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## CHECKLIST OF BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR FOSTER CARE

All *Guardians of Love, Foster Family Agency (GOLFFA)* Certified Foster Parents MUST:

1. Be at least 21 years of age.
2. Be physically and emotionally able to care for a foster child.
3. Ensure that all household members are interested in caring for a foster child.
4. Complete an entire application and family budget forms.
5. Ensure that all adult household members (over the age of 17 years) must have a TB test and health screening, Department of Justice fingerprint clearance and Child Abuse Index Check clearance.
6. Maintain a sufficient income (\$6,000 yearly) to cover the family's needs and provide for the foster child's basic needs until you are reimbursed.
7. Be willing to accept a child of any ethnicity or faith in the home.
8. Have enough bedroom space in the home for everyone, including the foster child(ren):
  - a. Everyone in the home must sleep in a bedroom and in their own age appropriate bed.
  - b. Limit bedroom sharing to two children, including your own.
  - c. Provide each child over 4 years, including your own, to a room with a child of the same sex and within a 5 year age gap.
9. Ensure the following general safety measures are taken:
  - a. UL approved smoke detectors outside each bedroom or the hallway.
  - b. Two-story homes must have smoke detectors on each floor.
  - c. Bedrooms with bars on windows must have at least one window with a "breakaway" release latch.
  - d. Pool or spa must be gated or secure.
  - e. All medications in cabinet or locked box.
  - f. All hazardous materials and poisons inaccessible.
  - g. Hot water temperature set between 105 and 120 degrees.
  - h. First aid and earthquake kits.
  - i. Fire extinguisher.
  - j. Weapons and ammunition locked in separate locations.
  - k. Telephone in service at all times.

10. Have an emergency caregiver and/or babysitter over the age of 21 with required fingerprint clearances and paperwork.
11. You are NOT to use any type of corporal punishment on a foster child. This includes, but is not to; spanking, pinching, pushing, hitting with a belt, or denying a child meals, etc.
12. You will need to take CPR and First Aid training (a low-cost course is offered at the Agency).
13. You will need to obtain three personal references.
14. You will need a written emergency medical plan for foster children.
15. You will need a written emergency disaster plan.
16. You will need a floor plan of the house showing dimensions, exits, use of rooms and yard space.
17. You must maintain liability car insurance.
18. You must use an approved child safety seat for children under 60 pounds and/or 6 years of age. Seat belts must be used for children over 60 pounds.
19. You will need to complete the required 30-hour MAPP training.
  - ❖ What is MAPP? MAPP is an acronym for Model Approach to Partnerships in Parenting. MAPP is a 30-hour training program which, if successfully completed, leads to the issuance of a foster home license or adoption home study. MAPP is a combination training and license program that must be completed by all applicants who wish to be foster or adoptive parents.
  - ❖ MAPP helps applicants decide if their expectations match the realities of foster or adoptive parenthood.
  - ❖ MAPP is a training program that guides foster and adoptive parents through the complex issues they will face in dealing with the special needs of children in placement.