



Providing foster and kinship care

What is Provisional approval?

Under the *Child Protection Act 1999*, a person or persons can be provisionally assessed and approved as a carer, allowing them to care for a child or young person for a time-limited period while their application to be a foster carer or kinship carer is assessed.

This type of approval is usually given to family members or other people already well-known to a child or young person to enable an immediate care arrangement to be made.

The only way to be considered for provisional approval is to first meet the application requirements for foster or kinship carers.

What is the time limit for provisional approval?

Provisional approval is valid for 60 days; however, it can be extended for a further 30 days. A provisional approval cannot exceed 90 days.

It is expected that the application to become a foster or kinship carer will be finalised during this time.

What are the minimum requirements for provisional approval?

To be provisionally approved, you must be assessed as being suitable to care for a specific child or young person.

Steps to become a provisionally approved carer

1. Complete an Application for initial approval – Form 3A.

Once you have submitted an [Application for Initial approval – Form 3A](#) (Initial application) you can be invited to begin the process to be provisionally assessed as a carer. Completing the Initial application provides consent for the Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety (Child Safety) to complete personal history checks for you and your adult household members.

2. Complete a Blue Card application.

A blue card or exemption card is issued under the blue card system – [Queensland's Working with Children Check](#), which checks and monitors people who work in industries relating to children.

You must have a valid blue card or exemption card approval to be approved as a foster or kinship carer.

You and all other adult members of the household must complete a [blue card application](#) as a matter of priority.

You can apply online using the [online applicant portal](#) or use the paper form. You will need to have a [Customer Reference Number](#) (CRN) from Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR), you can find your CRN on any [TMR product](#).

You will need a CRN number to prove your identity when applying for a blue card or exemption card.

3. Domestic violence, traffic, child protection and criminal history checks.

Child Safety will conduct these checks for you and all other adults living in your household, or who have regular and frequent visits to your household.

4. Assessment of the proposed carer household.

Child Safety will assess your household via a Household Safety Study form to ensure it is physically safe for the child or young person. A plan will be developed to resolve any identified safety issues as soon as possible.

5. Brief assessment.

Child Safety will assess your ability to provide care in accordance with the [Statement of Standards](#) outlined in the *Child Protection Act 1999*.

Once the assessment requirements have been met, Child Safety can approve you as a provisional carer and issue a Certificate of Provisional Approval for each child or young person placed in your care.

Other features of being a provisionally approved carer

As a provisionally approved carer, you cannot seek a review of Child Safety's decisions if Child Safety decides to:

- Not place a child or young person with you before your application to become a carer is finalised.
- Not extend your provisional approval, even though the 90-day maximum may not have expired.
- Cancel your provisional approval.
- Remove a child or young person from your care.

These decisions do not affect your application to become a foster or kinship carer. If your application to become a foster or kinship carer is refused, you can seek to have the decision reviewed by the [Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal](#) (QCAT).