



AFFI Resource Parent Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Can I specify the demographics (age, gender, etc.) of a child our family prefers?

Yes. You can state the age, gender & language of the child you would like to be placed with your family. Remember that the more open you are in terms of age range and gender, the more likely and quickly you will have a child join your family.

How long does it take to become an approved Resource Family?

This **depends on how fast the applicants turn in their forms**, complete their criminal clearances and their availability in scheduling visits with the social worker. Some families have been approved as quickly as 3-4 months and others have taken more than a year after completing the training.

Once I'm approved, how long will it take to have a child join my family?

Once you are an approved resource parent, **a child can join your family on a foster care basis immediately**. The demographics and characteristics of the child you would like to have in your family **plays a large part in how quickly a child will join your family**. The more open you are to children of a wide age range, sibling groups, and gender(s), the faster you can be matched with a child.

You will be contacted when a child is in need of a family. Many factors such as the needs of the child, the child's school of origin, and siblings are considered when deciding on the best family for a child.

Does AFFI specialize in foster care only?

AFFI recruits, educates, and trains families who are interested in becoming Resource (foster) **and** adoptive parents. Once you are an approved Resource Parent, you automatically become eligible to adopt a child who joined your family on a foster care basis *if* their case plan moves towards adoption. You are also eligible to adopt other foster child with an adoption case plan.

For the fost-adopt process, how long will it take for the adoption to be finalized?

There are many factors involved in a case moving through the fost-adopt process. A child initially always joins your family on a foster care basis. Once parental rights have been terminated, adoption may be finalized within 4-6 months; however, each case is unique and the **final decisions are made by Children’s Dependency Court**. Please note, a child may be with you on a foster care basis for as long as one to two years before parental rights are terminated. Much depends on how far along the case is in the legal process when a child joins your family.

Are there post-adoption services?

Los Angeles County and Community Based Organizations provide support services and resources for families after an adoption through foster care is finalized.

Will I be the first choice for adoption for the foster child placed in my home?

Adoption of children usually occurs with families who already have a relationship with the child. Remember that a primary consideration by social workers is to keep siblings together and in families where the children have formed an attachment. Social workers will always determine if relatives and family can permanently care for children before they have them join a Resource Family.

Can I go through this application process with another Foster Family Agency (FFA)?

No, not at the same time. Prospective Resource Parents may only complete their application process under one (1) FFA. If a Resource Parent wants to use another agency, they have to leave the agency that first approved them.

I specifically want to adopt a Korean/Chinese/Filipino/Vietnamese child. What are the chances of my family being able to adopt?

Remember:

- The more open you are to children of different ages, genders, and sibling sets the higher chance you have of fostering-to-adopt.
- Each placement is unique and can change day to day.
- Social workers’ have many considerations when making permanency plans (keeping siblings together and keeping children with people they already have a relationship with) including following court orders.