

## INTRODUCTION

Thank you for taking the time to request an application pack for becoming a Foster Carer with Foster Care Link. This document will guide you through completing the initial enquiry form. However, if you still encounter difficulties you may contact us by telephone on 020 7923 0330 or email us at [admin@fostercarelink.com](mailto:admin@fostercarelink.com) at any time.

Completing the form is the first step in your assessment as a potential foster carer. We appreciate that the application form is very detailed, and thank you for your patience in this matter. However, it is important that we obtain as much detail as possible as this will allow us to make a detailed judgement on how you can meet the needs of any children that may be placed with you.

Please remember that all information you provide will be treated as strictly confidential, and will only be used by Foster Care Link to assess your personal situation and capability to become a foster carer.

After completion please return to the completed application form to the Foster Care Link offices at 159B Stoke Newington High Street, London N16 0NY or fax to number 020 7923 1754.

You can also download further copies of this form in PDF Format from the 'downloads' page of the Foster Care Link Website at [www.fostercarelink.com](http://www.fostercarelink.com). If you do not have Acrobat PDF Reader installed on your PC you can use the link provided on the webpage to download the free software.

## GENERAL GUIDANCE

The form is made up of five parts, these are:

- Part 1 – Personal Details
- Part 2 – Home and Family
- Part 3 – Enquirers Health
- Part 4 – Fostering
- Part 5 – Declaration and Consent

Each section contains a series of questions, seeking information from you on your personal circumstances. You will also note that two sections for answers are provided with each question, under the headings 'first applicant' and 'second applicant'. If you are applying as a couple please fully complete for both applicants, if you are applying as a single person only complete under the heading 'first applicant'.

If any questions do not apply to you simple insert 'n/a' (not applicable) in the box provided. Many questions provide a number of options for you to select from, simply circle the answer that applies to you, or strike through those that are not appropriate.

If at any point you require more space to provide your answer please continue on the back of any page, however, please make a note that information is continued on the reverse of the page by marking 'PTO' (please turn over).

Below you will find explanatory notes for each section of the application form, highlighting areas that may need further explanation.

## **PART 1 - PERSONAL DETAILS**

### **1.1 NAME, DATE OF BIRTH AND OTHER DETAILS**

This section of the form is straightforward, but please note the following:

Place of Birth: Please enter town/city and country

Languages Spoken: Please enter details of all languages you can fluently speak

### **1.2 PREVIOUS ADDRESSES**

In providing your address details for the last five years, you may enter approximate dates with just the month and year for when you began and ended your residence of the property.

### **1.3 QUALIFICATIONS**

Please note that no previous qualifications are needed to become a foster carer. Foster Care Link provides full training to new foster carers.

### **1.4 CURRENT EMPLOYMENT**

If this section is not relevant to you simple enter 'n/a' in the 'name of employer' section.

Please also note that if you do not wish for us to approach your employer for a reference at this stage you must circle 'no' in the last box of this section.

### **1.5 OTHER DETAILS**

This section is straightforward – please complete as appropriate.

## **PART 2 – HOME AND FAMILY**

### **2.1 CURRENT ACCOMMODATION**

We need to collect information about where you live to assess what level and type of foster care you can provide. Please therefore provide as much detail as possible.

### **2.2 LOCAL AREA**

As well as your home, we need to know about your area. Please therefore again provide as much detail as possible. If you do not know where the amenities mentioned are, as you have never had to use them, simple enter 'do not know' in the appropriate box.

### **2.2 CHILDREN WHO LIVE WITH YOU**

Please provide full details of children that live with you.

### **2.3 ADULT CHILDREN LIVING SEPARATELY**

These questions are in relation to children you have cared for, or currently provide care for. If any other children live with you, but are cared for by others, please provide details in section 2.5

### **2.5 OTHER PEOPLE LIVING WITH YOU**

We need to know who else shares your home with you, please therefore provide full details.

## **PART 3 – ENQUIRERS HEALTH**

### **3.1 GENERAL HEALTH**

We need to know if you are physically and mentally fit to care for children. Please therefore provide as much detail on your health as possible.

### **3.2 DETAILS OF GENERAL PRACTITIONER (GP) AND MEDICAL SPECIALISTS**

This section is straightforward – please provide full details.

## **PART 4 – FOSTERING**

### **4.1 TYPE OF CHILDREN/YOUNG PEOPLE AND CARE**

We need to know the exact details of what type of foster care you wish to provide, including details of age and gender. You may find it useful to read the Foster Care Link Leaflet 'Types of Fostering Explained' (Leaflet LE3) which explains the differences between the different types of care and 'What is Foster Care?' (Leaflet LE2) which provides details on what fostering involves. Again, please provide as much detail as possible.

### **4.2 ABOUT YOU AND FOSTERING**

We would like to understand your reasons for choosing to become a foster carer, as well as establishing whether you know what it involves. Please therefore fully complete this section.

### **4.3 CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS**

Regulations state that we must obtain a criminal convictions check on every member of your household. Please therefore provide details if any applicants, or members of the household, who have received a caution or conviction. All types of convictions do not necessarily disqualify people from becoming foster carers.

## **PART 5 – DECLARATION & CONSENT**

After completing the form you must sign the declaration, which states that all information provided is correct to your belief and knowledge.

After completion please fax the form to fax number 020 7923 1754 or post to Foster Care Link, 159B Stoke Newington High Street, London N16 0NY.

Remember, if you still have queries you can call us on 020 7923 0330 or email us at [admin@fostercarelink.com](mailto:admin@fostercarelink.com)

Thank you for your interest in fostering, and for contacting Foster Care Link.