

Protocol on Foster Care

Rule 23 and Rule 44 of the JJ Rules specify the criteria for placing CNCP children in foster care. Additionally, Regulation 53(1) of the Adoption Regulations, 2022, emphasises placement of “hard-to-place children” in foster care.

Recent efforts to identify children residing in CCIs under the categories of “no visitation” and those with “unfit guardians” have created a potential pool of children eligible for foster care. The process typically involves collaboration amongst various stakeholders, like the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), and the Child Care Institution (CCI) at the district level. The online module on foster care has been enabled on CARINGS for smooth processing of such cases. The process flow for the designated portal is as follows:

FOSTER ADOPTION TAB

Step	Documents Required
Self- registration by Prospective Foster Parents (PFPs) on the portal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Current family photograph or photograph of a person who wishes to foster a child. (ii) Proof of Identification: Aadhar Card or Passport or Voter Card or Driving Licence of the prospective foster parents or Birth Certificate, and PAN Card (mandatory). (iii) Birth certificate or proof of the date of birth of the parent(s), such as matriculation certificate. (iv) Medical fitness certificate(s) certifying that the prospective foster parents do not suffer from any chronic, contagious, or fatal disease and they are fit to take care of the child as mentioned in Rule 23 (12) of the JJ Rules 2016 (amended in 2022). (v) Proof of residence: Aadhar Card or voter card or passport or current electricity bill, or telephone bill. (vi) Proof of income from last year (salary slip, income certificate issued by the Govt. department, or income tax return). (vii) Marriage Certificate or Divorce Decree or Declaration from the competent court or an affidavit on oath pertaining to divorce in cases of divorce governed by personal law where a decree of divorce is not mandatory, or a death certificate of the spouse, whichever is applicable. (viii) Two references from individuals of good standing in the community for verification.

- Shortlisting of PFPs by DCPU for children eligible for foster care (child having no visitation, unfit parent or guardian, immediate placement, special needs, and other children in need of care and protection living in institutions as well as in the community).

Parent/ Child related documents to be uploaded by DCPU

- Individual Care Plan, Form 7
- Social Investigation Report, Form 22
- Child Study Report, Form 31 (in case the child is living in a community)
- Medical Examination Report: Schedule III of the Adoption Regulations, 2022
- The PFP Home Study Report, Form 30

- All requisite documents in respect of the child and the PFP will be placed before CWC.
- The DCPU, where the child resides, will match the child with PFPs with the approval of the concerned CWC.
- Order of foster care placement by CWC, Form 32
- Undertaking by the foster family: Form 33
- DCPU to upload all the documents
- CWC conducts a monthly inspection of foster families, Form 35
- Extension of the duration of the foster care order by CWC
- DCPU to upload the report to the portal
- In the event the child successfully completes 2 years of foster care with the same family and is found to be legally free for adoption, the case may be processed as per the procedure laid down for foster adoption.

* All cases of foster care may not lead to foster adoption.