

*“Everyone has the **right to have access to social security**, including, if they are unable to support themselves and their dependents. The state must take reasonable legislative and other measures within its available resources to achieve the progressive realisation of each of these rights.”*

**Section 27 of the South African Constitution**

**LEGAL DISCLAIMER:** While every attempt has been made to ensure the information published here is accurate, the Black Sash does not take responsibility for any loss or damage that may arise out of the reliance on or use of this information. The contents do not constitute legal advice. This fact sheet was last updated in **February 2019**

If you wish to apply to foster a child contact the Department of Social Development on 012 312 7500 or contact your nearest DSD provincial office.

To report grant fraud contact the  
SASSA Helpline  
**0800 601 011**

If you have difficulty with your grants, contact the Black Sash **HELPLINE** for **FREE** paralegal support and advice:



YOU AND YOUR  
**RIGHTS**

**Foster Child  
Grant**



**B L A C K S A S H**  
**MAKING HUMAN RIGHTS REAL**

# YOU AND YOUR RIGHTS

## FOSTER CHILD GRANT

All children under 18 in need of parental care may be fostered, no matter what their nationality.

The Foster Child Grant is a **monthly payment** to foster parents. It does not matter how much you earn.

From 1 April 2017 the grant amount is **R1000.00 a month**, per child. The amount is assessed annually.

The grant lasts as long as the court says you can foster the child. It must be paid from the date of the **court order** – even if you only apply for the grant sometime after that date.

To become a foster parent, you should contact your local **Department of Social Development** or an organisation like child welfare.

You may foster a child who is a **family member**.

You must be a **SA citizen, permanent resident or refugee who is over 18** and living in SA to become a foster parent.

If you are 16 to 18 years old and are recognised by the provincial Department of Social Development as the **head of your household**, you can receive the Foster Child Grant.

As a foster parent, you can apply for a grant at your **nearest SASSA office**. Application is free.

You require the following documents:

- Identity Document (I.D) documents for yourself and the child.
- Proof of marital status.
- You can apply with any identity document if you do not have a South African I.D e.g. birth certificate.

You must provide proof that you are fostering a child.

**A Child's best interest** is of paramount importance in every matter concerning the child.

If your grant is approved, you can apply for **temporary assistance in the form of Social Relief of Distress (SRD)** while you wait for your first payment. The SRD money will be deducted from your account.

If your household is in need, you can apply for **indigence status** at your Municipal offices – this may help you with the cost of water, electricity and property rates.

You may be entitled to receive child **maintenance** from the biological parent of the child. You must apply through a court order.

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