

CFFMISSION

We help children facing adversity on their journey to adulthood. We use proven methods to help families raise their children so they can flourish and reach their full potential.

CFFVISION

Communities where children are nurtured, healthy, and safe; individuals are valued; families are strong and self-sufficient.

CFFVALUES

Accountability
Advocacy
Collaboration
Cultural Competency
Empowerment
Respect
Responsiveness

CFFAPPROACH

We approach care through a trauma-informed lens to help children reach their full potential. The trauma of abuse, neglect, and tragedy weigh heavily in the lives of our children and families.

We ask not, "What's wrong with you?" but **"What HAPPENED to you?"**

What services are available for adoptive families and their children?

Children & Families First provides counseling and support services during the process - from family assessment (home study) to a child joining your family until the adoption is finalized. Training and assistance with referrals for ongoing support is available after finalization. Finalization is usually completed after the child has been with your family for a minimum of six months. Delaware children who have been in the foster care system receive Medicaid benefits until age 18, even after they are adopted; this covers health benefits and the cost of counseling. Some children with specialized needs may receive an additional subsidy until age 18.

Children & Families First is committed to finding parents for children who need a permanent family through adoption.

JOIN US AND LEARN MORE!

Children & Families First offers Foster Care and Adoption Information Sessions on the **3rd Wednesday of each month** at our offices statewide. Information sessions begin at 6 p.m.



Licensed by the Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families; Accredited by the Council on Accreditation; Partner Agency of the United Way of Delaware; Member of the Alliance for Strong Families & Communities; Member of the Children's Home Society of America

Revised 10/2018

Visit Us:

New Castle County:

809 N. Washington St.
Wilmington, DE 19801

Kent County:

91 Wolf Creek Blvd.
Dover, DE 19901

Sussex County:

410 S. Bedford St.
Georgetown, DE 19947



ADOPTING CHILDREN from Foster Care



It's not just our name,
IT'S OUR PROMISE



Adoptive Parents are expected to:

- Protect and nurture children
- Meet the developmental needs of children
- Support relationships between children and their birth families
- Participate as essential and effective members of a professional team
- Make a lifetime commitment to a child

What is the cost to adopt a child?

- \$175 non-refundable application fee
- \$700 non-refundable preparation fee that is due prior to the training classes
- \$900 family assessment (home study) and matching fee that is due prior to completion of the study

Note: All family assessments (home studies) are updated annually for a fee of \$250.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT US:

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WWW.CFFDE.ORG | (800) 220-3092
(302) 658-5177

Children waiting for adoptive families often:

- Are eight years of age or older
- Part of a sibling group
- Have experienced separation from their birth family and multiple foster families
- Have trauma-related challenging behaviors
- Have been prenatally exposed to drugs and/or alcohol
- Have physical and/or mental health challenges
- Are involved in legal risk adoption situations (when birth parents rights are not yet terminated)
- Thrive through continued contact with birth family members

Who can adopt a child?

In order to adopt a child in Delaware, you must be:

- A single individual or married couple
- A Delaware resident
- In satisfactory health
- Able to financially support a family, and provide safe adequate housing
- Able to arrange adequate child care if one parent is not at home full-time
- Committed to maintaining the optimum health and safety of the child
- Emotionally stable and able to love a child born to other parents
- Able to make a lifelong commitment to a child, accepting the child's uniqueness and limitations while encouraging the child to reach his/her full potential

Individuals of any race, gender, gender identity, religion, sexual orientation, or ethnic group are eligible to adopt.

What is the process to adopt?

Prospective adoptive parents are offered information about adoption and an opportunity to assess whether or not they have the willingness, ability, and resources to become an adoptive parent.

The prospective adoptive parents must:

- Attend an information meeting
- Complete an application form
- Attend group preparation meetings
- Prepare a written autobiography
- Successfully complete a criminal background and child abuse history clearance
- Provide references
- Have a physical exam, including a TB test
- Meet with staff in your home and in our office for a series of interviews

Children & Families First then completes a written family assessment (home study) that is used to match waiting children with adoptive families.