

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

**DATE:** Wednesday, October 1, 2008  
**TIME:** 10:00 a.m.  
**LOCATION:** Rm. 3110B, Rhodes State Office Tower  
30 E. Broad St., Columbus, Ohio 43215

Pursuant to sections 2152.72, 3107.017, 3107.032, 3107.062, 3107.09, 3107.12, 3107.17, 5101.141, 5103.03, 5153.16 and 5153.166 and Chapter 119. of the Ohio Revised Code, the director of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) gives notice of the department's intent to consider the adoption, amendment and rescission of the rules as identified below and of a public hearing thereon.

5101:2-48-02 "Putative father registry" outlines the procedures for requesting a search of the Ohio putative father registry. The definition of "putative father" was added to this rule. This rule was amended to indicate that a requesting party may only request one final search of the registry per child and that the Ohio department of job and family services (ODJFS) will only conduct one final search of the registry per child.

5101:2-48-03 "Requirement of social and medical history" outlines the importance of, and procedures for, obtaining social and medical history information from biological parents. This rule was amended to bring it in compliance with the Department's required format for rules.

5101:2-48-06 "Assessor roles and responsibilities" outlines the responsibilities and training required for assessors and the timeframes for submitting documentation of these trainings. This rule was amended to change the timeframe for notifying the ODJFS of completion of all assessor training and termination of employment of contract with an agency or court from three business days to ten business days. This rule was also amended to update the revision dates on forms that are referenced in this rule and to remove the reference to the JFS 01349 "Foster Home Homestudy" which is no longer used.

5101:2-48-08 "Adoption inquiry" outlines the procedures an agency must take when contacted by a prospective adoptive applicant. This rule was amended to clarify the follow-up that must occur and the documents that must be provided to an inquirer.

5101:2-48-14 "Preparation of child for adoptive placement" outlines the procedures an agency must take in preparing a child for adoptive placement. This rule was rescinded and the information was merged with rule 5101:2-48-16 now titled "Adoption preplacement and placement procedures."

5101:2-48-15 "Provision of information to a prospective adoptive family matched with a specific child" outlines what documentation must be provided to the prospective adoptive parent prior to placing a child in that home. The title of the rule was changed to "Provision of information to a prospective adoptive parent(s) matched with a specific child." This rule was also amended to update the revision dates on forms that are referenced in this rule and to comply with the Department's required format for rules.

5101:2-48-16 "Pre-adoptive staffing, matching and placement procedures," now titled "Adoption preplacement and placement procedures," outlines the pre-adoptive staffing, matching and placement procedures for agencies. This rule was amended to clarify that the public children services agency (PCSA) or private child placing agency (PCPA) may conduct the initial matching conference in conjunction with the pre-adoptive staffing when the permanent surrender or the file stamp date of the permanent custody order is not under appeal. The requirement was added to invite the court appointed special advocate to the preadoptive staffing and to the matching conference. This rule was also amended to require the agency to demonstrate and document how it engages in diligent and child specific recruitment efforts for a child when the agency elects to not search the statewide automated child welfare information system (SACWIS) and to provide examples of diligent recruitment efforts. Rule 5101:2-48-14 "Preparation of child for adoptive placement" will be rescinded and the language regarding procedures an agency must take in preparing a child for adoptive placement have been placed in this rule.

5101:2-48-17 "Prefinalization services," now titled "Assessor visits and contacts with children in adoptive homes prior to finalization," outlines the procedures that must occur upon the placement of a child into an adoptive home. This rule was rescinded and filed as a new rule due to the number of changes made. This rule indicates that a visit shall be made with the child and the adoptive parent(s) within the first seven days after the child's adoptive placement, not including the date of placement. The initial phone call that was previously required was removed from this rule. This rule was further amended to require that a visit shall be made during the first thirty days, not including the visit during the first seven days of placement, a face-to-face visit with any household member whose permanent residence is the adoptive home shall be made every sixty days and prior to finalization, two face-to-face visits, conducted no less than sixty days between visits must be made with any household member whose permanent residence is the adoptive home but who may temporarily reside elsewhere. Final amendments to this rule include a list of information the assessor is required to gather during each visit, information on visits pertaining to children placed through the Interstate compact on the Placement of children (ICPC) and information on reporting procedures when an adoptive parent or other household member makes a knowingly false statement that results in the assessor reassessment of an approved or updated homestudy.

5101:2-48-21 "Child study inventory" outlines the procedures for developing, completing and updating a child study inventory. This rule was amended to comply with the Department's required format for rules.

A copy of the proposed rules is available, without charge, to any person affected by the rules at the address listed below. The rules are also available on the internet at <http://www.registerofohio.state.oh.us/>. A public hearing on the proposed rules will be held 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 rules or comments on the rules should be submitted by mail to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Office of Legal Services, 30 East Broad

Street, 31<sup>st</sup> Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215, by fax at (614) 752-8298, or by e-mail at [rules@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:rules@jfs.ohio.gov).