

## Eligibility Requirements for Foster Care

Nightlight Christian Adoptions is licensed to provide private foster care by the states of California, Colorado, Georgia, Kentucky, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and Texas. The selection of foster parents is based on their eligibility to meet state and agency requirements, their capacity for parenthood, and the availability of children whose needs they can meet.

<b>RESIDENCE</b>	Nightlight can perform foster care services for families living in our licensed states within a certain service area. Typically, our service area is between 60 and 75 miles from our office location. Please refer to our website and choose your state of residence for more specifics for your state.
<b>RELIGION</b>	Foster care applicants must be committed to providing their child with a constructive, wholesome, and spiritual home environment.
<b>HEALTH</b>	Foster care applicants must give evidence of good health, both physical and mental, which will be verified during the application process by medical examinations and, if recommended, psychological evaluations.
<b>AGE</b>	Varies depending upon the foster couple's state of residence; however, typically, applicants must be at least 21 years old. (Minimum age is 25 in GA). Nightlight prefers no more than a 45 year age difference between the youngest foster parent and the foster child.
<b>MARRIAGE &amp; FAMILY</b>	Foster care applicants are encouraged to have been married long enough to provide the couple sufficient time to establish a home, financial security, and to adjust to the marriage. Married applicants must have a satisfying and secure marriage and be married a minimum of 2 years. Additionally, it is preferred that foster care applicants cannot have more than six minor children in the home, including foster children.
<b>FOSTER CARE EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS</b>	Education requirements vary depending upon the foster couple's state of residence and, in some cases. Our goal is to prepare you to be the best parents possible for your foster child.
<b>FINANCES</b>	Foster care applicants must be able to provide a financially stable home, demonstrated by solid credit history and ability to live within their means.
<b>PREGNANCY</b>	Families who become pregnant during the certification process or prior to obtaining their first foster placement, will be placed on hold so that we maintain 12 months between placements (first foster child placed in the home should not be within 12 months of bio child birth or adoption of another child). However, if the family has already received a foster placement and then becomes pregnant, there is no requirement regarding the 12 months between placements. <u>If you become pregnant while in the certification process or after receiving a foster placement, notify our office immediately.</u> We will then place your file on hold. When you are ready to consider placement of a new foster child into your home, call us to discuss.