

So, the first thing most people ask is - Do I have to be Baptist to work with your agency?

The answer is No. However, you must be actively attending an evangelical Christian Church and be able to provide contact information for a pastor or church leader who could serve as a reference for you. There is also a statement of faith that each of our foster parents (and all TBCH employees) must sign. I have attached a copy to this email. Our goal is to not only meet the physical needs of kids from hard places but also their spiritual needs as well.

What are the requirements to become a foster parent?

- *At least 21 yrs old
- *Resident of TN for at least 6 months
- *Husband & wife married for at least one year. Single people are also welcome!
- *Able to pass a background check
- *Complete a health exam - similar to a physical
- *Have sufficient income to support adding a household member

What is the process to become a foster parent?

1 - Get any outstanding questions answered. Check out our website at <https://tennesseechildren.org/foster-care/>. You can also call or text me at 865-909-7776.

2 - When you're ready to go, complete an application & email it to me, Kim Morgan (kmorgan@tennesseechildren.org). For your convenience, I've attached a copy of the application to this email. We only need one application per family, but we would need a statement of faith/spiritual questionnaire completed by each parent.

3 - Complete the training classes called TN-KEY (Knowledge Empowers You). I have attached our upcoming virtual schedule beginning in August. I can also explore DCS classes if our schedule does not work for you.

4 - Complete a home study. This includes family interviews and home safety checks. This is also when you'll be getting a lot of paperwork together to turn in such as the background checks and medical forms.

5 - If everything checks out, TBCH will approve your home first. Then, we submit everything to the state DCS office for approval as well. Once you're approved by the state, you're ready to accept kids into your home!

6 - Approved foster parents must also take ongoing trainings each year to maintain their license.

Will I have a say as to the type of children who are placed in my home?

Yes - as part of the home study process, we will talk about topics such as age, race, gender and behaviors of the children you feel equipped to parent. Our agency only accepts Level 1

placements which means babies, toddlers or older children with fewer behavioral challenges. The largest need currently is for families willing to take at least 2 siblings and open to accepting at least a 5 year age range (0-5, 6-12, 13-18). However, we are always happy to consider your family's unique needs.

Will I be able to adopt a child from TBCH?

Possibly. Our main goal at TBCH is to provide temporary homes for kids coming into foster care. The goal is almost always reunification with the birth family. If the birth family is unable to complete the case plan, the court can permanently terminate the parents' rights. If the parental rights are terminated, the foster parents would be given the option to adopt the child or children they have been caring for.