

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS TO BECOME A FOSTER PARENT?



To become a foster parent you have to comply with certain requirements. The most important requirements are:

- Minimum age of 24 years.
- Most not have a criminal record.
- Most be in good mental and physical health.
- Participation in the preparation programs: to prepare your task as a foster parent(s).
- Stable home situation: placement of a child changes a lot in the home environment. If the attention of the parents is taken up by drastic events, it is not advisable to take in a child. If the situation is temporary, you could start participating in the preparation programs.
- Most have a stable financial situation, among other things, a fixed income, enough to take adequate care of your family and the foster child.
- Must allow a home inspection to allow minimum placement requirements.
- Willing to maintain a close working relationship with the S.J.I.B./Family Guardianship.



For more information about the role of and how to become a Foster Parent, please contact the F.J.I.W.I. Foster Families Central at # 542-3449.

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Foundation Judiciary Institutes Windward Islands.

A Family for Every Child.



*Sign up at Foster Families Central
Tel: 599 452-3449*

Foster Care



According to the Convention of the Rights of Children, every child has the right to a family, care and a proper upbringing. But too many times, children are separated from their parents for one reason or another. Sometimes this separation is necessary because competent authorities after judicial review determine, in accordance with applicable law and procedures, that such separation is necessary for the best interest of the child.

However, a child temporarily or permanently deprived of his or her family environment, shall be entitled to special protection and assistance provided by the State.

In St. Maarten there are a lot of children who need special care, attention and love from persons who are willing to make a difference. In the light of the above, The Foundation Judiciary Institutes Windward Islands (F.J.I.W.I.) / Stichting Justitiële Inrichtingen Bovenwinden (S.J.I.B.), is presently looking for Foster Parents.

What is foster Care and Why is it needed?

Foster care is a safe place to be if a child cannot live with his/her family. Children are placed in foster care because of neglect, abuse, exploitation, abandonment or a family crisis. Foster care is temporary; it is not meant to be forever. Children usually continue to visit their own families until they may reunite. While the child is out of home, F.J.I.W.I. / Family Guardianship is working with the parents to improve the situation at home so that the child can return to his or her parents.

What is the role of a foster parent?

Foster parents provide a supportive and stable family for children who cannot live with their birth parents until problems at home are solved. Parents will have to work with F.J.I.W.I. to reunite the child with birth parents or custodial adults. Foster parents help children grow and feel good again by providing them with stability, affection, consistency, and nurturing. They can provide care to many different children.

What categories of Foster Parents are needed?

There are different categories of foster parents to fit different situations:

- General or permanent foster parents: these are defined as persons with or without children, who wish to allocate their home to a child for an indefinite period.
- Day foster parents: when parents cannot adequately

raise their child, day foster care can work complementary. The child is placed in a foster home for a few days in the week. When the situation at home has stabilized, the day foster care ends.

- Therapeutic foster parents: this concerns persons who can assist a child with its psycho-social problems. From these persons an intensive cooperation with experts is expected.
- Weekend / vacation foster parents: some children in institutes have little contact with their family. For these children it's important to have contact with a family. These persons take care of the children during the weekend or vacation.
- Guest- and emergency foster parents: it concerns persons immediately available and awaiting a final decision on the child to be placed.
- Boarding foster parents: the accent lies on the care-taking aspect. It especially concerns children of 18—21 years of age) who are somehow considered independent. Placement is temporarily. Contact with the natural parents remains. Placement is more of a business nature. Since neither a father nor a mother is sought, young families can often provide a solution.
- Mental foster parents: these may be single parents and / or families who cannot have a child at home, but who are prepared to financially assist a child.

