

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
Chapter 12: Foster Family Home Licensing Section 01: Authority to License		
	Effective Date: July 1, 2026	Version: 6

POLICY OVERVIEW

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) issues a foster home license to applicants who meet all the rules and laws. The licensing process checks that the home is safe and can meet the child's needs.

POLICY STATEMENT

Resource parent's homes are categorized as:

1. Foster family homes;
2. Prospective adoptive homes; and
3. Unlicensed relative or kinship homes.

Foster Family Homes

All licensed foster homes must follow the same rules and paperwork, whether they are licensed by DCS or a Licensed Child Placing Agency (LCPA). A foster home license is good for four (4) years.

Note: LCPAs are responsible for completing the home study for a prospective LCPA foster family home. They also must make a recommendation to the Central Office Foster Care Licensing Team regarding issuing a license.

Unlicensed Relative or Kinship Homes

If a relative or kinship caregiver wants to become a licensed foster home, they must start by filling out the [Application for Foster Family Home License \(SF 10100\)](#).

Note: The home will be licensed in the county where the caregiver lives, even if the CHINS case was filed in a different county (see policy 8.05).

To become a foster parent, DCS requires you to:

1. Be at least 21 years old;
2. Pass a background check, including fingerprints;
3. Show that you are financially stable;
4. Own or rent a safe home;
5. Get medical statements from a physician for everyone living in the home;
6. Finish pre-service training (see policy 12.05);
7. Complete first aid, CPR, and Universal Precautions training (see policy 12.06);
8. Give at least four (4) positive personal references;
9. Have a stable living situation;
10. Complete home study with the licensing agency;

11. Agree to follow the foster care rules (465 IAC 2-1.5).

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 31-9-2.1-24: "Applicant"](#)
- [IC 34-9-2.1-107: "Foster care"](#)
- [IC 31-9-2.1-108: "Foster family home"](#)
- [IC 31-9-2.1-177\(a\): "Person"](#)
- [IC 31-9-2.1-193\(a\): "Provider"](#)
- [IC 31-27-2-1: Duties of department of child services](#)
- [IC 31-27-4-1: License required to operate foster family home; exception](#)
- [IC 31-27-4-16: Duration of license; limitations; renewal](#)
- [465 IAC 2-1.5: Licensing of Foster Family Homes for Children](#)