

Foster Care Q & A

Q: What does it mean to be a foster parent?

A: Foster parents invite children to join their families on a temporary basis when they are not able to live with their caregivers due to abuse, neglect, or abandonment.

Q: How long will a foster child be in my home?

A: There is no "typical" case. While children are living in a foster home, their parents are given an opportunity to correct the issues that brought about the need for foster care. This can take from a few months to over a year.

Q: Is foster care the same thing as adoption?

A: No! Foster children are "in the system" because their parents need time to make some changes in their lives. About 20% of the time, foster children become adoptable. Foster parents are often given the option to adopt these children, and often they do so, but this is not expected of them.

Q: How long does it take to become a foster parent?

A: As a Private Licensed Placement Agency, COMPACT has a comprehensive, coherent, and streamlined training and approval process. We can often take you from application to ready-for-children in 90 days or less.

Q: Do foster families get paid?

A: Foster parents receive a modest stipend monthly to help offset the costs involved with caring for children in their care. The amount is per child, based on age. Foster children also come with their own medical insurance, paid for by the state.

Q: Is there an age limit for foster care?

A: Foster families must be at least 21 years old. There is no maximum age.

Q: Who will be there to help me if I foster?

A: COMPACT works with your church to build a strong support ministry. Also, every COMPACT foster family is assigned a professional Family Consultant who will serve as your go-to resource. You'll even receive a 24-hour on-call number for after-hours concerns. You'll never foster alone!

With COMPACT, you can now choose to open your home to foster care through a fully-accredited Christ-centered professional agency.

For more information about fostering with COMPACT Family Services, please contact:

Foster Care Department
501-262-1660
fostercare@compactfamilyservices.org



COMPACT FAMILY SERVICES

2325 Malvern Ave.
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COMPACTFAMILYSERVICES.ORG

Assemblies of God COMPACT Family Services is the national affiliate child welfare agency of the General Council of the Assemblies of God. Assemblies of God COMPACT Family Services is a 501c3 nonprofit.



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FAMILIES ON MISSION:
FOSTERING
WITH COMPACT



COMPACT Family Services is your partner in mission for serving vulnerable children and families in the foster care system.

Why choose COMPACT?



Streamlined Process

COMPACT's home-opening process is streamlined, efficient and comprehensive, helping you get on mission as quickly and painlessly as possible while still providing the training you need to be successful.

- **Training:** COMPACT will fully prepare you to serve foster children using the New Generation of PRIDE material, delivered through a faith-based lens. The training consists of 5 in-person sessions taught by our qualified staff and 4 online sessions that can be completed in the comfort of your own home.
- **Home Opening:** COMPACT is licensed with the state of Arkansas to train and open foster homes. This process can often be completed in 90 days or less. Compare that to the alternative of six to nine months - or more - that is commonly required!
- **Placement:** COMPACT is a licensed foster care agency and is authorized with the State of Arkansas to make placement of children with COMPACT foster homes.
- **Board Payment:** Foster parents receive a monthly stipend directly from COMPACT. **In most cases, COMPACT foster families receive a higher board rate than those who foster through DCFS.**

Essential Support

COMPACT provides unparalleled support to foster families.

- **Family Consultant:** As a COMPACT foster family, you will receive an assigned Family Consultant who will provide a substantial layer of support to you throughout your foster care journey.
- **Prayer:** As a faith-based agency, the COMPACT Foster Care Department will regularly pray with you and for you.
- **Partnership:** COMPACT works directly with your church to recruit, train, and deploy a full wrap-around support team of volunteers to help you be successful; a system we call CompaCare®.
- **Family Advocate:** In the CompaCare® local church model, you are assigned a volunteer Family Advocate who will pray for you, encourage you, and support you within your church.



Unparalleled Services

COMPACT provides a full continuum of supportive services for our foster families.

- **Advocate:** The Family Consultant assigned to your family is a trained professional that will help you navigate the communication channels of the child welfare system.
- **Access:** An on-call phone number is provided to you that will ensure 24/7 access to one of COMPACT's trained professionals anytime you need us.
- **Availability:** Your COMPACT foster care team stands ready to connect you to community resources that will help ensure your success in foster care.
- **Assistance:** COMPACT foster care families have access to additional resources on our campus, including the COMPACT warehouse which contains clothes and other necessities. Licensed counselors on the COMPACT campus can provide services to children in your home as needed.

