

## Foster Care

Foster care is a system by which a certified, stand-in "parent"(s) cares for minor children or young people who have been removed from their birth parents or other custodial adults by state authority. Responsibility for the young person is assumed by the relevant governmental authority along with Refuge House and a placement with a family is located.

Foster Care placements are monitored until the birth family can provide appropriate care or the rights of the birth parents are terminated and the child is adopted.

A third option, guardianship, is sometimes utilized in certain cases where a child cannot be reunified with their birth family and adoption is not right for them. This generally includes some older foster children who may be strongly bonded to their family of origin and unwilling to pursue adoption.

A foster parent receives monetary reimbursement from Refuge House for each child while the child is in his/her home to help cover the cost of meeting the child's needs. The amount of financial assistance typically varies from state to state and even city to city.

For more information on foster care or becoming a foster parent please contact Josalyn Penner at 972-662-5112 or [jpenner@refugehouse.org](mailto:jpenner@refugehouse.org).