Application to foster or adopt a child or youth



Updated: June 21, 2024

About

Welcome to the application to foster or adopt a child or youth. This is the first step in providing a New Brunswick child or youth with a safe and loving home when they need it the most.

This application is lengthy because there is a lot to learn about you!

There will be some questions you can answer right away and other information that might take you a little longer (for example providing your criminal record check). To submit this application, all questions need to be answered, unless the question says (optional).

Your personal information is collected and will be used under the authority of the <u>Right to Information and Protection of Privacy Act</u>, Chapter R-10.6, and the <u>Child and Youth Well-Being Act</u>, Chapter 2022 c.35.

One last thing, before you get started. Adoption and fostering are very big decisions, and we want this application to help you think about what you might expect. Some questions are personal and will require you to think about your own experiences with your parents, as a child, and your relationships.

Children and youth who need a home are relying on us to make sure we prepare families to be safe and supportive environments who can address their unique needs. Fostering and adopting is not for everyone, and that's ok. It is very important that we get to know you, your strengths, and your challenges, so please give yourself the time to reflect and be completely honest.

Need help with your application? Contact us.

Get help with your online application by emailing: socialsupportsnb@gnb.ca

If you have questions about your application or would like to speak with someone about fostering or adoption, you can contact us **Monday-Friday between 8:15am and 4:30pm**, excluding holidays.

Phone: 1-506-259-0232

Who qualifies?

Fostering or adoption may be right for you if you:

- Are 19 years of age or older (professional care homes require you to be 21),
- Are a Canadian citizen or permanent resident,
- Live in New Brunswick,
- Have a living space that provides a secure and healthy environment for children/youth (for more information, see the '<u>Home Assessment Checklist</u>' included in this package), and
- Complete the application, training, and review process.
 - All applicants must be willing to participate in <u>PRIDE</u> (<u>Parent Resources</u> <u>for Information</u>, <u>Development and Education</u>) <u>Virtual Training</u>. For more information, see the 'PRIDE: Training for foster, adoptive families' flyer included in this package.

How do I apply

Applying online to adopt or foster a child or youth through the Community Care NB Portal (CCNB) is the quickest and easiest way to apply.

This new and secure feature allows you to apply online, safely upload documents, save your progress, and access important resources/information. If you have trouble with the application (answering questions, something not working, etc.) or have questions about the adoption/fostering process, support is available.

To apply online, visit Social Supports NB's foster and/or adoption pages at:

- o socialsupportsnb.ca/foster
- socialsupportsnb.ca/adopt

If you prefer, you can email your completed application forms and supporting documents to adoption@gnb.ca / fosterfamilies_famillesdaccueil@gnb.ca, or mail to:

Foster/Adoption

551 King St.
Sartain MacDonald Building
PO Box 6000
Fredericton, NB
E3B 1E7

Please allow for extra processing time if you mail your application.

Adopting an infant

Children and youth of all ages need a forever home.

At this time, the minimum waiting period to adopt an infant in New Brunswick is 7 years.

If you are certain that you are only able to adopt an infant under the age of 2 years old:

- 1) Complete *ONLY the first two sections of the application:
 - Your Information, and
 - Household Interests

*To make sure your information is current, you will be invited to complete the rest of the application (including references and safety/background checks) closer to when your assessment begins. Please do not complete your Criminal Record checks and/or provide references in advance.

If you are open to adopting a child or youth both under AND over the age of 2:

1) Complete all sections of the application.

Adopting a child is a big decision. You can change your mind about age or other preferences at any time during the application process.

What do I need?

Complete and submit the following to apply to foster or adopt a child or youth:

Note: If you are applying online, everything below is automatically included in the application process. If applying by mail, please complete and include the following documents with your application (printed copies included in application package).

- **☑** Application to foster or adopt a child or youth
- **Social Development record check consent form(s)**

The Department of Social Development must check if any adults living the household have been involved in any reported, investigated, or substantiated cases of abuse or neglect of a child, youth, senior, or person with a disability.

<u>All adults (19 years or older) living in the household</u> will need to complete their own form.

☑ Criminal and Vulnerable Sector Record Check(s)

As part of the application process, we must review the criminal history of:

- All adults (19 years or older) living in the household, and
- Any immediate family members with a criminal history. Immediate family members include: spouse or common-law partner, biological or adopted child(ren), and/or siblings.

To do this, we will require a Criminal and Vulnerable Sector Record Check for all adults and applicable family members.

1 A Criminal and Vulnerable Sector Record Check, is a special kind of background check done by the police. This check is done to make sure that people who want certain jobs or responsibilities are safe and trustworthy.

<u>Criminal Checks</u> will look at your criminal history to see if you have done something against the law in the past.

<u>Vulnerability Sector Checks</u> help identify people who may pose a risk to the safety of vulnerable groups (ex: children or youth, seniors, people living with a disability, etc.).

It is important to note that a history of criminal involvement among family members does not automatically disqualify you from becoming a foster family or adopting a child or youth. We consider each case individually.

Obtaining your criminal and vulnerable sector check(s)

 Visit or contact your local RCMP or police force to process your application for a certified Criminal and Vulnerable Sector Record Check. To find an RCMP location near you, visit rcmp-grc.gc.ca. To find a police force near you, visit GNB's Crime Prevention and Reduction website at https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/corporate/promo/crime-prevention-and-reduction.html#4.

Each office has their own process that you will need to follow.

- 2. Once the RCMP or police service has processed your Criminal and Vulnerable Sector Record Check(s), they will provide you with the necessary documentation.
- 3. Submit your Criminal and Vulnerable Sector Record Check(s) with your application.

OBTAINING YOUR CHECK(S) FOR FREE

For Foster Families and Kinship Care

The <u>Royal Canadian Mounted Police/Municipal and Regional Police Forces</u> letter template allows individuals involved in the foster or kinship application process to obtain a criminal and vulnerable sector record check for free.

All adults and applicable family members must complete the information required on the template. Each person will require their own copy.

Remember to bring your completed letter template when you go to your local police force. This letter will be used to waive fees.

✓ Names and contact details of three references

Caring for children and/or youth is a significant responsibility, and references play a crucial role in helping us understand your qualifications and readiness.

Submitting Your References

1. Please send the applicable reference forms to three **non-family references**.

If you are applying as a couple:

- Reference form couple applicants (English)
- Reference form couple applicants (French)

If you are applying as a single:

- Reference form single applicants (English)
- Reference form single applicants (French)
- Referees will complete and send their own forms directly to Social Development. Submission instructions are located at the bottom of their reference form.

Referees can email completed form to adoption@gnb.ca (fosterfamilies_famillesdaccueil@gnb.ca OR mail to:

Attn: Marika Verreault-Leblanc Foster/Adoption 551 King St. Sartain MacDonald Building PO Box 6000, Fredericton, NB E3B 1E7

3. Once received, completed reference forms will be added to your application. Your referee's answers are confidential and will not be shared with you. If additional information is required, we will contact your references directly.

☑ Family Assessment

The Structured Analysis Family Evaluation (SAFE) Questionnaire helps us understand your family dynamics, experiences, and readiness for welcoming a child or youth into your home. It is developed and owned by Consortium for Children (© 2022).

- Single Applicants SAFE Questionnaire I: Single Applicant, OR
- <u>Couple Applicants</u> SAFE Questionnaire I: Couple Applicant (to be completed by both applicants)

Submit your application

Try our online Application

FASTER | EASIER | 24/7 | SECURE | ONLINE SUPPORT

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- Adopt a child or youth socialsupportsnb.ca/adopt
- Foster a child or youth socialsupportsnb.ca/foster

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socialsupportsnb.ca/foster | socialsupportsnb.ca/adopt

Apply	Online 🕍
	-

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Last updated: May 22, 2024

Your Information						
	Are you single or applying as a couple? Please choose					
Important information for couples: Both you and your partner must agree to foster or adopt together. We can't accept applications from only one person in a partnership. Please choose one of you to be the 'primary applicant' and the other person will be the 'secondary applicant'. The primary applicant answers for themselves AND the household. Questions for the secondary applicant begin on page 8.						
First name	Middle name		Preferred name		Last nam	е
Previous name(s)	 Information about verify your ide maintain/revie reach out to renames. 	entity, ew accura	te records, and	d		nad helps us: you by different
Email	Phone number		Alternate phone	e number	Date of b	irth (YYYY-MM-DD)
Place of birth (town/city/province)						
HOUSEHOLD ADDRESS						
Street number / street	Apartment #	City/Town,	/Village	Province		Postal code
HOUSEHOLD MAILING ADD	RESS					
☐ Mailing address is the same as	above.					
Street number / street	Apartment #	City/Town	/Village	Province		Postal code
Have you lived in any provinces or territories outside of New Brunswick in the last 5 years? Please select all that apply:	□ Prince Edward□ Nova Scotia□ Quebec□ NewfoundlandLabrador		□ Ontario □ Manitoba □ Saskatch □ Alberta		□ Yukoı □ Nuna	
Have you lived outside of Canada in the last 5 years? ☐ Yes ☐ No						
If yes, please explain when and where you lived:						

How would you prefer to communicate with Social Development? □ Phone □ Email □ Other, please explain:				
What is your prefe	erred language fo	or speaking?	□ English □ French	
What is your prefe	erred language fo	or writing?	□ English □ French	
_	g impaired, comm	we should be aware of? (on number of the second sec		
Children and youth who need a safe home environment come from different cultures, religions, and communities. We are committed to helping children and youth maintain connections to their cultures and practices. The next two questions are optional . Whether or not you choose to answer, will have no impact on the approval process.				
Which race category best describes you? Please select all that apply: (optional)	African Canada Africa	hinese, Korean, First Nations, Métis,	 □ South Asian: South Asian descent (e.g., East Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Sri Lankan, Indo-Caribbean) □ Southeast Asian: Taiwanese descent or Filipino, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Thai, Indonesian, other Southeast Asian descent □ Do not know □ Prefer not to answer □ Another race category, please explain: 	
If you feel it can h getting to know you matching you with youth, please sele religion. (optional)	ou and/or n a child or ect your	 □ Buddhist □ Christian □ Hindu □ Jewish □ Muslim □ Sikh 	 □ Traditional (North American Indigenous) □ No religion and secular perspectives □ Prefer not to answer □ Another religion or spiritual traditions; please explain: 	

Do you smoke/vape tobacco an	d/or cannabis?	□ Yes	□No
Smoking/vaping is not allowed in space when a child or youth is in	nside the house or in any enclosed your care.		
Do you have a primary health capractitioner)?	are provider (doctor or nurse	☐ Yes	□ No
If you do NOT have a health care matched with a New Brunswick f Visit GNB.ca and search 'Access	family doctor or nurse practitioner.		
Your Household Interest	ts		
How did you become aware of	☐ Social media	□ Soc	ial Worker
our need for foster/adoption families?	☐ Friend	□ Con	nmunity event
	☐ Family member	□ Adv	rertisement
	☐ Someone at Social Development	□ Hea	althcare provider
	☐ Other adoptive or foster families	□ Oth	er
Please let us know why you are	interested in opening your home to a	a child or you	th.

Which of the following supports are you interested or willing to provide to children and youth? Please select all that apply:	 □ Short term and immediate home (for example, the same night a child is removed from a dangerous situation) □ Respite or relief for other foster parents □ Fostering □ Adoption □ Fulltime support of a child or youth with complex needs (Professional Care Home) 		
Which of the following children and/or youth do you feel able to support in your home? Please select all that apply:	 □ No preference □ Infants (0-2 years old) □ Children under 12 years old □ Children and youth over the age of 12 □ Sibling groups □ Male □ Female □ Specific culture, race, and religious preferences or considerations, please explain: 	 □ Children or youth from another province □ Non-binary - Non-binary means a person doesn't identify as strictly male or female. They may see themselves as a mix of both genders, somewhere in between, or completely different. □ Children or youth who maintain contact with member(s) of their birth family. □ Children or youth with special needs (mental or physical disability) 	
Could you support, or be willing to learn how to support, a child or youth with the following experiences? Please select all that apply:	 □ Medical condition (ex. diabetes, epilepsy, allergies) □ Physical disability (ex. blind, deaf, wheelchair, Cerebral Palsy) □ Developmental disability □ Fetal Alcohol Spectrum □ Intellectual Disability 	 □ Autism Spectrum □ Mental Health struggles (ex. depression, suicide attempts) □ Substance abuse □ Behavioural struggles (e.x, stealing, withdrawn, meltdowns) □ Limited information about the child or youth. 	

Your Household Who lives in your household? Please also include people who live in your household some of the time ☐ No other household members (ex: custody arrangement). Additional household member 1 (if applicable) Date of birth (YYYY-MM-DD) First name Last name Relationship ☐ Child ☐ Adopted child ☐ Foster child ☐ Parent □ Friend ☐ Other relative □ Other non-relative □ Other Additional household member 2 (if applicable) First name Last name Date of birth (YYYY-MM-DD) Relationship ☐ Child ☐ Adopted child ☐ Foster child ☐ Parent □ Other relative □ Other non-relative □ Other □ Friend Additional household member 3 (if applicable) Date of birth (YYYY-MM-DD) First name Last name Relationship □ Child ☐ Adopted child ☐ Foster child ☐ Parent ☐ Other non-relative □ Friend ☐ Other relative □ Other Additional household member 4 (if applicable) First name Last name Date of birth (YYYY-MM-DD) Relationship □ Child ☐ Adopted child ☐ Foster child ☐ Parent □ Friend ☐ Other relative □ Other non-relative □ Other Additional household member 5 (if applicable) First name Last name Date of birth (YYYY-MM-DD) Relationship □ Child ☐ Foster child ☐ Parent ☐ Adopted child □ Other non-relative □ Friend □ Other relative □ Other Additional household member 6 (if applicable) Date of birth (YYYY-MM-DD) First name Last name Relationship ☐ Child ☐ Adopted child ☐ Foster child ☐ Parent ☐ Other relative □ Friend ☐ Other non-relative □ Other

Do you have any children who do not live in your household? (ex: young adults who have moved out on their own, children that may live with another parent from a previous relationship, etc.) $\hfill ext{Yes} ext{$\square$ No}$				
Child who does not live in your household 1 (if	applicable)			
First name	Last name		Date of birth (YYYY-MM-DD)
Child who does not live in your household 2 (if	applicable)			
First name	Last name		Date of birth ((YYY-MM-DD)
Child who does not live in your household 3 (if	applicable)			
First name	Last name		Date of birth ((YYY-MM-DD)
Child who does not live in your household 4 (if	applicable)			
First name	Last name		Date of birth (YYYY-MM-DD)
To complete the application process, all adults in your household need to be aware of and consent to participating. Are all household members aware that you are applying to become a foster family and/or to adopt a child or youth? Yes, I confirm that I have notified all members of the household that I am applying to become a foster family and/or adopt a child or youth. No				
Do you have any pets?	□ None □	□ Cats □] Dogs	☐ Other
Please provide details on your pets (ex: how many you have, comfort level around children, etc.):				
Your education and financial i	nformation			
What is the highest level of education	you have completed?	☐ High Schoo ☐ Post-Secon ☐ Other	•	D

Do you have any training, education, or volunteer experience related to human services (ex: legal advocate/attorney, teaching/education, early childhood development, social work, addictions, speech therapy, nursing, healthcare, counselling, therapy, psychology, etc.).	□ Yes	□No
What is your household's <u>annual income before taxes</u> ? Please note, you may be required to provide additional financial information later in the application process.	\$	
Considering expenses such as mortgage, rent, groceries, power, heat, internet, clothing, insurances, car payments, loan, and debt payments, what are your average monthly household expenses? An estimate is acceptable, however, you may be required to provide additional financial information later in the review process.	\$	

Declaration – <u>Primary</u> Applicant			
Please	check the boxes below to	indicate that you have read and agree with the following statements.	
	I agree that the information I	on provided is accurate and complete. I authorize Social Development have provided.	
	I understand that providing false or inaccurate information may affect my/our ability to be approved as a foster family and/or to adopt a child/youth.		
	I understand that I am required to notify the Department of Social Development of any major changes to my situation (ex: divorce, death, move, etc.) during the application process.		
	I understand that my personal information will be used to assess my suitability as a foster or adoptive parent.		
	☐ I also understand that the Department of Social Development has taken necessary precautions to protect my personal information from unauthorized use or disclosure in accordance with the privacy legislation referenced above.		
Date (YYY	Y-MM-DD)	Primary Applicant's Signature	

Secondary Applicant	Information (to be answer	red by the secondary appli	cant – if applicable)	
First name	Middle name (optional)	Preferred name	Last name	
Previous name(s)	Information about any previous names that you may have had helps us: • verify your identity, • maintain/review accurate records, and • reach out to references or individuals who might know you by different names.			
Email	Phone number (###) ### - ####	Alternate phone number	Date of birth (YYYY-MM-DD)	
Place of birth (town/city/province)	I		
Have you lived in any provinces or territories outside of New Brunswick in the last 5 years? Please select all that apply:	□ Prince Edward Island□ Nova Scotia□ Quebec□ Newfoundland and Labrador	□ Ontario □ Manitoba □ Saskatchewan □ Alberta	□ British Columbia□ Yukon□ NorthwestTerritories□ Nunavut	
Have you lived outside of Ca If yes, please explain when	-	☐ Yes	□ No	
How would you prefer to co ☐ Phone ☐ Email ☐	mmunicate with Social Dev	velopment?		
What is your preferred lang	ruage for <u>speaking</u> ?	□ Englis	h □ French	
What is your preferred lang	ruage for <u>writing</u> ?	□ Englis	h □ French	
Do you have communication translator, hearing impaired of the second of			□ No	
Do you smoke/vape tobacco Smoking/vaping is not allowe space when a child or youth i	ed inside the house or in any	□ Yes enclosed	□No	
Do you have a primary healt practitioner)? If you do NOT have a health of matched with a New Brunswi Visit GNB.ca and search 'Acc	care provider, you can registe ck family doctor or nurse pra	er to be	□ No	

communities. We a	are committed to hel next two questions	ome environment come ping children and youth are optional . Whether c	n maintain connec	_
Which race category best describes you? Please select all that apply: (optional)	Asian descent (e	n descent ese, Korean, Nations, Métis, nt erican, Hispanic Arab, Persian, West .g, Afghan, Egyptian, e, Turkish, Kurdish)	(e.g., East Ind Bangladeshi, Caribbean) ☐ Southeast As or Filipino, Via Thai, Indones Asian descen ☐ Do not know ☐ Prefer not to	
If you feel it can he getting to know you matching you with youth, please sele religion. (optional)	ou and/or n a child or ect your	Christian Hindu Jewish	☐ Traditional (No Indigenous) ☐ No religion are perspectives ☐ Prefer not to ☐ Another religion traditions; place	nd secular answer ion or spiritual
adults who have n another parent fro	noved out on their ov om a previous relatio	-	, , ,	□ Yes □ No
First name	e in your household 1 (if a	Last name		Date of birth (YYYY-MM-DD)
Child who does not be	o in your househald O	annliachta)		
Child who does not live in your household 2 (if a First name		Last name		Date of birth (YYYY-MM-DD)
Child who does not liv	e in your household 3 (if	applicable)		
First name		Last name		Date of birth (YYYY-MM-DD)
Child who does not liv	e in your household 4 (if	applicable)		
First name		Last name		Date of birth (YYYY-MM-DD)

Your	education (to be answere	d by the secondary applicant – if a	pplicable)	
			□ High Sch	ool Diploma/GED
What is	s the highest level of educ	ation you have completed?	□ Post-Sec	ondary
			□ Other	
related teachin work, a	I have any training, educati d to human services (ex: leg ng/education, early childho addictions, speech therapy elling, therapy, psychology	ood development, social , nursing, healthcare,	□ Yes	□ No
Declaration – <u>Secondary</u> Applicant (to be answered by the secondary applicant - if applicable)				
Please	check the boxes below to	indicate that you have read a	nd agree witl	h the following statements.
	I agree that the informati to verify any information	on provided is accurate and coll have provided.	omplete. I au	thorize Social Development
		ng false or inaccurate informa ly and/or to adopt a child/you	-	ect my/our ability to be
		quired to notify the Departme ex: divorce, death, move, etc.)		
	I understand that my pers adoptive parent.	sonal information will be used	to assess my	y suitability as a foster or
		e Department of Social Develor formation from unauthorized nced above.	-	- · ·
Date (YY	YY-MM-DD)	Secondary Applicant's Signature		

Final Review Before submitting your application: Review your application to ensure all the information is complete and accurate. Remember to include the following with your application: Social Development record check consent form(s) (included in application package) Separate form required for all adults (19 years or older) living in the household. Criminal and Vulnerable Sector Record Check(s) (letter template to obtain your criminal and vulnerable sector check(s) for free included in application package) Required for all adults (19 years or older) living in the household, and Any immediate family members with a criminal history. Reference Letter Forms x3 (included in application package) Please send the applicable reference forms to three **non-family references** If you are applying as a couple: • Reference form – couple applicants (English) Reference form – couple applicants (French) If you are applying as a single: • Reference form – single applicants (English) • Reference form – single applicants (French) Family Assessment (included in application package) Complete the following forms: • Single Applicants - SAFE Questionnaire I: Single Applicant, or Couple Applicants - SAFE Questionnaire I: Couple Applicant (to be completed by both applicants) For detailed instructions, view page 3 of your application package.

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