

Getting Started with the Application and Home study

If you can open your heart and home to child in need - and you meet all of the requirements listed in this brochure - we encourage you to contact us today! We would love to help you begin the process of becoming a foster and adoptive parent.

Here's how it works:

- Call our Division of Children Services' foster care and adoption inquiry line at 330-451-8789.
- We will review the program requirements and provide you with an application.
- Within 30 days of receipt of your application, the Division of Children Services will begin a home study assessment.
- Within 180 days of receipt of your application, the home study assessment will be completed. If everything is in order, you will be licensed as a foster parent and have an approved adoption home study.



Additional Information

To learn more about foster care and adoption in Stark County, please visit our website at www.StarkJFS.org. Additional information about foster care and adoption in the State of Ohio can be found on the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services' website at www.FosterandAdopt.jfs.ohio.gov.

Stark County Job & Family Services

Division of Human Services

221 3rd St. SE, Canton, OH 44702
Cash, food, & medical assistance applications
Customer service: 1-844-640-OHIO (6446)
Child Care: 330-452-4661

Division of Children Services

402 2nd St. SE, Canton, OH 44702
Report child abuse and neglect: 330-455-KIDS
Foster care and adoption: 330-451-8789

Division of Child Support

221 3rd St. SE, Canton, OH 44702
Customer service: 330-451-8930
Payment information: JFS.ohio.gov/ocs

Executive Offices

221 3rd St. SE, Canton, OH 44702
Customer service: 330-452-4661

Visit our website at
StarkCountyJFS.gov

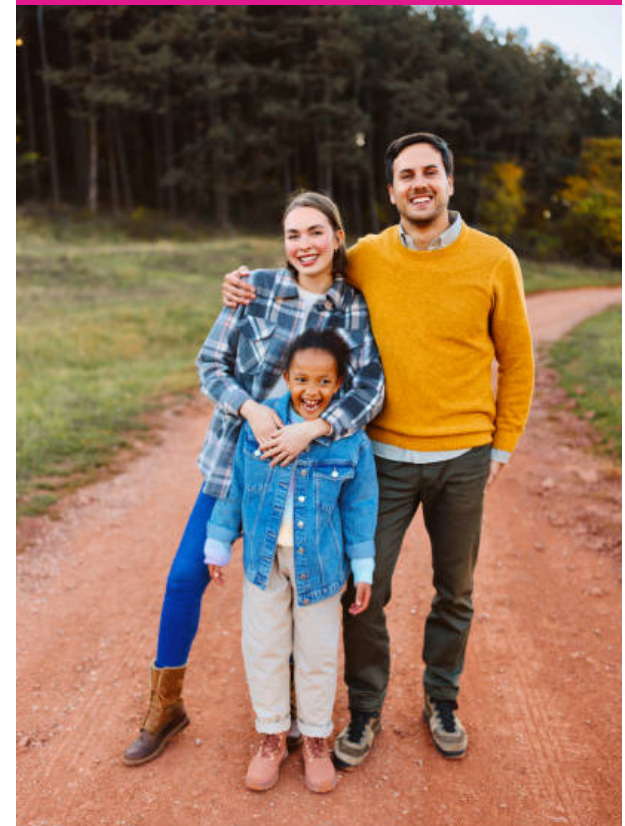


**Stark County
Job & Family Services**
Human Services - Children Services - Child Support



Foster Care and Adoption Programs

Division of Children Services



Stark County Job & Family Services
221 3rd St. SE, Canton, OH 44702
Phone: 330-451-8789
StarkCountyJFS.gov



Kinship Care

Kinship care is an arrangement in which a relative, or non-related adult who has a strong relationship with a child and/or family, takes over the child's full-time, substitute care. Kinship caregivers provide children stability by allowing them to maintain their sense of belonging and enhancing their ability to identify with their family's culture and traditions.

Characteristics of Foster Children

No two children are the same and we have a need for foster and adoptive parents who are able to accept children with many unique characteristics.

- Sibling groups
- Child over the age of 8 years old
- Child with an identified or anticipated physical, mental, developmental, emotional, or behavioral challenge



The Need for Foster and Adoptive Parents

In Stark County, we have a significant need for foster and adoptive parents. There are children in our community who experience events that jeopardize their safety and well-being. Sometimes, it is necessary for them to be removed from their home and placed in an alternative setting. These children need safe and loving homes, and families to care for them.

Stark County Job & Family Services (SCJFS) works hard to place these children with family or friends, otherwise known as kinship care. However, if there are no approved relatives or friends to care for the child, then placement in a licensed foster home is necessary.

SCJFS does not deny any person the opportunity to become a foster or adoptive parent on the basis of race, color, sexual orientation, national origin of the person, or of any foster child or children involved. Foster and adoptive parents are not required to be married, or to own their own homes.



Foster and Adoption Requirements

Applicants who wish to become a foster and adoptive parent must meet the following criteria:

- Be at least 18 years of age
- Provide proof of income to meet the needs of the household
- Meet with an assessor for face-to-face interviews with all household members
- Provide letters of reference
- Complete criminal background checks for all adults in the home
- Complete and pass a home fire and safety audit
- Successfully complete all foster parent pre-service training

*This is not a comprehensive list

Through our agency, parents will become licensed foster parents and have an approved adoption home study. While some parents may ultimately desire to adopt, families are required to work with SCJFS on reunification plans with birth families.