

## TO BE RESCINDED

5101:2-48-16 **Adoptive placement procedures.**

- (A) The PCSA or PCPA shall make an adoptive placement only when it has permanent custody of the child, whether custody is obtained by surrender or commitment.
- (B) No PCSA or PCPA shall place a child in an Ohio home for the purpose of adoption unless a homestudy has been completed and approved by an Ohio PCSA, PCPA or PNA pursuant to rule 5101:2-48-12 of the Administrative Code. The PCSA or PCPA may place a child in an adoptive home in another state provided that the adoptive home has been approved by the receiving state pursuant to rules governing the "Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children" contained in Chapter 5101:2-42 of the Administrative Code. The homestudy shall be completed by a PCSA, PCPA, or PNA with authority recognized by the Ohio department of job and family services (ODJFS) to complete adoptive homestudies.
- (C) A child shall only be placed into an adoptive home which meets the child's best interest and special needs. This placement shall be based on, but not limited to, the placement of siblings together, the information contained in the child study inventory, the child's case plan, the adoptive family homestudy, and the JFS 01689 "Documentation of the Placement Decision-Making Process." Regardless of geographic location, the following preferential order shall be given when considering a child for adoptive placement.
- (1) All adult relatives of the child who have expressed an interest in adopting the child and meet all relevant state child protection standards unless the agency determines that the placement is not in the child's best interest.
  - (2) The child's foster caregiver who has expressed an interest in adopting the child unless the agency determines that the placement is not in the best interest of the child.
  - (3) Approved adoptive families.
- (D) The decision to place a child into a specific adoptive home shall be made by at least two members of the PCSA, PCPA, and/or PNA staff. The caseworker for the child, the adoptive family caseworker, if different, and another member of the administrative or supervisory staff shall be included in the decision-making process and shall complete the JFS 01689 "Documentation of the Placement Decision-Making Process." The PCSA or PCPA may also consider placement preferences of the birth parent(s) in accordance with rule 5101:2-48-13 of the Administrative Code.

- (E) When more than one PCSA, PCPA, or PNA is involved in an adoptive placement, a representative from each agency shall participate in the placement decision. Prior to the adoptive placement of the child, an exchange of detailed information between the agencies concerning the child and prospective adoptive family shall occur. Initial contact with the prospective adoptive parent shall be made by the PCSA, PCPA, or PNA working with the adoptive parent, unless that agency gives permission for another agency to contact the adoptive parent.
- (F) The JFS 01654 "Adoptive Placement Agreement" shall be signed by the PCSA or PCPA having permanent custody of the child, by the adoptive parent and, if applicable, by any other PCSA, PCPA, or PNA providing adoption services, on or before the date of adoptive placement. A copy of the signed agreement shall be given to the adoptive parent and any other signer of the agreement. The agreement shall explain the responsibilities and authority of all signers of the agreement.
- (G) No PCSA shall refuse to provide or arrange for services within its county to another PCSA on behalf of a special needs child when such services, if not provided, would cause a delay in the adoptive placement of a special needs child. Services shall include, but are not limited to: homestudy services; prefinalization and postfinalization services; and services needed to provide the court with information required for adoption finalization.
- (H) The PCSA in the county in which an adoptive family resides shall be notified when an adoptive placement has been made with a family residing within the county. The PCSA that facilitated the adoptive placement shall be responsible for the notification to the PCSA. Interagency agreements that result in disputes shall be resolved in a mediation process provided by the Ohio department of job and family services.
- (I) When permanent custody of a child is under appeal through a court of appropriate jurisdiction, the PCSA may proceed with the determination of eligibility for Title IV-E adoption assistance in accordance with applicable provisions of Chapter 5101:2-49 of the Administrative Code and the state adoption subsidy program in accordance with applicable provisions of Chapter 5101:2-44 of the Administrative Code.
- (J) When the permanent custody of a child is under appeal through a court of appropriate jurisdiction or awaiting journalization by the court, the PCSA or PCPA may place the child in a substitute care placement certified as a foster home pursuant to Chapter 5101:2-7 of the Administrative Code that is also approved as an adoptive placement.

- (K) When a child has been determined to be an adjudicated delinquent, no PCSA or PCPA shall place the child in a home for the purpose of adoption unless the prospective adoptive parent is provided a written report containing specified information in accordance with rule 5101:2-48-15 of the Administrative Code.
- (L) Prior to the date of adoptive placement, the PCSA or PCPA shall provide the prospective adoptive parent with the child study inventory (CSI) in accordance with rule 5101:2-48-21 of the Administrative Code.
- (M) Prior to the date of adoptive placement, the PCSA or PCPA shall provide the adoptive family with written information describing types of behavior that the prospective adoptive parent may anticipate from children who have experienced abuse and neglect, suggested interventions, and the post adoption services available if the child exhibits those types of behavior after adoption.
- (N) Prior to the date of adoptive placement, the PCSA or PCPA shall provide the adoptive family with the completed and signed JFS 01667 "Adoption Information Disclosure."

Effective:

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Certification

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Date

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