

Designation of Levels Process for Family Care Homes

When the Resources Unit is making decisions regarding designating a home, the following information is to be considered:

1. Application for Assessment – The caregiver should fill this out completely and can provide supporting information such as certificates of courses attended, letters of reference, etc.
2. Feedback from social workers who have had children placed in this home and resource workers emphasizes the caregiver's ability to identify the child's needs and set up a program to meet those needs.
3. The length of time the caregiver has been fostering. Generally, we expect caregivers to have at least one year of experience with us before we designate them as a Level home. Exceptions can be made for those who come to fostering with other related experiences, e.g., the primary caregiver is a childcare worker, shelter employee, etc. We are looking for a demonstrated ability to care for children in their own homes successfully.
4. Demonstrate involvement in the ongoing enhancement of skills, which may be through participation in foster parent training, local foster parents' association, workshops, or other courses, webinars, or readings.
5. Completion of mandatory training, i.e. The *Pride Pre-Service* and the *Pride In-Service Education* Program.
6. If the above information is present and meets requirements, the Assessment Tool will be completed with the caregivers.
7. Decisions depend on the availability of budgeted funds and the service priorities identified by the Resource Team, e.g., homes for teens, Aboriginal homes, baby homes, etc.
8. Schedule A outlines the Ministry's expectations of Levelled caregivers and should be reviewed with the applicant to ensure they know the Ministry's expectations.

9. homes will be designated in consultation with other team members. The resource workers will first review the file and home study before presenting it to the team. Team meetings will be scheduled on a regular basis to review applications and current service needs.
10. The Resource Team Leader has the authority to designate a home. There is an appeal process if the applicants are dissatisfied with the decision.