

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the requirements for becoming an adoptive parent?

Requirements differ depending on the agency (CPA), but generally include the following:

- At least 21 years old
- Financially stable
- 1 bed and 40 sq. ft. per child in the home
- No more than 6 children in the home, including biological, adoptive, foster, and children for whom you provide childcare (exceptions may apply)
- Vaccinated pets
- Agency application: references, home study, fire safety inspections, CPR/First Aid certification, TB testing, background checks and fingerprinting for household members 14 years+
- Annual training hours

How long does it take to become a licensed adoptive home?

The process could take a few months or up to an entire year, depending upon how quickly you move through the training and documentation.

What is a child placing agency (CPA)?

If the court deems it necessary, children are removed from their homes and placed under the care of the Department of Family & Protective Services (DFPS or CPS), which then works alongside private child placing agencies (CPAs) to find temporary foster/kinship homes. CPAs contract with DFPS to provide safe, nurturing foster homes. There is no cost to getting trained and licensed through a CPA.

Do I have to be married to be an adoptive parent?

No. There is no requirement that an adoptive parent be married.

Do I have to own a home to become an adoptive parent?

No. There is no requirement that adoptive parents own a home.

How much does it cost to adopt through foster care?

The cost to adopt through foster care is minimal. In many (but not all) cases, the adoptive family will qualify for state subsidy, which covers all legal fees, grants health care coverage and offers an ongoing monthly stipend.

What ongoing support or training is available for foster/adoptive parents?

Most CPAs provide ongoing support and training for their foster families. In addition, some nonprofits and faith-based communities in Houston are committed to making sure, families are well-supported and thriving. There are a growing number of support groups, parents' night outs, resource closets, Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) training, and other helpful resources. Email us, and we'd be happy to get you connected to resources in your area.