

## What Does Becoming a Foster or Adoptive Parent Mean?

- ◆ Opening your home and family to a child who has been abused and/or neglected.
- ◆ Providing understanding and guidance to a child who needs to develop physically, emotionally and socially.
- ◆ Providing a family to a child who needs love and support and
- ◆ Embracing a child into the security of a stable home and family.

### *The Children and Family Services Department (CFS)*

provides information, training, and support to pursue becoming a foster or adoptive parent.

Orientations are scheduled regularly throughout the county

*If you are interested in becoming a Foster or Adoptive Parent please call*

**800-722-4477**

or

**909 891-3300**

to register for an orientation.

## YOU CAN HELP!

*In San Bernardino County, hundreds of children are waiting for love and the sense of belonging that only a family can give.*

Children with special needs such as being five years of age or older, sibling groups needing to be placed together and children who may have medical, behavioral and/or emotional issues are especially in need of families who can provide supportive and caring homes.



Placement Services Division  
412 W. Hospitality Lane, 2nd Floor,  
San Bernardino 92415  
800 722-4477 or 909 891-3300



*You can make a difference  
in the life of a child!  
Become a Foster or  
Adoptive Parent.*

## What is Adoption?



**Adoption** makes a child legally part of your family. All children deserve to grow up in a family, but some cannot live with their birth families. Knowledgeable, compassionate social workers will help you explore whether adoption is right for you. Financial and medical assistance is available to most adoptive families as well as training, counseling and emotional support.

## Who Can Become a Foster or Adoptive Parent?

- ◆ You can be single or married
- ◆ You must be at least 18 years of age
- ◆ You may own or rent your home
- ◆ You do not need to have your own children
- ◆ You must be self-supporting
- ◆ You must pass a criminal background check

## Concerns and Myths

There are several concerns about foster care and adoption that may prevent many people from accepting “someone else's child”.

- ◆ Do I have to be rich?
- ◆ Can I be single?
- ◆ Do I have to have parenting experience?
- ◆ Can I love a child who is not my own?

A broad range of people from various backgrounds and income levels have cared for and loved children by becoming foster and adoptive parents.

## What is Foster Care?

Foster Care is a temporary placement, which assists children in preparing for return to their birth parents or a more permanent placement such as adoption or guardianship. Social workers visit the home on a regular basis to provide services to support the foster children and the foster family. Foster parents receive ongoing financial and medical assistance.

