

Questions to Consider When Choosing an Agency

General

1. Where are the agency's offices located? How far will you have to drive for trainings? Or are trainings offered online?
2. What is the agency's general reputation in the community? What do other foster/adoptive families have to say about them?
3. What is the size and scope of the organization? (Typically, larger organizations have more flexible training options, but smaller organizations may be more attentive to your individual needs.)

Licensing

1. What are the agency's requirements for licensing?
2. What is the anticipated timeline for becoming a licensed foster/adoptive home?
3. How many families are currently licensed with the agency?
4. How many foster children are currently placed through the agency?
5. Does the agency currently have any constraints in the licensing process (i.e. longer than normal review process, staff shortage, approval committee)?
6. Does the agency have an electronic system for documentation and/or submission of licensing requirements?
7. Are there any costs related to the licensing process?

Training

1. How much of the agency's training curriculum is Trauma-Informed?
2. Is childcare offered during annual training classes?
3. How much assistance does the agency provide with regard to annual training requirements?
4. Are any of the trainings available via livestream or online access?

Support

1. Is the agency staff trained in Trauma-Informed Care?
2. Are they willing to come to your home to offer assistance with severe behavioral challenges, if necessary?
3. How often do agency representatives attend court hearings, mediations, and/or permanency conferences?
4. Is the Placement Coordinator a full-time employee? Are they able to take phone calls directly from a potential foster family?
5. How often does the agency conduct unannounced home visits?
6. Do they offer support groups or other types of support for families?
7. Do they offer post-adoption support?
8. What are the agency's requirements for babysitters and respite care providers? Will it be reasonably easy for you to get the childcare support you need?