



FOSTER CARE UNIT
530 CENTER ST NE, STE 200
SALEM, OREGON 97301
PHONE: 503-373-1363
FAX: 503-373-1511

YA 9523

REV 06/08



Oregon Youth Authority



Youth Offender Foster Care

Questions
&
Answers

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO BECOME AN OYA CERTIFIED FOSTER PARENT?

It can take as little as 8 weeks or up to 6 months or more. The length of time depends on the applicant's and the certifier's availability as well as the complexity of your family or personal situation.

WHAT DOES IT PAY AND HOW IS THE MONEY TO BE USED?

All foster care providers must demonstrate financial stability without using foster care reimbursement. OYA foster parents are provided with financial support for youth expenses. Payment is made in the middle of the month and is issued only for the number of nights that the youth offender actually lays his/her head upon a pillow in the home. The foster parent provides basic housing and food for the youth offender. The foster parent also provides for ongoing clothing, transportation, spending money, recreational opportunities, and other reasonable incidentals. The youth offender receives a medical card which covers medical, mental health and other necessary treatment.

HOW MANY YOUTH OFFENDERS MAY BE PLACED IN A HOME?

The maximum number of youth offenders in a home is three. Factors that determine the number of youth offenders include the size of the home, the size of the family, what the foster parents can offer the offender, and the foster parents' skill level.

WHAT ABOUT SHARING BEDROOMS?

Youth offenders cannot share bedrooms with children of the foster parent. They may share bedrooms with other youth offenders, but there are restrictions. For those homes who choose to work with youth with sex offending issues, two youth are not permitted to share a bedroom. However, three youth offenders with sex offending issues may share a room, but with no other non-offending youth. Also, offenders over 18 may not share with younger offenders.

WHAT ARE THE AGES OF FOSTER YOUTH OFFENDERS?

Youth offenders range in age from 12-25. Typically, youth offenders in foster care are 14-20 years old.

WHAT KINDS OF CRIMES HAVE THE OYA YOUTH OFFENDERS COMMITTED?

Many youth offenders have committed serious crimes including; theft, burglary, a sex offense, forgery or assault. Most youth offenders have drug and alcohol issues.

WHAT ABOUT SCHOOL?

Most youth offenders can and do attend public school, while others may need educational assistance. These youth offenders may have Individualized Education Plans (IEPs), have a need to attend alternative schools or other programs available in the area.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF FOSTER PARENTS?

Foster parents are to role model appropriate behaviors, and hold the youth offender accountable for his/her behaviors. Youth offenders are in need of structured supervision. Foster parents are expected to supervise and know where the youth offender is at all times. The foster parent works with the youth offender's parole/probation officer to establish a case plan for the youth offender that addresses the needs of the youth, which may include contact with the youth offender's family. This plan may also include vocational training, school, employment or treatment. For youth offenders who are working, foster parents help the youth offender budget and save money.

HOW LONG DO YOUTH OFFENDERS STAY IN PLACEMENT?

The length of stay in the foster home is determined by the youth offender's case plan.

Part of the certification process is to have your questions answered. OYA encourages you to ask questions that will help determine if foster parenting is the right choice for you, your family, and for OYA.

**Call (503) 373-1363
for more information**