



EMERGENCY SHELTER CARE

On-call phone 651-323-3803

Emergency shelter care provides short-term foster care (up to 90 days) for children in need of immediate placement. This type of care is necessary when children are removed from their original placement and have no known relatives or kin available to take them in.

THE FIRST STEP TO BECOMING AN EMERGENCY SHELTER CARE FAMILY

- If you are not yet licensed for foster care through EVOLVE, you must start the process by filling out an EVOLVE Application.
- If you are a current EVOLVE foster care provider, you must contact your assigned Foster Care Family Worker to obtain the necessary paperwork to join the program.

CHILDREN IN NEED OF EMERGENCY SHELTER CARE HAVE EXPERIENCED TRAUMA, RELATED TO:

- Physical or sexual abuse and/or neglect
- Removal from birth-parents
- Placement disruption
- Runaway experience
- (i.e. limited resources or shelter.)
- Sexual exploitation/trafficking
- Separation from siblings and/or family, etc.

THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE CONSIDERING PROVIDING EMERGENCY SHELTER CARE:

- Limited information is available upon time of needed placement.
- Not all behaviors are known. Behaviors that were not presented at time of placement may arise.
- It may take some time for the child/children's school transportation to be coordinated. In that way, the provider(s) will be responsible for transporting the child/children in care to/from school until transportation is set up. In some cases, the child/children in care will need to be re-enrolled/registered for school. This may require a provider to coordinate childcare or stay home with the child/children until school registration is complete.

CHILDREN IN NEED OF EMERGENCY SHELTER CARE OFTEN HAVE HIGH NEEDS, DUE TO TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCES. SOME OF THESE BEHAVIORS/NEEDS INCLUDE:

- Aggression towards adults and/or other children
- Sexualized behaviors
- Developmental delays
- High medical needs
- Self-harm behaviors and/or suicidal ideation

IN DETERMINING IF YOU ARE THE RIGHT FIT FOR EMERGENCY SHELTER CARE, REFLECT ON THE FOLLOWING:

- Are you flexible? Does your schedule allow for flexibility? Are you willing to receive phone calls in the middle of the night or on weekends?
- Are you comfortable with accepting a placement with limited information?
- Do you have a good understanding of the capacity and age-range limits of your license?
- Do you have a good understanding of your own capacity and limits? Which behaviors would cause you to disrupt a placement? Do you have triggers to certain experiences and/or behavior?
- Do you have other children (children in care, birth and/or other children) within your home? How will they be impacted by children moving in and out of the home frequently? How will they be impacted by the above behaviors?
- Have you completed any training specifically related to emergency shelter care or behavior de-escalation/management techniques? Are you willing to complete training around this?

