



The foster care grants the foster parent the parental responsibilities of maintaining and caring for the child. However, a foster carer cannot take the foster child outside of the jurisdiction of Ethiopia without the approval of leave from a court of law. Such leave shall only be granted upon **exceptional circumstances** being shown. Which court has jurisdiction to hear such cases i.e. the regional court or federal court is not mentioned. Principles and details of what constitutes an 'exceptional circumstances' to grant or disregard leave to travel outside of the jurisdiction of Ethiopia have not been provided by the Directive.

The foster care applicants have to fulfill the following conditions: they should be **Ethiopian nationals** and solely resident in Ethiopia permanently. If they are **foreign nationals of Ethiopian origin**, they have lived in Ethiopia for at least **two years** preceding the foster care placement. The minimum age for a foster carer is 25 and above. If married, the spouse has to give full consent. The consent of any other member of the household may also be necessary, including that of the prospective **foster parent's children**. In addition to these, documents such as Identification card or passport, marriage certificate, proof of income, police clearance certificate, medical certificate, two references of good character, photograph are required to be attached.

Long-term foster care is the placement of a child in foster care, potentially until the foster child reaches the age of **18 years**. A short-term foster care, on the other hand, is a placement of a child in foster care for up to twelve months, upon which the placement can be renewed on an annual basis by relevant bureau or Child Protection Expert for up to three (3) years. Another form of foster care is emergency foster care. In emergency foster care, the emergency foster carers are willing to provide care and protection for the child with short advance notice or on the same day or less than 24 hours. Emergency placement is established for up to ten (10) to fifteen (15) days prior to review by a Child Protection Expert, after which the placement may be converted into short-term foster care as suitable and necessary.

Hence, foster care has been recognized as one form of family based care services. However due to foster care's temporary nature, at least long term foster care is a recommended form of family care **after** reunification with birth parents, or placement in extended family or **adoption**. Community based care or residential care is treated as a last resort.

For any foster care related inquiries you may contact us at info@dmethiolawyers.com

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