

# YOU AND YOUR **R I G H T S**

## 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 2018, the grant amount was **R960** a month per child.

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 some time after that date.

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

You **CAN** 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 Dept of Social Development as the head of your household, you can receive the Foster Child Grant through the adult who supervises you.

As a foster parent, you can apply for a grant at your nearest SASSA office – you should not pay anything to apply.

You must take various **documents** with you when you go to SASSA - like ID documents for yourself and the child and proof of your marital status. But if you don't have these, you **CAN** still apply using alternative identification.

You will need **proof** that you are fostering 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 grant.

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

You may be entitled to receive child **maintenance** from the biological parents or other parent of the child. You must try to get this through a court order.

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**MAKING HUMAN RIGHTS REAL**

“Everyone has the right to have access to social security, including, if they are unable to support themselves and their dependants, appropriate social assistance.

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 **April 2018**.

For any enquiries about grants or to report social grant fraud, phone the **SASSA helpline number:**

**0800 601 011**

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



**072-66 33 739**  
**help@blacksash.org.za**

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