

FOSTER CARE PROGRAMME

# RECHERCHE



# FAMILLE D'ACCUEIL

Une initiative du ministère de l'égalité du genre, du développement de l'enfant et du bien-être de la famille, avec la collaboration de **KFC**.

Chaque enfant a besoin d'une famille

add  
HOPE



# FOSTER CARE

## PROGRAMME

### WHAT IS FOSTER CARE ?

Foster Care is a way of providing a family life to children who cannot live with their parents. It is also meant to give a child the chance to enjoy the benefits of a secure, stable and supportive family environment. Foster Care is used to provide a child with temporary care.

Foster families open their hearts to children in need and share their family life with them by taking on parental responsibilities for a period of time. The aim of fostering is purely therapeutic and is meant for the best interest of the child.

### CHILDREN IN DISTRESS WHO NEED A HOME

These are children who have been neglected, abused or abandoned by their families. They need love, acceptance and comfort to help them start afresh. Foster parents offer them the chance to lead a stable life.

### WHO CAN BECOME A FOSTER PARENT?

**As per the Child Protection (Foster Care) (Amendment) Regulations 2005, an application may be made by**

- An unmarried person
- a married person individually; or
- both spouses applying jointly

### FOSTER FAMILIES

- Love and understand children
- Have the willingness to share their time while facilitating the child's integration in the new family circle
- Work in collaboration with social workers and other professionals

### Procedures amongst others for new Foster Care Applicants as per Child Protection (Foster Care) (Amendment) Regulations 2005

- ✓ Submit duly completed application form together with the following documents:
  - Birth certificate, health certificate, for both spouses and any other adult living under the same roof
  - Marriage certificate (if applicable)
  - A certified copy of your permanent decree of divorce (if applicable)
  - Character certificate for you, your spouse, and any other adult living under the same roof\*
  - Proof of income and ownership/rental of your property
- ✓ Home Study Visit/Social enquiry by Family Welfare and Protection Officer (FWPO)/Social Workers
- ✓ Psychological assessment by the psychologist of the Ministry
- ✓ Screening by Foster Care Unit
- ✓ Registration as Foster Care Parents
- ✓ Training by psychologists
- ✓ Matching exercise prior to placement
- ✓ Placement of foster child for 3 months on Interim Committal Order and, depending on favorable home study visit, the Interim Committal Order can be renewed for 2 years.

\*Note that requested documents such as birth certificate, marriage certificate, etc. must be in A4 format. Provision must also be made for a Rs 25 stamp for each new copy.

### CAN YOU FOSTER A CHILD?

**These are questions to ask yourself before taking this important step:**

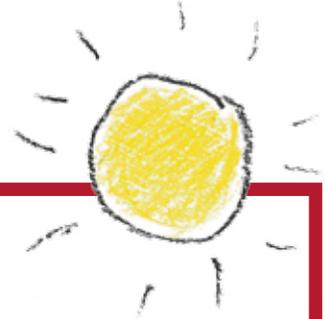
- ✓ Can you love and care for a child who comes from a difficult background?
- ✓ Can you help a child develop a sense of belonging in your home even though you are aware that the stay is temporary?
- ✓ Are you secure in yourself and your parenting skills?
- ✓ Can you give unconditional love to a child in distress?

**If yes, then you are meant to foster.**

**After placement in the foster family:**

- Regular visits at foster home by FWPO and psychologist for support
- Supervision by Coordinator
- Psychological follow-up and support of foster parent
- Ongoing training by psychologist on challenges of parenting
- Occasional visits of biological parents on a case to case basis





## EVERY CHILD COUNTS

A foster child, like all children, needs love, affection, guidance, education and security.

Foster children come from different ethnic and age groups, from infancy to teens.

Foster children often have brothers and sisters who need to be placed together.

Foster Care Unit, National Women Development Centre, Royal Rd, Phoenix.

**HOTLINE: 187**