

Limitations of Fostering

- Committal orders are revocable at anytime;
 - Further, if the juveniles Inspector finds that a fostered child is being kept;
1. In any premises which are over crowded, unsanitary or dangerous;
 2. By any person who by reason of age, infirmity, ill health, ignorance, negligence, criminal conduct of any other reason, is unfit to have the care of the or
 3. In any premises, or environment, which is detrimental to the child.

He/she may apply to the subordinate court to order the removal of the child to a place of safety.

Granting of a License

The Commissioner for Juvenile welfare will grant a license if satisfied that the application is made by a parent or guardian who has actual custody of the infant.

For more information contact;

The Commissioner for Juvenile Welfare
Department of Social Welfare Ministry of
Community Development, Mother and Child
Health

P.O Box 31958
LUSAKA
Tel/fax 235343/236968
Or

Provincial Social Welfare Office
Boma office Church Road
P.O Box 30281
LUSAKA

Provincial Social Welfare Office
P.O Box 710041
MANSA

Provincial Social Welfare Office
P.O Box 110023
SOLWEZI

Provincial social Welfare Office
P.O Box 410013
KASAMA

Provincial Social Welfare Office
P.O Box 510075
CHIPATA

Provincial Social Welfare Office
P.O Box 72081
NDOLA

Provincial Social Welfare Office
P.O Box 60487
LIVINGSTONE

Provincial Social Welfare Office
P.O Box 920038
MONGU

Provincial Social Welfare Office
P.O Box 800411
KABWE

And all District Social Welfare offices through
out the country

REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT , MOTHER AND
CHILD HEALTH

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE

FACTS ABOUT FOSTER CARE



WHAT IS FOSTER CARE?

Foster Care is the care offered to a child who is not your own. But has been placed formally in your care for a specified period of time by a Social Worker gazetted as a Juveniles Inspector. The Foster Care order expires when a fostered child attains the age of 19 or adopted. This is governed by the Laws of Zambia.

WHO IS A FOSTERED CHILD?

A Fostered child is a unique individual with unique personality and experience. The age range is from infancy to teenage hood, that is from birth to 19 years. This child is one who finds oneself in this situation due to losing of parents through death, illness, imprisonment or just abandonment. The child needs to belong and to be accepted in a family as a respected person with needs, rights and responsibilities.

WHO SHOULD FOSTER?

Foster parents must be fit persons who are suitable to look after a child in need of care and are willing to do so.

The following situations do not warrant fostering;

- A person from whose care any child has been removed,
- Premises from which any child has been removed by reason that the premises are dangerous or unsanitary or so unfit as to endanger the health of a child.
- By any person who has been convicted of an offence against a minor (child) and,
- By any person excluded from taking care of the child due to ill health (e.g. chronically ill, insanity etc.)

HOW AN APPLICATION FOR FOSTERING IS DONE.

- The prospective foster parents will apply to the District Social Welfare Officer (gazetted Juveniles Inspector) in his or her respective District for a committal order.
- The application and an assessment report will then be forwarded to the Provincial office who will submit to the Commissioner for Juvenile Welfare.
- The Commissioner will then assess the application and if satisfied recommend to the district office through the Provincial office for a committal process to begin.
- A committal order which is an application (document) made by the Juveniles Inspector to the court on behalf of the foster parent (s) will then be made.

- A prospective parent should have custody of the child for a period of 3 months before an adoption application can be considered.
- An assessment by the Juveniles Inspector should never be done in a hotel, Lodge or any such temporary accommodation which is not a home.
- The Order committing the child to the care of the fit person should contain declaration as to the age of the child.

IMPORTANCE OF FOSTERING

The Department of Social Welfare encourages foster parenting for children in need of care as opposed to institutionalization because of the following reasons;

- It promotes easy integration into family (natural environment)
- It provides an opportunity for a child in a family crisis to return to the original family after their family situation has normalized.
- It encourages and fosters the child's growth as it is taken care of in a natural environment.
- It enhances the human nature in the child.
- It also gives an opportunity for those who do not have a child to have one within the family environment.