usually have emotional and behavioral problems. The treatment-oriented care that Pathway foster caregivers receive helps these children to heal, grow, and develop.

4. How old are the children?

We serve children of all ages, but if you live in Stark County, the vast majority of the youth are between the ages of 8 and 17 years of age. In Summit or Cuyahoga Counties, or the counties south of Stark (Tuscarawas, Wayne or Carroll), we serve many younger children who may be part of a sibling group of two, three, or even four children. There is a special need for families who will open their homes to teenagers.

5. Do foster caregivers receive financial help for foster children?

Yes, foster caregivers receive reimbursement for the cost of caring for the children. This reimbursement pays for food, clothing, transportation costs and school fees. The daily rate depends on how much care and supervision the foster caregiver needs to provide. All medical costs are taken care of by a medical card.

6. Can I work outside the home and be a foster caregiver?

Yes, you can. Many of our foster caregivers work outside the home. Fostering is also a wonderful way and perhaps attractive to you to "work" at home.

7. Can a foster child share a room with my child?

Yes, a foster child must have his/her own bed, but they can share a bedroom.

8. Can foster caregivers adopt foster children?



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Yes, foster caregivers do adopt foster children if the child is eligible for adoption. Pathway is an approved adoption agency and is anxious to guide our foster caregivers through the adoption process.

9. Does Pathway pay for daycare?

No, Pathway does not pay for child daycare. Foster caregivers need to use their compensation to pay for daycare.

10. What is the process of becoming a foster caregiver?

You can call us for an information packet. After your call, we will send out a packet of information about Pathway's foster care programs. After 5 days, one of our recruitment staff will call to insure that you received your packet (please feel free to call us if you have questions or just don't want to wait 5 days!). Then, if you are interested in moving forward with the process, an in-office interview will be scheduled in the Pathway office nearest you. At no time are you obligated to continue the process if you feel that fostering is not right for you or your family.