



Why Foster Care is a viable option for older children residing in CCIs?

- 01➤ Foster care provides the love and care of a family to children who are generally deprived due to various reasons.
- 02➤ It provides a nurturing environment with safety, security, development and well-being of children.
- 03➤ It provides a safe place for a child to live until it is possible to reunite him/her with their biological parents or the child finds a family through adoption.



Who can Foster a child?

- **Persons who are...**
Single, unmarried, widowed, divorced, or legally separated individuals
- **Married Couples**
Indian citizens, with both spouses consenting and willing to foster the same child. A stable marital relationship of at least 2 years is mandatory.
- **Single Prospective Foster Parents (PFPs)**
Single female can foster a child of any gender while single male cannot foster girl child.
- **Based on status in CARINGS**
Prospective Adoptive Parents registered on CARINGS are not eligible to foster any child.
- **Fit and Capacitated Individuals**
The Prospective Foster Parents must be physically, emotionally, mentally and financially capable.

A checklist for a child given in FOSTER CARE

- The child should be treated empathetically as own biological child and family bonding must be ensured.
- The child should not be subjected to any form of physical, emotional, sexual abuse or neglect in the foster home.
- The child must be attending regular school except for special circumstances such as major disability or illness.
- There shall not be any misappropriation or misuse of financial support received in the name of child.
- In any circumstances, the child should not be engaged in labour which is contradictory to laws.
- The child's meetings with his/her biological family should be facilitated wholeheartedly.

Procedure for Fostering a Child

A-FOSTER CARE ➤

- Self-registration by Prospective Foster Parents (PFPs) on the portal.
- Parent/ Child related documents to be uploaded by DCPU.
- All requisite documents in respect of the child and the PFP will be placed before CWC.
- The DCPU, where the child resides, will match the child with PFPs with the approval of the concerned CWC.
- Order of foster care placement by CWC, as per Form 32
- Undertaking by the foster family: Form 33
- DCPU to upload all the documents on the portal

B-Foster ADOPTION ➤

- DCPU to recommend the proposal to SARA.
- SARA to recommend the proposal to CARA.
- CARA to issue pre-approval letter and send the proposal back to SARA.
- SARA to forward the proposal to DCPU.
- DCPU to file an adoption application in the office of DM for procuring Adoption order.
- Issuance of Adoption Order.
- DCPU concerned to facilitate the issuance of birth certificate of child.
- Post-adoption follow-up report by concerned DCPU.

DCPU – District Child Protection Unit
SARA – State Adoption Resource Agency
CARA – Central Adoption Resource Authority
DM – District Magistrate

UNDERSTANDING

Foster Care and Adoption ➤

Foster Care: Short term, or long term Family-based care of children in need of care and protection (CNCP); as provisioned in Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 (as amended in 2021).

- **Eligibility of children:** Children in the age group of 6-18 years are eligible for Foster care.
- **Eligibility of parents:** Indian citizens residing in India, who wish to foster a child can register themselves online on CARINGS Portal (carings.wcd.gov.in). For more information, read Model Foster Care Guidelines, 2024 (on CARA website).

Foster Adoption: Foster care can be converted into adoption provided:

- The child has successfully completed two years in foster care with the same family.
- The child is legally free for adoption.
- Both the child and the parents have given consent for adoption.
- The compliance as per JJ Act, JJ Rules and Foster Care Guidelines are fulfilled.

CARA framed the Adoption Regulations, 2022 as mandated under Section 68(c) of the Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (Amended in 2021) which has been operational from 23rd September, 2022.

Under section 32 of JJ Act, it is mandatory to report regarding a child found separated from guardian or parents to the Child Helpline (1098) or the nearest police station or Child Welfare Committee or District Child Protection Unit, or hand over the child to a registered child care institution, else, it shall be regarded as an offence under Section 33 and 34 of the Act.

Registration for Adoption on:
<https://carings.wcd.gov.in/>
Website: <https://cara.wcd.gov.in/>

CARA Helpline No: 1800-11-1311
8:00 AM to 8:00 PM (Mon-Fri) except Gazetted Holidays
CARA Helpdesk e-mail:
carahdesk.wcd@nic.in



CARA

केन्द्रीय दत्तक-ग्रहण संसाधन प्राधिकरण
CENTRAL ADOPTION RESOURCE AUTHORITY

महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार
Ministry of Women & Child

Foster a child, build Family

Rehabilitation of older children through Foster care and Adoption

Family-based Care for children

- A child separated from their parent or guardian often requires immediate family-based care.
- A child care institution may be well-equipped to provide food and shelter to the child, but rehabilitation goals are more suited in a familial environment.
- Familial environment is crucial to secure for the child their basic rights, needs and best interests.
- The ambit of best interests extends to – identity, social well-being, and physical, emotional and intellectual development.

