Finding an Agency That’s Right for You

Becoming a foster parent requires you to work with an agency and we want to make sure you find an agency that’s right for you. Use this checklist as a guide to ask questions. Take notes and feel free to interview a couple agencies until you’re certain you’ve found the right one.

☐ Ask for referrals. Check with friends, foster/adoptive parent groups, and faith communities to see if they recommend a particular agency.

☐ Make a list. Make sure you know all of the agencies located in your area.

☐ Get to know them. Meet with the agency’s workers to find out what services and support they offer. Ask to speak to current foster and adoptive parents to learn how their experience has been.

☐ Know your timeline. Ask how long it takes the agency to license a foster home.

☐ Be prepared. Ask the agency about foster parent requirements and expectations regarding parenting time and transporting foster children to appointments.

☐ Set your training schedule. Ask the agency when and how often it offers PRIDE training and request a schedule.

☐ Get help. Ask if the agency has a foster/adoptive parent mentoring program and/or support group.

☐ Get the facts. Ask for the agency's standards of practice, such as how long it takes them to return phone calls, protocol for after-hours emergencies, etc.

☐ Trust your instincts. Choose an agency you are compatible with and don't work with an agency you haven't personally investigated.

Agencies are regulated by the Department of Human Services, Bureau of Children and Adult Licensing.