



FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION INFORMATION MEETING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Does my spouse/partner have to take the training also?

Yes. You both must take the training. You do not have to attend the same training series if there is a scheduling conflict. You may take the training at another county, or take the next training series.

Do I have to start with Module 1 or can I take the trainings out of order?

This curriculum was designed to be taken in order, starting with Module 1. It is our expectation that it is taken in order. If you are going to miss a training you can continue with the series and make up the missed class next series, or you can make arrangements to take the missed training in one of the surrounding counties.

Can I take the training in another county and still be licensed by Summit County?

Yes. You will need to call 1-866-294-3787 to register with that other county. The only county who does not allow this is Cuyahoga. Surrounding county training schedules can be found at www.ocwtp.net Click on NEORTC, then click on Foster Parent Pre-Service Training.

Can I take the training now just to get it out of the way and not get licensed?

It is not recommended that you delay the licensing process because your training is time limited. The training itself is good for 18 months, but you must also be licensed in that 18 month time period. A home study can take up to six months. This means you have to turn in all your paperwork and be assigned for study within twelve months or you will need to retake the pre-service classes.

Do I have to take more training once I get my license? And How long is my license good for?

A foster home license is good for two years. During that time period you are required to complete 40 hours of continuing (ongoing) training. SCCS encourages their foster parents to complete 20 hours of training each year. These trainings are offered free to you at SCCS.

What is the Policy and Procedure Class and why can I only take it with Summit County?

Unlike Pre-Service training, this class deals only with the policies and procedures that pertain to Summit County Children Services. This one hour class is only held five times a year for each of the Pre-Service training series.

Is there reimbursement for completing Pre-Service training?

After a foster caregiver has received their license certification there is reimbursement for attending the Pre-Service training. This will be addressed in the Policy and Procedure class.

Is there anything special I should know about the Pre-Service Training Classes?

Classes are adult only and there is no childcare provided. You may not miss more than a total of 15 minutes of class training, and that includes class beginning and ending time. Lastly, the classes are held

at the Education Center at 262 S. Arlington Street. When you enter through the gate turn left, and then turn left again in the Education Center parking lot.

When should I request or take an application?

When you have decided to start the process, please call Stephanie Hickle at (330) 996-1065 or at stephanie.hickle@summitkids.org. If you are undecided, we would prefer that you not take an application until you are ready to proceed.

What is the greatest need for foster care?

SCCS' greatest need for children entering foster care is families to care for infants, teens and large sibling groups. The largest percentage of children coming into the agency's custody are children birth to age two, children ages 12 and older, and groups of three or more siblings.

What is the greatest need for adoption?

Nearly 90 percent of the children the SCCS' permanent custody are age 12 and older. SCCS' greatest need is for these older waiting children to be adopted.

Can I be a Summit County foster parent if I don't live in Summit County?

Yes. You can be a foster/adoptive parent for Summit County and live in any of the five counties adjoining Summit. These counties are Cuyahoga, Wayne, Medina, Portage and Stark.

I just had a background check and my fingerprints done for work. Can you use those?

No. We can't use any paperwork prior to the date on your Application for Child Placement, and no outside Background Checks are valid for our licensing process. Additionally, if you were recently fingerprinted as a kinship provider we will need to complete a separate check for our licensing process.

Can I be a foster parent if I have a criminal record?

Possibly. Each situation is reviewed under the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services' rules of family foster care. All adult household members must have a background check.

When do we get our paperwork for the Fire Inspection and Medical Forms?

After your application has been accepted as complete, you will then be given a packet of papers to work on and it will include a list of documents you need to provide, such as a copy of your driver license and your most recent 1040.

I filed bankruptcy a year ago; can I still apply to be a foster parent?

It depends. All previous bankruptcies have had to be discharged for at least six months before you can apply to be a foster/adoptive parent. Foster applicants complete a Financial Statement to show you are able to meet your household needs.

Does it matter if I have a Concealed Carry Permit?

Our agency procedure states "SCCS caregivers are prohibited from carrying a concealed weapon at any time a child in SCCS custody is present.

Who will do my home study and how long does it take?

Once your application has been completed and your required paperwork has been submitted, a Home Study Assessor will be assigned. The standard rule of an agency has 180 days from the receipt of your signed application to render a decision about licensure/approval.

Do I have to own my own home?

No, you can rent. But you must have your landlord's approval to take foster children. Also, your home must have at least two bedrooms. Foster children cannot share a room with an adult once they have reached the age of one without prior agency approval.

Can I just apply to foster/adopt a baby?

Yes. However, if you are interested in fostering to adopt for SCCS, and are only interested in the placement of younger children, you must be willing to be licensed for the ages of birth to five years. You will need a crib for a child birth to two and at least a twin bed for a child age two to five years old. You will need to have these beds available by the time the assessor is ready to finish your study.

Where and how often, do the children and parents visit?

The amount of time children are scheduled to have visitation with their parents is established by the Juvenile Court. The children and their parents often spend time together at the Family Interaction Center (FIC) located on the grounds at Summit County Children Services. Foster parents are expected to provide the transportation to and from the Center.

Can I adopt a child of a different race?

Yes. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, age or gender. Each of our children will be placed with the family who can best meet their needs.

How many foster children can I have in my home?

For your first two years, licensed foster parents may take up to three foster children. After two years, up to six foster children can reside in the foster home. There can be a total of ten children maximum, including your own children and foster children, in the home.

Can my own children and foster children share a bedroom?

Yes and each child must have a bed of their own. A foster child cannot share a bedroom with a child of the opposite sex, except when all children in the bedroom and under the age of five years, or when the child is sharing a room with his or her parent who is also a foster child.

Do I get a medical card for my foster child or do I put them on my insurance?

All medical, dental and counseling expenses are covered by SCCS. You will receive a medical card for the children in your home.

Do my babysitters/caregivers need to go to any training?

No. They will complete a Background Check form, sign a Discipline Agreement form, and we will complete a Child Abuse/Neglect search on your babysitter/caregivers.

Can my 17 year old daughter babysit?

Alternative caregivers, not including overnight arrangements, must be at least 16 years of age **and** at least five years older than the oldest child left in his/her care. Alternative caregivers between the ages of 16 to 18 are approved to provide up to four hours of care, and anything longer requires caseworker approval. Alternative caregivers must be at least 21 years old to be approved for overnight arrangements.