

The Process of Becoming a Medical Foster Parent

1. The first step to becoming a Medical Foster Parent is to become a licensed foster parent with our local Community Based Care agency, Eckerd Community Alternatives (ECA).
2. You will attend an orientation at Eckerd Community Alternatives (ECA) about becoming a foster parent. To do that you will need to contact the Licensing Department at Eckerd Community Alternatives (ECA) at 727-456-0600 ext. 2085.
After the orientation, you will be scheduled to take the Professional Parenting classes at ECA. These classes are 8 weeks, one night a week and are offered in a number of different locations.
3. During the Professional Parenting classes you will be assigned a licensing counselor from ECA. You will be required to complete a written application, background screen, fingerprints, and required clearances.
4. A home study will be completed by the assigned licensing counselor from ECA – this requires at least 2 home visits.
5. When all the required paperwork and clearances have been received and the home study has been completed, the entire packet will be sent to the Department of Children and Families for approval & a printed license) – this takes about 30 days from when the paperwork is sent in).
6. When you have completed the Professional Parenting classes, contact Maureen K. Barnash, RN at the Medical Foster Care Program (MFC) 727-544-3900 ext. 8127 – Your questions will be answered about Medical Foster Care and you will be mailed an information packet.
7. Discuss the information in the packet with your whole family. If you are still interested in providing Medical Foster Care, you will then schedule an in home interview with Maureen Barnash at the MFC Program.
8. Home Visit/Interview
9. Once the home visit is completed, your application to be a MFC parent is completed and the Medical Director approves your application, you will need to complete the MFC pre-service training – 40 hours (one full week (Monday-Friday) of training offered several times a year around the state.
10. CPR & First Aide Certifications – (must get on your own in the community)
11. Complete Medicaid Provider Application – Await provider # (takes approx. 6 weeks). This can be done on-line and will be discussed at the MFC pre-service training.