

402. FOSTER PARENT QUALIFICATIONS AND SUITABILITY. Foster parents must be physically and emotionally suited to care for children and to deal with the problems presented by children placed away from their own parents, family and homes. An applicant for licensure as a foster parent must meet the following: (3-28-23)

01. Minimum Age. Be twenty-one (21) years old or older.

~~02. Character. Be of good character.~~

03. Communication. Be able to communicate with the child, the licensing agency, and health care and other service providers.

04. Personal Attributes and Experiences. Have the maturity, interpersonal qualities, temperament and life experiences that prepare the foster parent to provide foster care. **This would include having empathy, being accepting and respectful of others, teamwork, honesty and flexibility.**

05. Availability for Child Placement. Express a willingness to provide care for the kind of children the children's agency has available for placement.

06. Knowledge and Skill. Demonstrate an understanding of the care that must be provided to the children served by the children's agency or express a willingness to learn how to provide that care.

07. Child Care and Supervision. Have adequate time to provide care and supervision for children. **Adequate care and supervision may include the use of daycare while a foster parent is working. Foster parents must be aware of the whereabouts of children placed in the home at all times. Children in foster care should not be left alone in the home without adult supervision unless that is a part of their independent living skills development. Depending on the emotional and behavioral needs of the child or children placed in the home, they should be reasonably within sight and normal hearing range of the adult.**

08. Income and Resources. Have a defined and sufficient source of income and be capable of managing that income to meet the needs of the foster family without relying on the payment made for the care of a foster child.

09. Health. Have the physical, intellectual, and emotional health to assure appropriate care of children. **This requirement is met through IDAPA 16.06.02.404.02 Physical and Mental Health of Household Members**

10. Harmonious Home Life. Establish and maintain a harmonious home life to give children the emotional stability they need. No marital or personal problems may exist within the family that would result in undue emotional strain in the home or be harmful to the interest of children placed in the home. **Occasional disagreements between family members that are to be expected but do not amount to a violation of a Harmonious Home Life unless they involve excessive yelling or violence towards property or other individuals.**