



Membership Application

Yes, I am a foster parent, child, or youth.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

County: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

\$10 per individual \$15 per family

If you serve families we offer the following memberships:

- \$25 professional/associate
- \$50 child-placing or local agency
- \$100 organization
- \$500 business

Checks payable to: FACES of VA Families

Mail checks to:

FACES of VA Families
 3900 W. Broad St.
 Richmond, VA 23230
 FAX: 804-239-1252
 Toll-Free: 877-823-2237 (VA FACES)

FACES gratefully acknowledges the support of VDSS in providing this brochure to families.

A Few Terms and Programs

Child Care: For children in foster care, the local agency will make determinations regarding whether or not they will approve child care.

CSA: Comprehensive Services Act is the mandated program for assessing the needs for children requiring multiple or intensive services for children in foster care. There are multiple approval and planning teams in this process.

Foster Care Maintenance: Routine payments made to foster parents for raising a child. These rates are not sufficient to cover all of the costs of raising a child, so families must be financially secure in order to afford to provide foster care. Children with specialized needs may qualify for other payments and services following a needs assessment.

Medicaid: Medical, dental, and vision coverage for which All children in foster care are eligible.

School Lunch Program: All children in foster care are eligible for free lunches and breakfast, when available.

WIC: A nutritional information/support program providing vouchers for certain nutritional food groups. All children in foster care are eligible.

Links you should add to your favorites!

Virginia has a number of resources available on-line. Learn more.

- If you are required to transport a child to a school outside of your school district, then the local department will reimburse you for mileage.
http://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/fc/school_placement.pdf
- The VDSS contingency fund is available to reimburse families when children in foster care damage your property.
http://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/fc/contingency_manual.pdf
- Enhance Maintenance payments when a child's needs require extensive parental supervision and care.
http://www.dss.virginia.gov/files/division/dfs/fc/rates/guidance_procedures/vemat_3.7.11.pdf
- Transportation reimbursement to Medicaid eligible appointments.
http://www.dmas.virginia.gov/downloads/pdfs/tr-UserGuide_MedTransp.pdf

FOSTER PARENTS Don't sit on the sidelines...



FACES of Virginia Families:
**Foster, Adoption, and Kinship
 Association**

Get in the game!

Foster parents are essential to the professional team. In Virginia, local department directors and workers are required to sign with foster parents the *Foster Care Agreement: Code of Ethics and Mutual Responsibilities* (The Agreement).

The Agreement is consistent with the Virginia Practice Model promoting services and supports which are family, child, and youth-driven. This means that the parents and the children they are caring for are to have a voice in service planning.

When you receive a child into your home, the worker and the local agency are agreeing to abide by a Code of Ethics which has been adopted as a state policy by the Virginia Board of Social Services. As a result this Code of Ethics is a mandate for agencies, workers, and parents when caring for children in a foster care setting.

As a parent you promise with your signature to:

- Provide a safe, secure, stable, and nurturing home life free of corporal punishment;
- Model healthy family living;
- Practice positive relationship development;
- Support the achievement of the child's assigned permanency goal;
- Respect a child's culture, ethnicity, and spiritual preferences consistent with local policy;
- Grow through skill development, role clarification and training;
- Practice honesty and respectful communications focusing on the child's needs;

...and, the local agencies and workers are promising the same when they sign the agreement.



Shared Responsibilities

There are also responsibilities you share with the professional team, including the worker and the agency director. These responsibilities are the foundation for the professional partnership and require that all persons signing the agreement work together as a team.

The responsibilities require:

- Information is shared about the child's medical, mental health, behavioral, educational, family relations, placement, and general life experience history, upon receipt;
- All information is kept confidential with the team;
- Support for the child's birth family relationship;
- Birth families are treated with respect;
- Support for the child in participating in the court hearings, team meetings, and other discussions when the child is able to participate in a manner that does not place safety or well-being at risk;
- Active participation in the permanency and service planning meetings;
- Support, problem-solving, and guidance are the principal practice when addressing family issues;
- Additional supports and assessments are used to help reduce placement disruptions; and
- The team supports one another in the loss and separation issues which come when a child leaves care.

Agency Requirements

Your agency is also required by this agreement to:

- Give you their abuse/neglect policies and follow those policies and procedures;
- Provide you with the date you will receive your foster care payments;
- Respectfully consider your questions & concerns and offer reasonable explanations; and
- Never threaten, discriminate, or retaliate when you question decisions or practices.

Foster Parent Privileges

Foster parents are provided the following privileges in the Code of Virginia.

- The court is required to send you copies of the child's court approved service plan. (16.1-281)
- Participate in the foster care review hearing and receive a copy of the notice and petition relative to the hearing. (16.1-282)
- File an adoption petition when parental rights have been terminated and the child has been in your home for 18 consecutive months. (63.2-1229)
- When the child in your home has developed emotional ties to your family, then adoption assistance can be made to you for adopting the eligible child without a search for a family who will adopt without assistance. (63.2-1300)
- Only the court may change the placement of a child placed in a permanent foster home. (63.2-908) *Except in the case of alleged abuse or neglect in which case CPS may temporarily remove the child, until court orders are amended.*
- Notice and participation in the Family Assessment and Planning Team process.

You can learn more about these and other privileges in the Permanency/Foster Care Manual located on the Virginia Department of Social Services' website (www.dss.virginia.gov) or the FACES' website (www.facesofvirginia.org)