

# Adult Foster Care

## Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What is Adult Foster Care?**

Adult Foster Care is defined as a home setting in the community for adults who are unable to live independently due to physical, emotional, developmental or mental health impairments. The home can provide up to 24 hour supervision for 1 to 4 residents. (5 if caring for elderly residents). There must be a caregiver present during normal sleeping hours. Residents receive meals, support, supervision and some assistance with personal care and living skills as needed. Adult Foster Care homes are licensed by the State of Minnesota under [Rule 203](#) and [Statute 245A](#).

2. **What types of Adult Foster Care are there?**

**Family**

- The foster care provider lives in the residence and is the primary caregiver to clients in the home.

**Corporate**

- The foster care home is operated by an individual or corporation, usually with shift staff delivering services to the residents. With corporate care, the license holder does not live at the adult foster care residence. There is a moratorium (ban) on the development of new corporate homes.

3. **What are the licensing requirements for Adult Foster Care?**

The applicant must meet the minimum licensing standards that include:

- All household members 13 years old and over must pass a criminal and social service background check
- Complete a home study with the licensor
- Have bedroom space for each resident
- The home must meet fire code by passing a Fire Marshal inspection
- Meet annual training requirements
- Must be at least 18 years of age
- Provide 3 positive references from non-relatives

4. **What is the application process?**

If you have decided to provide traditional Adult Foster Care:

- Contact the Licensing worker for the appropriate county
- Schedule licensing orientation either in your home or in a group session depending on the county process
- Complete the initial licensing packet
- Schedule and complete a Fire Marshal inspection
- 1 to 2 home visits occur to complete the licensing process

- A recommendation is made to the Department of Human Services (DHS) and DHS makes the final licensing decision
- The application process generally takes 3 to 4 months

5. **How are providers paid?**

Adult Foster Care providers receive a monthly minimum room and board payment set by the State. A Difficulty of Care (DOC) rating may be set based on the required level of care. The payment is usually a combination of the client's:

- Group Residential Housing (GRH) funds, [July 2018 rate increase to \$904-\$1,386/mo]
- Pension
- Social Security Disability
- Social Security income

Residents who have the financial resources to pay can negotiate a fee with the provider.

6. **What kind of clients will I get?**

The licensing unit cannot guarantee that you will get individuals placed in your home or how often placement occurs. You must market your home and be flexible in the type of clients you are willing to service. You decide what type of clients you take.

7. **What is the role of the licensor?**

The licensor ensures that all aspects of state and county licensing mandates and policies are followed:

- Encourages attendance at training
- Supports the provider's role of providing a safe and supportive environment
- Provides information and education concerning the provider's home
- Certifies that the home is physically and emotionally safe for the clients
- Ensures providers are kept informed of changes in licensing mandates and policies

8. **What types of supports are available to Adult Foster Care providers?**

- Each home is assigned a licensing worker
- Frequent notification of trainings via email
- Many residents have a case manager that assist with the implementation of a specific care plan
- Providers are eligible for free Foster Care Liability Insurance offered by the State of Minnesota through the Minnesota Joint Underwriters Association

9. **What are the training requirements for Adult Foster Care providers?**

- Annual Vulnerable Adult law training
- Each Adult Foster Care provider is required to attend 12 hours of training per year during the first 5 years of being licensed. Trainings are offered throughout the year on various topics.

- Foster Care providers licensed over 5 years are required to attend at least 6 hours of training a year.

10. **Am I responsible for residents' medical bills?**

No, the foster care rate covers room and board, three nutritious meals and snacks daily, common household items and supervision. Medical and dental costs are covered through medical assistance or other insurance of the resident and should not be paid by the foster provider.