

Foster care: Fact vs. Fiction

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Myth: Resource parents must be married

Fact: We have many resource parents who are single. We have many who are married, in a domestic partnership or living with a partner. We have some who are in a relationship, but do not live with that partner. We do not discriminate based on marital status.

Myth: Resource parents cannot identify as LGBTQIA+

Fact: We do not discriminate based on sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. Our vision is that Oregon will have an abundance of safe, affirming, well-trained, supported, diverse and thriving quality resource families who reflect the characteristics of children in care and are equipped to meet their unique needs. We also ask that a child's sexual orientation and gender identity be respected, supported and accepted by the resource family.

Myth: Resource parents must be stay-at-home parents

Fact: We have many resource parents who work full-time, some work part-time, and others that consist of a stay-at-home parent while the other works. We do ask that you have an acceptable plan in place to respond to emergencies as well as ensure that the children placed in your home make it to their various appointments such as medical, dental, mental health, visitation, etc. You may need to work with your case worker and certifier on developing an appropriate plan.

Myth: Resource parents cannot have pets

Fact: Pets are totally fine. We ask that animals, if any, have proper care and acceptable plans are in place for managing potential dangers.

Myth: Resource parents must live in a house

Fact: We have many resource parents who live in apartments, duplexes, town homes, etc. If you are able to meet the home safety assessment requirements, you should be ok. Please reach out to your local certification team if you have questions.

Myth: Resource parents cannot be religious

Fact: We do not discriminate based on religion. We need families who reflect the characteristics of children in care and are equipped to meet their unique needs. We do require that children's culture and religion, faith, and spiritual beliefs and practices be respected, accepted, and supported by their resource family.

Myth: Children in foster care cannot share a room with my children

Fact: Yes they can, as long as you're able to ensure that your home has enough space for each member of the household. This includes space for safe and proper sleeping arrangements. Children in care can share a room with other children, just not the same bed. We will let you know if there are any concerns about a child placed in your home sharing a room with someone else.

Myth: Resource parents cannot have a criminal history

Fact: Well, not necessarily. Everybody has a right to apply to be a resource parent. There are a few serious criminal convictions that

preclude certification as a resource parent, however many do not. If an individual does have criminal history, ODHS will assess the information, including discussing the situation with the individual. As available, we may review police reports, court documents, personal references that know you well- then and now, and anything else that can shed light on the individual's circumstances.

Myth: Resource parents must be English speaking and/or American citizens

Fact: We do not discriminate on race, culture, nationality, immigration status, or languages spoken/not spoken. We need resource parents of all races, religions, nationalities and ages (as long as you are at least 21).

Myth: Resource parents must have a college degree

Fact: No college degree is required. Our resource parents have a wide array of educational backgrounds.

Take the first step to become a resource parent.

Call 1-800-331-0503 or visit EveryChild.org/connect to be connected to your local recruiter.