



The Licensing Process: What to Expect...

Below is an outline of what to expect for your licensing process. Some variation to this process may occur on a case by case basis according to your family dynamic. Generally, you can anticipate the following based upon *State Minimum Standards for Foster Family Homes*:

Training: The state of Alabama requires a ten-week training called TIPS in order to become a licensed foster parent. Lifeline is trained to provide these classes and we work diligently to infuse this with a Gospel-perspective.

Paperwork Process: A part of the home study includes completing paperwork on your family and your life history. Please be candid and forthcoming with your worker about all prior history and present needs. This enables us to not only walk with you through the mutual selection aspect of TIPS, but also enables us to equip DHR to best match your family with placements.

First Family Consultation – This provides us with an opportunity to jointly assess strengths and needs with you in a family setting, and gives you a time to share your thoughts and feelings about fostering at this point. The following will be completed during this time:

- Initial Home Tour
- Initial Joint Interview
- Individual Consultations
- Child Interview

The First Consultation will take place during the ten weeks of TIPS classes. This consult can take up to five hours. This consult scheduling is contingent on submission of required TIPS paperwork.

Final Family Consultation - This conversation with your social worker focuses on debriefing TIPS and discussing your family's future role in fostering. Both family and worker(s) will provide feedback about your family's appropriate role in fostering following completion of TIPS and about your own specific support needs as you prepare to foster. The following will be completed during this time:

- Final Home Tour
- Final Joint Interview

The Final Family Consultation is conducted after completion of TIPS, submission of all TIPS paperwork, and once the family confirms that they have everything completed to meet Minimum Standards.

Home Study Portfolio: After class and all consultations are completed, Lifeline will compile your portfolio and write your home study. This will then be sent to DHR for licensure.

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**We are looking forward to partnering with you and welcome any questions you may have.
Thank you for your willingness to begin this journey with us!**