

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
OHIO DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES**

DATE: May 2, 2017
TIME: 10:00am
LOCATION: Room 3110B, Rhodes State Office Tower
30 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215

Pursuant to sections 5101.141, 5103.03, 5153.166 and Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, the director of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services gives notice of the department's intent to consider the amendment of the rule as identified below and of a public hearing thereon.

OAC 5101:2-48-16 Adoption preplacement and placement procedures sets forth requirements for the matching and placement of children in the permanent custody of public and private agencies. Clarifying language was added to paragraph (C) regarding assessor visits with the child in permanent custody. Paragraphs (F) and (M) were revised to clarify that pre-adoptive staffings and matching conferences may be held prior to the birth of the child in a private agency infant adoption. Paragraph (H) now states that the prospective adoptive family shall be invited to the pre-adoptive staffing, if the PCSA or PCPA deems it to be appropriate. Language concerning distribution of the JFS 01690 was revised in paragraph (J). Paragraph (N) was revised to clarify invitations for kin who have applied to adopt the child less than fourteen days prior to the matching conference, as well as require the agency to invite any child focused recruiters to the matching who are assigned to the child, and allow the agency to invite the child to the matching if appropriate. Paragraph (O) was revised to stress the importance of the matching conferences and not delay permanency for waiting children, and require any child focused or child specific recruiter to participate in the matching conference. Paragraphs (O) and (R) were both revised to allow for flexibility with technology. The child study inventory was added to paragraph (U) as one of the factors in making the matching decision. The requirement that an adult non-relative must have been named by the biological parent in order to be considered for placement has been removed from paragraph (V). The requirement for updating the JFS 01690 pre-adoptive staffing prior to every subsequent matching conference was removed from paragraph (W). The pre-adoptive staffing meeting will now be a one-time only occurrence. Paragraph (X) was revised to allow for more flexibility in regards to permanency options other than adoption. Paragraph (Y) was revised to clarify that the JFS 01654 Adoptive Placement Agreement is not complete unless it includes all applicable signatures and the adoptive placement date. The reference to the Multiethnic Placement Act in paragraph (KK) was updated. All other changes made were not substantive.

A copy of the proposed rule is available, without charge, to any person affected by the rule at the address listed below. The rule is also available on the internet at <http://www.registerofohio.state.oh.us/>. A public hearing on the proposed rule will be held

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at the date, time, and location listed at the top of this notice. Either written or oral testimony will be taken at the public hearing. Additionally, written comments submitted or postmarked no later than the date of the public hearing will be treated as testimony. Requests for a copy of the proposed rule or comments on the rule should be submitted by mail to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Office of Legal and Acquisition Services, 30 East Broad Street, 31st Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3414, by fax at (614) 752-8298, or by e-mail at rules@jfs.ohio.gov.

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