

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ's)

1. **Q: What is GHFC?**

GOD'S HAVENS FOR CHILDREN is a non-denominational Christian organization created to establish and maintain refuge homes for sexually abused, molested and exploited children. GOD'S HAVENS FOR CHILDREN is committed to locating and certifying appropriate homes for difficult-to-place children and believes that a thorough, mutual selection process is critical to this goal. Person applying to become certified should be fully informed that the certification process is one of mutual selection. This means that at any time during the certification processes, families may withdraw their application for any reason. Similarly, GOD'S HAVENS FOR CHILDREN may choose at any time to stop processing an application if it is determined that the family is no appropriate for the Foster Family Services Program.

2. **Q: Who are the children?**

Thousands of children in California's foster care system require temporary out-of-home care because of neglect, abuse, or exploitation. Some stay in foster care for weeks, some for years. The children are of all ages and varying needs. This agency will specialize in helping to find loving and safe homes for sexually abused children.

3. **Q: What is the role of the foster parent?**

Foster parents provide a supportive and stable family for children who cannot live with their birth parents until problems are resolved. In most cases, foster parents work with the agency to reunite the children with birthparents. Foster parents often provide care to many different children over the course of time.

4. **Q: What does the certification process consist of?**

1. Attending an Orientation
2. Filing an Application
3. LiveScan fingerprint & criminal background clearance
4. Home inspection
5. Home Study and pre-certification training.

5. **Q: What does the background check consist of?**

When you go to your appointment for the Live Scan fingerprinting, we will receive a criminal background clearance which under the Meagan's Law, we are mandated to perform.

6. **Q: How do I become a foster parent?**

Certification is required to operate a foster home. The process requires a certification worker to visit your home and meet with you and other family members. Minimum personal, safety and space requirements are required by law. Foster parents work with the GHFC staff to determine the type of child best suited for their home (i.e.: age, health issues, and gender).

7. Q: Can I afford this?

Foster parents receive a monthly tax-free reimbursement to feed, clothe and meet the martial needs of the children placed in their care. (See reimbursement info sheet)

8. Q: What if my foster child gets sick?

Medical and dental coverage is provided through the Medi-Cal program.
(A current list of doctors who accept Medi-Cal will be available upon request)

9. Q: Can I still work?

For working parents, appropriate child care arrangements must be made by the foster parents. (Note: child care providers must also pass criminal background clearance)

10. Q: Are there age limits?

Age requirements are flexible as long as your health, energy and desire are appropriate. Retired individuals and couples are also needed as foster parents.

11. Q: Will the agency provide support?

- GHFC will provide weekly visits from a social worker to provide assistance.
- Training will be provided to foster parents to help build specialized parenting skills.
- 24 hour on-call availability to foster parents is provided
- A respite program will be available to foster parents

12. Q: What costs will be incurred as a foster parent?

See Reimbursement Info Sheet and Rate Schedule

13. Q: What are the pre-certification training requirements?

- CPR/First Aid (both adult & infant)-Informational sheet available
- Pre-Certification Training (18-20 hours)

14. Q: What about my driving record?

You will need to provide GHFC with a current DMV printout, valid driver's license, and proof of automobile insurance

15. Q: What about church services?

Each child has the right to attend or not attend religious services of his/her choice.