

The document checklist: gather these before anyone asks.

Georgia's approval paperwork isn't hard — it's just scattered across weeks, and the slow items are the ones nobody warns you about. Here's everything the published process asks for, sorted by how long it takes to get, so you can start the waiting-room items today.

✓ Last verified July 2, 2026 Sources: fostergeorgia.com (Steps to Approval · General Information)

How this list works

This is step 4 of the **six steps** — the paperwork that runs alongside your training. Every item below comes from Georgia's published approval process; where an item applies to **every adult in your home**, not just you, we've flagged it, because that's the detail that most often stalls a file.

The organizing idea is simple: some of this is already in a drawer at your house, and some of it involves a government or medical office's calendar. Do the drawer items whenever. Start the calendar items **now** — they're the ones that decide whether your approval takes three months or six.

These documents all feed one place: the family evaluation (home study). If you want to know what happens to them after you hand them over, read **what the home study actually asks**.

GROUP 1 · HANDED TO YOU

Forms you get at the information session

You don't hunt these down — they're given to you. Your only job is to fill them out completely and hand them back fast, because the evaluation can't start without them.

- ☐ **Prospective Caregiver Application**
Handed out at your information session; it must be completed and returned before the family evaluation process can begin.
- ☐ **Live Scan Application Form** **EVERY ADULT IN THE HOME**
Also handed out at the information session and required back before the evaluation starts — this is the form that kicks off fingerprint background checks, which cover every adult in your household.

GROUP 2 · ALREADY IN YOUR HOUSE

Gather from your files tonight

The published requirements name what these documents must prove, not the exact papers that prove it — your agency or county tells you which documents they'll accept. Pull the obvious candidates into a folder now and you'll be ready for whatever they name.

- ☐ **Proof of current residence**
Requested by your agency or county during the evaluation phase. Georgia requires prospective caregivers to "provide proof of current residence" — renters qualify the same as owners.

- ☐
- Proof of financial stability**
Requested alongside proof of residence. The bar is honest, not high: income that covers your own household without the per diem — see [the eligibility FAQ](#).
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GROUP 3 · SOMEONE ELSE'S CALENDAR

Request-and-wait items

Each of these depends on an appointment, a lab, or a government office. None is difficult — but every one of them has a processing time you don't control.

- ☐
- Fingerprint criminal records check** **EVERY ADULT IN THE HOME**
Run from your Live Scan submission during the paperwork-and-screenings phase. Not just applicants — every adult living in your home is checked.
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- ☐
- Child protective services screening**
Georgia requires "both child protective screenings and criminal records checks" as part of approval; it runs during the same screening phase as the fingerprints.
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- ☐
- Out-of-state child abuse & neglect registry check** **ADULTS 18+, UNDER 5 YRS IN GA**
If you — or any other adult household member over 18 — haven't lived in Georgia for at least 5 years, each prior state's registry must screen you. Each state answers on its own schedule.
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- ☐
- Medical exam**
A required "must complete a medical exam" item during the evaluation phase — which means getting on your doctor's calendar, so book it as soon as your agency confirms what the exam form needs.
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- ☐
- Drug screen** **PRIMARY & SECONDARY PARENT**
Part of the screenings that run alongside the home study, for the primary and secondary parent — a lab visit, so it belongs on the same errand list as the medical exam.
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What agencies sometimes add

Commonly requested – but not in the published list

Families frequently report being asked for items beyond the published requirements: **pet vaccination records**, **personal references**, **marriage or divorce paperwork**, and **birth certificates** are the usual suspects. None of these appears in the official list we verified above, and requirements differ between DFCS and Georgia's private agencies — so we won't publish them as required. Ask your agency for their complete document list at the information session.

Your agency's additions

Anything your agency asks for that isn't listed above, who asked, and when it's due.

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Your contacts

AGENCY	YOUR WORKER
PHONE	EMAIL
INFORMATION SESSION DATE	HOME STUDY VISIT DATE

Notes

Sources & verification

fostergeorgia.com — Steps to Approval: Prospective Caregiver Application and Live Scan Application Form handed out at the information session; both must be completed and returned before the family evaluation

fostergeorgia.com  Jul 2, 2026

fostergeorgia.com — General Information: medical exam; child protective screenings and criminal records checks; out-of-state registry screening for adults 18+ with under 5 years' Georgia residency; proof of current residence and financial stability

fostergeorgia.com  Jul 2, 2026

Foster411 — the home study guide documents the same sources' screening details (fingerprints for every adult in the home; drug screen for primary and secondary parent)

guide-home-study.html  Jul 2, 2026

Requirements can change between our verification dates, and private agencies may layer their own list on top of the state's. If today is well past the dates above, confirm the current list with your agency before relying on this page.