



Membership Application

Yes, I am raising a relative's child.

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)

A Few Government 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. For families receiving TANF and who have employed adults in the home, the household will most usually be categorically eligible for child care.

CSA: Comprehensive Services Act is the mandated program for assessing the needs for children requiring multiple or intensive services which the parents can not afford or 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 following a needs assessment.

Medicaid: Medical, dental, and vision coverage to children with documented financial need. All children in foster care are eligible for Medicaid.

SNAP (food stamps): The household must meet financial eligibility requirements.

TANF: Financial assistance provided to relative families with legal custody of children when the children, alone, are financial eligible.

WIC: A nutritional information/support program providing vouchers for certain nutritional food groups. Eligibility is tied to TANF eligibility.

Visit us or call us to learn more:

www.facesofvirginia.org

877-823-2237 (877 VA FACES)

Have you opened the door...



FACES OF VIRGINIA FAMILIES

to a relative's child?

You are NOT Alone!

Relatives caring for children often do so as a result of unstable conditions in birth families, such as economic crisis, mental health condition, or incarceration.

Some relatives offer care to prevent the child entering foster care. When a local department removes a child from the birth parents' home because of abuse/neglect, they are required to look for relatives to provide family continuity and family-based care for the child.

If you are approached by a local department to take responsibility for a relative's child you should know your options. For example you could :

- take only physical custody of the child;
- take legal custody of the child; or
- become an approved foster parent for the child.

If you take physical custody from the child's parents:

The birth parents will remain in control of decisions related to the child.

It is unlikely you will receive financial assistance from government resources to assist in caring for the child.

In **some** Virginia localities, you may be able to request assistance to help cover additional costs, if the locality decides covering such costs are necessary for the child's well-being and to prevent a foster care placement.

If you take legal custody from the child's parents:

A court makes the legal custody decision. It will likely appoint a Guardian Ad Litem for the child to assure you and your home are ready for this long-term arrangement.

You will have decision-making authority for all domains of the child's life.

The birth parents will only be able to visit according to court orders and can only take legal custody, again, if so ordered by the court.

You may be eligible for government benefits such as TANF, Child Care, WIC, and free school lunches, based on the child's income.

FACES of Virginia Families: Foster, Adoptive, and Kinship Association is here to help you navigate the system, share information, provide training opportunities, and offer support to you on your journey.

We can be reached via the web at www.facesofvirginia.org

Email: info@facesofvirginia.org

Toll-free: 877-823-2237 (VA FACES)

If you become a foster parent for the child of your relative:

Your home will be required to meet certain minimal standards.

The local department will keep legal custody of your relative's child.

You will **not** have the final say in matters such as future placement, services, treatments, schooling, and other matters.

Foster care placement is temporary and the child can be removed from your home at any time without notice.

There will be some financial reimbursements to you for the cost of caring for the child, such as a base rate depending on the age of the child (\$368-\$666 per month), an annual clothing allowance, and other possible reimbursements based on the needs of the child.