

Adoption vs. Foster Care

ADOPTION	FOSTER CARE
Adoption is the permanent placement of a child.	Foster Care is the temporary placement of a child with reunification as the goal.
Birth parents rights have been terminated, and the Michigan Children’s Institute is the child’s legal guardian until the adoption is finalized.	Birth parent rights are still intact, and decision making is shared between the birth parents, the agency and the court system.
There are no visitations with birth parents; however, visitation with siblings may be required.	Visitations with birth parents and siblings occur at a minimum of weekly.
Adoptive families are required to have an approved home study or to have a foster care license, which is preferred.	Foster care requires that the family obtain a foster care license.
Adoptive families are required to work with agency representatives for the case planning needs of a child until the adoption is completed.	Foster families are required to work with agency representatives for the case planning needs of a child until reunification occurs.
Home visits are required on a quarterly minimum basis until the adoption is finalized, in addition to the monthly foster care home visits.	Foster home visits are required on a monthly minimum basis. Annual or semi-annual home visits are also required to maintain your license.
Training is required as a part of the initial home study process.	Training is a requirement as a part of the initial licensing process. Ongoing training is also required to maintain your license on a yearly basis.
Children awaiting adoptive families are generally ages 10-17.	Children available for foster care placement are ages 0-17.