

INSPIRITUS CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES

FAQ'S & REQUIREMENTS

About Inspiritus:

Inspiritus works in partnership with the **Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS)** to provide safe and stable foster homes for children in the custody of the state. Our foster care services are focused on **servicing children with significant medical and behavioral challenges** in metro Atlanta and northwest Georgia communities.

To meet the needs of children, and to ensure that they have a safe and supportive foster care environment, we provide training and ongoing support to our foster parents. **If you are interested in becoming a Foster Parent, review our requirements and frequently asked questions below.**

REQUIREMENTS

Our caregivers must meet the minimum Georgia Division of Family & Children Services (DFCS) requirements:

- Be physically able to care for children
- Citizen or Legal Resident
- At least 25 years of age and 10 years older than youth
- No Substantiated Child Protective Services (CPS) History
- Be able to pass State and National Criminal Records Checks
- Have stable housing and be able to accommodate a child or sibling group
- Must complete a Structured Analysis Family Evaluation (SAFE Home Study)
- Must have access to a computer and have basic technology skills

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who are the children needing foster homes?

Foster homes are needed for infants, toddlers, school-aged children, teenagers, sibling groups, children with complex medical and behavioral disabilities and children of various races, religions and cultural backgrounds.

How do I know if I'd be a good foster parent?

Foster Parenting requires a lot of patience and compassion. Foster parents understand that the children that come to them are hurting and that it takes a long time to reduce that pain and change the resulting behaviors. Caregivers must be at least 25 years old, be of good moral character, be in good health, have an adequate housing and income, and meet other basic standards as determined by the state of Georgia and Inspiritus. You can work or stay at home.

Can I be a foster parent if I am single or in a same-sex relationship?

Inspiritus welcomes all kinds of families and does not discriminate based on race, religion, marital status, age, sex, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity.

What are a foster parent's responsibilities?

A foster parent is part of a team that works together to best meet the physical and emotional needs of a foster child. This team includes the child's birth family, agency staff and other professionals, such as lawyers and special advocates. Foster parents provide for food, clothing, shelter, medical care and transportation for a child, as well as appropriate life experiences and fun activities. They advocate on behalf of the child for their medical, mental health, emotional and educational needs. Foster parents also model and teach appropriate behaviors and coping skills and help the child transition to their birth or adoptive family.

Will I receive a stipend to help with food and clothing costs?

Twice monthly, you'll receive monthly payments, based on the age and needs of the child. Youth will also receive an initial clothing allowance if you receive a placement of youth who are new to the foster care system and/or an annual clothing allowance. Children in foster care are eligible for Medicaid, which pays for medical, dental and mental-health care. Foster families may also qualify for childcare assistance.

What if I need help with the child in my care?

A case manager from the Inspiritus makes regular visits to your home to help with problems that may arise. Foster parents are expected to discuss any issues that come up throughout the placement with their case manager so he/she can provide support and assistance or find a new placement for the child if need be. Changes must be planned carefully to prevent further emotional distress to the child.

Thank you for your interest in becoming an Inspiritus Foster Parent! If you would like to learn more, or talk to a member of our team, please email: fosterachild@weinspirit.org