

# Qualifications for a Foster or Adoptive Parent

- Applicants are required to be eighteen years of age or older.
- Applicants must complete orientation and additional required trainings.
- A complete home assessment is required to assess space, maintenance, safety considerations, approved sleeping arrangements and other household requirements.
- A social history assessment and interviews will be completed for all household members, including children and significant others.
- Applicants are required to submit legal documentation, including but not limited to social security cards, birth certificates, marriage licenses/divorce decrees, pet documentation, etc.
- The medical, mental and emotional health and substance use history of each household member will be assessed, including but not limited to the submission of medical and mental health clearances.
- A minimum of three unrelated references are required for each applicant.
- A financial assessment is required to assess the financial stability of the home, including but not limited to completing a financial worksheet, and the submission of utility bills and legal income verification.
- A background check is completed for each applicant, including, but not limited to a criminal clearance, fingerprinting, Central Registry clearance, etc. Police, court and probation discharge records are required if applicable. Additional clearances are completed for other household members.
- An assessment of any previous foster care, day care or adult foster care licenses held or applied for and to assess previous adoption assessments.
- Home visits are completed on a regular basis until the assessment process is completed.
- For foster care licensing, the agency will be assessing for full compliance with the Licensing Rules for Foster Family Homes and Foster Family Group Homes for Children put forth by the Bureau of Children and Adult Licensing. ([https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/CWL-PUB-10\\_502652\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/CWL-PUB-10_502652_7.pdf))