

S-253 INITIAL SCREENING OF CANDIDATES TO BECOME FOSTER PARENTS- MODIFIED



Version 5 effective December 15, 2010 (modified April 1 2019)

(previously FA-04)

Policy

Requests for information regarding care in a foster family or requests to become a foster family are answered the same day they are received. Although Intake Services staff usually responds to all such requests, it may occur that other staff members receive requests. In such cases, the requests must be answered promptly and be referred immediately to Intake Services.

Prior to accepting an application to become foster parents, the Intake worker must confirm the candidates' eligibility according to the following initial selection criteria:

- **Residence:** The candidates must reside in the United Counties of Prescott and Russell. Otherwise, they must be referred to an Agency in their area.
- **Vehicle:** Candidates must have a valid driver's permit and have a vehicle at their disposition.
- **Age:** Candidates must be at least 18 years of age and possess the maturity, skills and physical capabilities to adequately care for a child.
- **Civil Status:** Candidates may be married or common-law, single, separated or divorced. A couple must provide proof of having at least three years of conjugal life.
- **Age of the candidates' children:** A candidate must not be pregnant. The family's last born child must be at least six months old at the time of the application.
- **Involvement of the candidate's children:** The candidate's children must consent to their family's project and participate in the evaluation process.
- **Boarders/other individuals frequenting the foster home on a regular basis:** Any boarder and other individual over six years of age (visiting children of one spouse, babysitter) must agree to participate in the evaluation process (individual visit, criminal record verification, including vulnerable sector screening).

- **Criminal history or criminal record:** Any adult residing in the home must authorize the Agency to perform a criminal record verification, including vulnerable sector screening. Adults living in the foster home must not hold a criminal record related to violence or abuse of children or adults. A criminal record of another nature does not automatically exclude a candidate; however, such cases will be evaluated by the Supervisor.
- **Financial Stability:** Candidates must demonstrate financial independence, as placement is not a form of revenue; on the contrary, it may prove to be a stressor on the family's financial situation.
- **Employment of the candidates:** The agency will prioritize the placement of a pre-schooler in a foster family where one parent is at home full-time. One parent must remain in the home on a full-time basis in order to care for preschool-aged children. With respect to babysitting for school-aged children, if both parents work outside the home, they must arrange for a responsible individual to care for the child in their absence. The candidates' work schedule must provide a certain amount of flexibility in order to allow them to accompany the child to medical or other appointments. Otherwise, they must appoint an individual who is known to the child to care for him/her. The Agency may compensate for babysitting fees; however, the Supervisor must pre-authorize these charges.
- **Child Protection File:** Any candidate who has undergone a Child Protection Investigation or a reasonable doubt remains, will be refused, regardless of whether or not criminal charges have been laid.
- **Current Client of Valoris:** With the candidates' consent, the family's worker must provide a positive reference indicating that the candidates do not have any personal or family difficulties that may affect their ability to properly care for a foster child.
 - **Assessment:** Candidates must agree to undergo an assessment by a worker (physical inspection, individual and group meetings for all family members, **medical examination of all persons living in the home**, references and review of parenting practices).
- **Mandatory training:** Candidates must agree to attend a mandatory basic training program.

Procedure

1. Documentation and Assignment

Staff will document information requests or requests to become a foster parent as indicated in the Eligibility Spectrum and immediately forward the candidates' request to the Supervisor in charge, who will assign a resource worker.

Candidates are advised that a worker will contact them within 7 days, to begin the assessment of their request. In the event that a rapid assignment is required, the worker will contact the candidates within 48 hours.

2. Ineligible Candidates

Candidates who do not meet all of the initial selection criteria and who disagree with the refusal of their request will be advised of the policies and procedures governing complaints. Upon request, the worker will provide them with a copy of the assessment, as well as a copy of this policy and procedure.

Definitions

Parents : The term "parents" includes biological and adoptive parents, stepfathers, stepmothers and any other person who is responsible for a child before Valoris intervenes.

References

- [Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017](#)
- [Ontario Regulation 156/18: General Matters Under the Authority of the Minister](#)