

5101:2-44-06

**Eligibility of adoptive family and adoptive child for the state adoption maintenance subsidy program.**

(A) The following definition is applicable to this rule and supersedes any definition contained in rule 5101:2-1-01 of the Administrative Code.

(1) "Qualified professional" is an audiologist, licensed independent social worker, licensed professional clinical counselor, medical doctor, orthopedist, psychiatrist, psychologist, or speech/language pathologist. The qualified professional shall:

(a) Diagnose handicaps within the professional's area of expertise.

(b) Not be responsible for providing casework services to the child.

(c) Provide a clear written statement of the child's mental or physical handicap supported by an assessment or evaluation which includes an opinion as to the origin of the problem, past history, prognosis, and recommendations related to future treatment needs.

~~(A)~~(B) The following criteria shall be met for a child to be determined eligible ~~In addition to the requirements in paragraph (B) of this rule, all of the following eligibility requirements~~ for the state adoption maintenance subsidy (SAMS) program shall be met:

(1) The child is in the permanent custody of a public children services agency (PCSA) or a private child placing agency (PCPA) and is legally available for adoption.

(2) The child is a special needs child who, prior to the finalization of adoption ~~adoptive placement~~, has at least one of the following needs or circumstances that may be a barrier to the placement or adoption or a barrier to a child being sustained in a substitute care placement or adoptive home without financial assistance ~~because the child is at least one of the following:~~

~~(a) Is in a sibling group which should be placed together.~~The child is part of a sibling group being adopted together or part of a previously adopted biological sibling group with whom the child should be placed.

(b) Is a member of a minority or ethnic group.

(c) Is six years of age or older.

(d) Has remained in the permanent custody of a PCSA or PCPA for more than one year.

- (e) Has a medical condition, physical impairment, mental retardation or developmental disability.
  - (f) Has an emotional disturbance or behavioral problem.
  - (g) The child or the child's family has a social or medical history that establishes a substantial risk of the child acquiring a medical condition, physical impairment, mental or developmental disability, or emotional condition that makes it difficult to place the child for adoption without the provision of SAMS. The condition shall be diagnosed by a qualified professional.~~Has a social or medical history or the background of the child's biological family has a social or medical history which may place the child at risk of acquiring a medical condition, a physical, mental or developmental disability or an emotional disorder.~~
  - (h) Has been in the home of his or her prospective adoptive parents as a foster child for at least one year and would experience severe separation and loss if placed in another setting due to his or her significant emotional ties with these foster parents as determined and documented by a qualified mental health professional.
  - (i) Has experienced previous adoption disruption or multiple placements.
- (3) The child is either:
- (a) Under the age of eighteen.
  - (b) Between eighteen and twenty-one years of age and is mentally or physically handicapped as diagnosed by a qualified professional.
    - (i) ~~For the purpose of this rule, a qualified professional is defined as an audiologist, licensed independent social worker, licensed professional clinical counselor, medical doctor, orthopedist, psychiatrist, psychologist, or speech/language pathologist. The qualified professional shall only diagnose handicaps within the professional's area of expertise.~~
    - (ii) ~~A clear written statement of the child's mental or physical handicap shall be supported by an assessment or evaluation from the qualified professional including an opinion as to the origin of the problem, past history, prognosis, and recommendations related to future treatment needs.~~

(4) A PCSA or PCPA has approved the adoptive parent for adoptive placement pursuant to ~~rule Chapter 5101:2-48~~5101:2-48-16 of the Administrative Code. If a PCPA approved the adoptive placement, the PCPA shall provide the PCSA with the following: the JFS 01673 "Assessment for Child Placement (Homestudy)" (rev. 8/2005), JFS 01654 "Adoptive Placement Agreement" (rev. 10/2001) and JFS 01616 "Social and Medical History" (rev. 6/2006):

(a) The JFS 01673 "Assessment for Child Placement (Homestudy)" (rev. 8/2005) or the JFS 01692 "Application for Adoption of a Foster Child" (rev. 6/2009).

(b) JFS 01654 "Adoptive Placement Agreement" (rev. 10/2001).

(c) JFS 01616 "Social and Medical History" (rev. 6/2009).

(5) The adoptive parent has applied and has been determined ineligible for the Title IV-E adoption assistance program, in accordance with rule 5101:2-49-02 of the Administrative Code. Eligibility for reimbursement of nonrecurring adoption expenses under Title IV-E, 42 U.S.C. 673, June 17, 1980, pursuant to rule 5101:2-49-21 of the Administrative Code, does not constitute eligibility for Title IV-E adoption assistance.

(6) The adoptive family has the capability of providing the permanent family relationships needed by the child.

(7) The needs of the child are beyond the economic resources of the adoptive family.

(8) The acceptance of the child as a member of the adoptive parent's family would not be in the child's best interest without state adoption subsidy payments.

(9) The adoptive family has completed the JFS 01613 "Application for State Adoption Subsidy" (rev. 7/2004) and the PCSA has approved or denied the JFS 01613 prior to the adoption finalization.

(C) If paragraphs (B)(1) and (B)(3) through (B)(9) of this rule are met, and paragraph (A)(2)(g) of this rule is the sole basis for the determination that the child is a special needs child, the PCSA shall enter into a JFS 01615 "Approval for State Adoption Subsidy" (rev. 10/2006) with the adoptive parent with no payment. The adoptive parent(s) may request an amendment of the agreement to include subsidy payments if the child develops a condition, impairment, or disability as described in paragraph (A)(2)(g) of this rule.

~~(B)~~(D) An adoptive family is eligible for payments under the state adoption maintenance subsidy if all the requirements in paragraph ~~(A)~~(B) of this rule are met and:

- (1) The adoptive parent's annual gross income does not exceed one hundred and twenty per cent of the median income of a family of the same size, including the adoptive child, as most recently determined for this state pursuant to division (B) of section 5153.163 of the Revised Code.
- (2) The adoptive parent verifies the family's annual gross income by providing verification, as applicable, from the most recent U.S. department of internal revenue service (IRS) income tax form, proof of receipt of benefits from the social security administration, proof of receipt of workers compensation, or other income verification from other providers of pension benefits.

~~(C)~~(E) The state adoption subsidy payment amount shall be agreed upon between the PCSA and the adoptive parent and shall be based upon the needs of the adoptive child, the circumstances of the adoptive family, and in accordance with the PCSA's adoption policy.

~~(D)~~(F) ~~Effective January 1, 2008, the~~ The state adoption maintenance subsidy program shall provide a maximum payment of ~~three~~two hundred forty dollars per month per child for an approved state adoption maintenance subsidy.

Effective: 11/09/2009

R.C. 119.032 review dates: 11/30/2013

CERTIFIED ELECTRONICALLY

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Certification

10/27/2009

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Date

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