

FAMILY GUIDE TO THE ADOPTION PROCESS

PHASE 1:

- Parental rights are terminated – parents have 21 days from termination to appeal.
- The child becomes available for adoption.
- The adoption case is referred to an adoption agency, and an adoption worker is assigned to the child's adoption case. The foster care worker will remain on the case.
- The Child Adoption Assessment (CAA) is written within 45 days.

Note: Information sharing/full disclosure can occur in any phase but will occur before Phase 4.

PHASE 2:

The adoption home study (3130) is completed. The 3130 is a general approval for adoption. The adoption home study addendum (612) is completed. The 612 includes specific child information and recommendation. Both studies are needed to complete an adoption.

Included but not limited to:

- Application.
- Adoption orientation.
- Background checks and fingerprinting.
- Medical clearances.
- Interviews and references.
- PRIDE (If not already completed for licensure).
- Additional trainings may be required.

PHASE 3: Adoption assistance application

Youth may be eligible for:

- Adoption assistance.
- Medical support.
- Medicaid.
- Nonrecurring expenses.

Note: Determination of Care (DOC) must be current for application.

PHASE 3: Consent to adopt granted by person with legal authority

- MCI or county director or judge.
- Consent may take longer if multiple families are interested in adopting the same child.

PHASE 4: Adoption is filed with court

Legal filing of the adoption with the court – The court issues an Order Placing Child (OPC), and the foster care case is closed. The adoption worker remains involved during the supervision period.

Order of Adoption: The adoptive parents have all the rights and responsibilities of legal parents.

**This is a guide and does not represent all the aspects of adoption. The process may change depending on the specifics of each case.*