

Summary of Legal Authority Preparing Adoptive Families for Permanency

Purpose:

1. To provide an overview of policy requirements (law and rule) regarding the actions required to approve a family for adoption and the requirements regarding information to be shared with prospective adoptive families
 - emphasis on recruiting families for children available in our system
 - clarify recruited family vs foster family or relative caregiver planning to adopt
2. To provide examples of how this work is done in the field

Background Screening of Prospective Adoptive Parents

Authority: Federal law – SEC.471.[42U.S.C. 671](a)20
State law - 39.0138, F. S.
Administrative rule – 65C-16.007

Key point: A thorough review and analysis of abuse history and criminal records checks is conducted.

Home study components

Authority: Federal law – SEC.422[42U.S.C.622(7)(8) and
SEC.475.[U.S.C.675(1)(B)(E)
State law – 63.022(2)©, s. 409.145(4)
Administrative rule – 65C-16.005

Key point: An in-depth assessment of the family's suitability to meet the needs of children removed from their families due to abuse or neglect waiting for a permanent and loving family. A home study must contain a recommendation for approval or denial to adopt. If denied, the adoption review committee is convened to review the decision.

Training of prospective families prior to adoption

Authority: Federal law – SEC. 471. [42U.S.C. 671] (a) (24)
State law – 63.233, 409.145(4), 409.175(14)(a)
Administrative rule – 65C-16.005 (4)(5)

Key point: Classroom parent preparation or training primarily focuses on issues specific to children placed in foster care and their unique needs. Most areas of the state use a program known as MAPP (Model Approach to Partnerships in Parenting).

Disclosure of the child's social and medical information to the prospective adoptive family

Authority: State law – 409.145(6)
Administrative rule – 65C-16.002 (7)

Key point: An in-depth study including the child and birth family's medical and social history as well as the child's relationships and their significance. This information must be provided in writing to the prospective adoptive family.