

Current Foster Parent Frequently Asked Questions

- When is my TFC Social Worker accessible to me?

Your Clinical Case Manager can generally be reached by phone Monday through Thursday from 9:00am to 5:00pm and on Friday from 9:00am to 2:00pm. If you contact your Clinical Case Manager outside of these hours, you may not receive a response until the next business day. If you are having an emergency with your foster child outside of business hours and need immediate assistance, you may contact the Klingberg On Call phone number and the On Call Clinical Case Manager will assist you.

- How many training hours do we need in order to be reapproved as a foster family?

Foster parents must have a total of 56 hours of post-licensing training over the course of their two year cycle. Klingberg strongly encourages both parents to engage in an equal amount of training hours or as close to equal as possible (i.e. 28 hours for Parent 1, 28 hours for Parent 2) in order to allow for both parents to enhance their knowledge and strengthen their parenting capacities of traumatized children.

- In what ways can foster parents acquire post-licensing training hours?

Klingberg hosts monthly Networking Meetings at Klingberg Family Centers in New Britain on the 3rd Wednesday of every month from September through June. Each Networking Meeting will award each attending foster parent with 2.5 hours of post-licensing training, and Klingberg always provides dinner and childcare on these evenings. Throughout the calendar year, foster parents will also receive emails from the licensing worker which will indicate other appropriate trainings that are available in various communities. Foster parents may also find in-person or online trainings or read applicable books and articles and may submit such trainings to the licensing worker for approval *before* attending or engaging in the training. The licensing worker will then verify how many hours will be awarded to the foster parent.

- Can I take a break from being a foster parent?

Foster parents can request respite services for foster children if the home environment becomes extremely stressful, or the foster parent has an obligation away from the home that the foster child cannot participate in (which should be discussed with Klingberg far in advance). Each foster child can spend up to 18 days in a respite home and will usually do so within another Klingberg foster home. In order for Klingberg to have the best success in honoring your respite request, it is best that the request is submitted to your TFC Social as far in advance as possible. If a child has recently been removed from your home and you prefer to not be considered for another placement right away, you may contact the licensing worker and request for your home to be put on "HOLD" status. Klingberg must be given a general idea of how long you would like to be on "HOLD". When you are ready to resume fostering, Klingberg will make your home "ACTIVE" again and Klingberg staff will resume searching for a child to place in your home.

- **Do both parents have to be CPR Certified?**

Technically, only one parent in the home is required to be CPR Certified. However, Klingberg strongly encourages both foster parents to become CPR Certified. We encourage this as a safety precaution in the event that a child's airway is blocked and the certified foster parent is not present at the time. It is a preventative way to ensure that every parent is equally equipped to keep every child safe!

- **Can my foster child go on vacation with me?**

Absolutely! Klingberg's expectation is that your foster child will accompany you and your family on all vacations. If you are taking a day trip out-of-state, you just need to let Klingberg staff and the child's DCF worker know. If your trip is out-of-state and longer than a day trip, you will need to obtain traveling papers from DCF. DCF may also need to provide you with the proper paperwork to assist the child in obtaining a State ID or Passport if they do not already have one.

- **I have a foster child in my home currently and would like to foster another child. Is this possible?**

Foster parents are approved to foster one TFC level child at a time. There are broad exceptions to that rule, such as if you opt to foster a sibling group. Klingberg does not generally practice placing more than one TFC level child in the home. However, there are rare instances where another placement can be considered. This will heavily depend on what the needs are of the child who is currently placed in the home, how a second child may impact the first child's needs, what the needs of the second child will be, and how those variables will impact the family's current functioning. Due to the aforementioned reasons, these careful considerations are evaluated by Klingberg staff on a case-by-case basis.

- **Is my foster child allowed to stay at a friend's house?**

Connecticut state legislation states that "A caregiver shall have the authority, without prior approval of the department, Probate Court, or Superior Court, to allow a child in his or her care that is the subject of a service plan or safety plan to participate in normal childhood activities that are age appropriate or developmentally appropriate for such child based on a reasonable prudent parent standard, provided (1) such activities comply with the provisions included in any existing service plan or safety plan established by the department or court order, and (2) the parent or guardian of such child or youth shall be afforded an opportunity to provide input into the development of such service or safety plan". Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard is defined as the standard characterized by careful and sensible parental decisions that maintain the health, safety, and best interest of a child.

Normal childhood activities are defined as extracurricular, enrichment, and social activities that may include, but are not limited to overnight activities outside of the direct supervision of the caregiver for periods of up to 48 hours. Caregiver is defined to include a person approved by a child placing agency (such as Klingberg) to provide foster care.

If you deem it appropriate for your child to spend a night outside of your home, you must inform Klingberg staff of the address of where the child will be on that particular night. Klingberg reserves the right to address the consideration of the child's DCF service or safety plan in making such decisions.

- **I need to come up with a backup plan in case my child is sick or I need support. My close friend/family member is willing to be a support person for me. Is this allowed?**

Yes! Your close friend or family member can be a back-up support for you. If you intend to utilize this close friend or family member frequently, he/she must submit to fingerprints and background checks conducted by Klingberg Family Centers *before* providing consistent care for the foster child. If they will be caring for the child in their home, the other members of their household may be subject to fingerprints and background checks as well. All individuals must be able to pass all background checks.

- **What if I have a friend or family member who needs to reside in my home for a little while? How does this affect me?**

As soon as you anticipate additional members being added to your household, Klingberg needs to be notified. Klingberg will need to conduct background checks on every new member of the household who is 16 years of age and older as soon as possible (prior to them moving into the home). Klingberg will also need to conduct brief interviews to get to know your friend or family member and medical forms will need to be submitted no matter what age the person is. In general, additional members of the household should not be providing care for foster children.

- **Can I continue to be a foster parent after I have adopted a child?**

If you have another separate vacant room that is available, you may continue to be a foster parent. Klingberg does request that foster families who have adopted provide respite services only for one year post-adoption. After one year with your newly adopted child (provided that the past year has been generally stable), Klingberg will resume searching for a foster placement for your home.