

# Providing foster and kinship care

## What is provisional approval?



Under the *Child Protection Act 1999*, a person can be provisionally approved as a carer, allowing them to care for a child or young person while their application to be a foster carer or kinship carer is assessed.

This type of approval is usually given to family members or other people already well-known to a child or young person to enable an immediate placement to be made.

The only way to become provisionally approved as a carer is to apply to become a foster or kinship carer.

## What is the time limit for provisional approval?

Provisional approval is valid for a maximum of 60 days. However, it may be extended for a further 30 days. A provisional approval cannot exceed 90 days. It is expected that the application to become an approved foster carer or kinship carer will be finalised during this time.

## What are the minimum requirements for provisional approval?

To be provisionally approved, a person must be assessed as being suitable to care for a specific child or young person.

## Steps to becoming a provisionally approved carer

### 1. Complete an Application for Approval form

This will provide important information to the department to help with conducting personal history checks.

### 2. Complete a blue card application

This must be completed by applicants and all other adult members of the household. It is important that blue card application forms provided by the department are completed. These application forms are different to the 'standard' blue card application forms by the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian. If the incorrect form is used, the application will be delayed.

Local child safety service centres and placement services units can provide copies of the correct form and assist with this process.

### 3. Domestic violence, traffic, child protection and criminal history checks

These checks will be completed by the department for applicants and all other adults living in the household.

### 4. Assessment of the physical safety of the home environment

The department will assess the applicant's home to ensure it is physically safe for the child or young person, and develop a plan to resolve any safety issues as soon as possible, where required.

### 5. Brief assessment

This is an assessment of the applicant's ability to provide care in accordance with the Statement of Standards outlined in the *Child Protection Act 1999* (for more information, refer to the Prospective carer fact sheet 5: *Foster and kinship care – Legislative requirements for providing care*).

Once these requirements have been met and approved by the department, the applicant will be issued with a Certificate of Approval for each child or young person in their care.

## Other features of being a provisionally approved carer

Provisionally approved carers have no option for seeking a review of departmental decisions if the department decides to:

- not place a child or young person with them before their application to become a carer is finalised
- not extend a carer's provisional approval, even though the 90-day maximum may not have expired
- cancel a carer's provisional approval
- remove a child or young person from their care.

These decisions do not affect the person's application as a foster or kinship carer. If an application to become a foster or kinship carer is refused, the applicant can seek to have the decision reviewed by the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal.



## For more information

To find out more information about provisional approval:

- call the department's general enquiries on **1800 811 810** or **3224 8045**
- visit **[www.communities.qld.gov.au/childsafety](http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/childsafety)**
- contact your local child safety service centre
- call Queensland Foster and Kinship Care on **3256 6166**.