



Communities for People

## **How to Become a Foster Parent: A Step-by-Step Guide**

### **Step 1: CORI Check**

The process of becoming a foster parent begins with a CORI check (Criminal Offender Record Information). If information appears on the CORI check, it will be discussed with you to determine its relevance. If appropriate, a visit to your home will be scheduled to assess if your home meets minimum physical requirements.

### **Step 2: MAPP Training**

The next step is completing a MAPP Training (Massachusetts Approach to Partnerships in Parenting). This 24 hour training is required of all potential foster parents. The course uses interactive role-playing and discussions to assist you in dealing with common behaviors of foster children and meeting their needs. Upon the successful completion of the MAPP training, you will begin the homestudy process and be fingerprinted for a national criminal background check..

### **Step 3: Homestudy**

The third step is called a homestudy. A Family Resource staff will visit your home and conduct interviews to learn about your family. This will include family history and dynamics, the strengths of your family unit, and your motivation to become a foster care provider. At this time, you will be required to provide references, documentation and physical health reports on all household members.

### **Finding a Match**

Upon successful completion of the above steps, you will officially be accepted into the program as a CFP Intensive Foster Care provider. The referrals are reviewed to identify a child whose needs and characteristics best suit your family's desires and strengths. When a match is being considered, your family will be contacted. Once a child is placed in your home, you will have weekly contact with your CFP social worker. This worker will work closely with you and your foster child to support the placement. A DCF social worker will also continue to be involved with the case.

For more information call 1-877-852-1271