

GENERAL OVERVIEW OF MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR APPROVED FOSTER HOMES:

Licensing Requirements – This list is not exhaustive of all requirements. There may be case-specific documents requested based on personal history. Your social worker will work with you on a timeline for when these items are due and how to collect them.

- Applicants must be 21 years or older.
- If married, applicants must be married at least 1 year before beginning licensure process.
- If married, must complete Prepare and Enrich marriage survey.
- No home can have more than 8 total children under age 18 (includes biological, foster, and adopted).
- There must be an adequate number of bedrooms and beds, and a separate bed or crib for each child in your care. Children age 5 and older of opposite genders may not share a bedroom.
- All cribs must be in compliance with Consumer Product Safety Commission Standards
- There must be no more than 4 children sharing a room or sleeping space
- All children who are household members must be current on vaccinations
- All household members who will be caregivers for infants must have an up to date pertussis vaccine (whooping cough vaccine)
- All household members who will be caregivers for infants or children with special needs require an up to date annual flu vaccine
- Must have sufficient income to care for a child for up to 3 months without daily stipend.
 - Completed financial statement and supporting documents
- FBI clearances (fingerprinting) for all household members age 18 and older.
- South Carolina Law Enforcement (SLED) clearances for all household members age 18 and older.
- South Carolina Child Abuse and Neglect clearances (CANS) for all household members age 18 and older.
 - CANS required for all states lived in during the last 5 years.
- National and South Carolina sex offender clearances for all household members 18 and older.
- Complete physical examinations for all household members.
- Written references from individuals who have known your family for at least 3 years.
- Swimming Pools must be enclosed with protective fencing that is at least 4 feet high
- Carbon monoxide alarms must be installed and maintained outside of each separate sleeping area
- Pass a state Fire Marshal inspection.
- Pass a DHEC inspection for cleanliness and safety:
 - Firearms are unloaded and locked in a storage area inaccessible to children;
 - Ammunition stored and locked separately;
 - If seeking licensure for children ages 6 and under, protective covers over the outlets, childproof locks on cabinets, and safety gates on stairs should be in place
 - Chemicals, medications, alcoholic drinks and other hazardous materials should be stored in a locked or inaccessible area;
 - Current rabies vaccinations on all pets (dogs, cats, ferrets);
 - If your home was built prior to 1978 a lead test will be performed on your home.
- Completed disaster preparedness plan and fire escape plan.
- Copies of verifications – driver's license, social security card, marriage license, divorce decree and complaint, military discharge paperwork.
- CPR/First Aid training completed.
- Completed driving record from DMV
- Alternate caregiver/babysitter screening

Annual Requirements

- Annual Fire inspections by a state Fire Marshall
- Annual SLED, CPS, and sexual offender background checks
- Complete 15 hours of training (each foster parent)

Re-Licensing Procedures (completed every two years)

- Relicensing visit and study
- New financial forms and supporting final documents
- 30 hours of training over the previous two years (each foster parent)