Becoming a Safe Families Volunteer

Becoming a Safe Families volunteer is a unique and rewarding experience. Below are the requirements for each volunteer role.

	Family Friend	Family Coach	Resource Friend	Host*
Application Form	http://safe-families.org/family-friend-application	http://safe-families.org/family-coach-application	http://safe-families.org/resource-friend/	http://safe-families.org/host-family-application-form
Home Screening	Safety Checklist if babysitting children in your home	Interview with coach supervisor	Not Required	Required (2 hours)
Training	Family Friend Mentoring (without hosting)	Family Friend Mentoring (without hosting) Family Coach	Family Friend Mentoring (without hosting) (Recommended but Not Required)	Core Host
Background Checks	• NY State Fingerprints • FBI Fingerprints • NY State Central Child Abuse Registry	• NY State Fingerprints • FBI Fingerprints • NY State Central Child Abuse Registry	Not Required	• NY State Fingerprints • FBI Fingerprints • NY State Central Child Abuse Registry
Letter of Recommendation	Volunteer Reference Form • 1 Pastoral • 2 Other	Volunteer Reference Form • 1 Pastoral • 2 Other	Not Required	Volunteer Reference Form • 1 Pastoral • 2 Other

*Hosting is currently not available in NYC. Those who are interested in being hosts can become approved as Family Friends until hosting is available.

- **Website: https://newyorkcity.safe-families.org**

- **Application:** Links to all online application forms can be found on our website under the tab "Volunteer Application." Select New York City, NY as the Region in the dropdown menu. If the form asks for an agency, enter: Safe Families for Children NYC.
    - o **Profile picture:** Please email a picture that we can upload to our database.
    - o **Married Applicants:** Family Friend and Family Coach applications are completed as individuals because these volunteers are assigned individually. If both members of a married couple want to volunteer, then fill out separate applications (however references can overlap). Hosts who are a married couple can fill out one host application together.

- **Home screening:** Family Friends who desire to babysit children in their own home are required to have a home safety checklist, which can be completed by a Family Coach or staff member. When hosting becomes available, we will resume home screenings. The 2-hour home screening includes an interview to expand on the questions asked in the application, a tour of the home, and a home safety checklist.

- **Training**: Training can be completed online under the **"Community Hub"** link on our website: https://safe-families.org/community-hub.
    - o **Create a new account** to view the training.
    - o **Enrollment Key:** Email a staff member to get the enrollment key to view the training.
    - o **Watch "Family Friend Mentoring (without hosting)"** (2 ½ hours total).
    - o Notify us at nyc@safefamilies.net once you have completed an online training.
    - o Additional and supplemental trainings are available on the Community Hub.
    - o **Live trainings** are scheduled occasionally. Check our Eventbrite page for dates and registration: http://nycsafefamilies.eventbrite.com.

- **Background checks:** There are 3 background checks needed for volunteers to work with children: NY State fingerprinting, FBI fingerprinting, and NY State Child Abuse Registry. Volunteers request to have these background checks as individuals desiring to volunteer with children. Instructions to conduct these background checks are on our webpage **"Forms"** tab.
    - o Please scan and email fingerprinting results to nyc@safefamilies.net to be uploaded to our secure database. If you prefer to mail them, mail to Safe Families for Children Alliance, P.O. Box 380439, Brooklyn, NY 11238.

- **Letters of Recommendation:** It is our policy to vet Safe Families for Children volunteers whose lives reflect stable personal values and morals.
    - o Volunteers need to choose three people who can attest to this aspect of their lives, one of which must be from pastoral leadership.
    - o Please be sure to include the names and emails of three references when you complete your application. We will send the reference form directly to your references.