



Department of
Job and Family Services

TO STRENGTHEN OHIO'S FAMILIES WITH SOLUTIONS TO TEMPORARY CHALLENGES

Ohio Adoption Guide

A Handbook for Prospective Adoptive Families



Welcome!

We welcome you to Ohio's adoption community. This book is designed to assist individuals and families interested in learning more about the adoption process. Please use this adoption guidebook and our Web site (<http://jfs.ohio.gov/oapl>) as a resource for your beginning steps in researching the adoption process.

In Ohio, approximately 1,900 children are joined with their adoptive families each year.

However, many available children are still waiting for adoptive families. The concept of adoption can be made a reality for many of you interested in adding a child to your family. Please feel free to call us at 1-866-886-3537, option #4, or e-mail HELP-DESK-OCF@odjfs.state.oh.us.



Table of Contents

Welcome.....	2
Meet Adoptive Families - “Nunamaker”.....	4
Adoption Basics.....	5
What Is Adoption?.....	5
Who Are the Children Available for Adoption?	6
Meet Adoptive Families - “Joan”.....	7
Who Can Adopt?	8
Is Adoption Right for Your Family?	8
Prospective Adoptive Families Should Consider	8
Researching Adoption Agencies.....	10
Choosing an Adoption Agency	10
Questions to Ask When Researching Agencies	10
Meet Adoptive Families - “Family of Eleven”.....	12
The Adoption Process	13
Attending Informational Meetings and Orientations.....	13
Pre-Service Training	13
The Homestudy.....	13
Meet Adoptive Families - “A Little Love and a Little Patience”.....	15
Matching Children and Families.....	16
The Ohio Adoption Photo Listing Online	16
When Your Agency Matches a Child with Your Family	16
Placement of the Child into an Adoptive Home	17
Meet Adoptive Families - “Kool-aid House”... ..	18
The Final Steps to Adoption	19
The Legalization of an Adoption.....	19
The Post-Finalization Services	19
Financial Support that May Be Available.....	20
Post-Adoption Special Services Subsidy	20
Title IV-E Adoption Subsidy	20
State Adoption Maintenance Subsidy Program.....	20
Non-Recurring Adoption Expense Subsidy	21
Adoption Tax Benefits	21
Building Families through Adoption	21
Meet Adoptive Families - “Chris and Beth”.....	23
Common Adoption Terms	24
Public Adoption and Foster Care Agencies	28
Private Adoption Agencies.....	34

Meet Adoptive Families - "Nunamaker"

Many parents our age are empty nesters – or becoming empty nesters. I guess Joe and I just weren't quite ready to stop parenting. We have three biological children, ages 28, 25 and 20. We have six adopted children ages 6, 7, 8, 11 and 17. Our youngest is in kindergarten. We really are starting all over with a second family!

Our adopted children have many special needs. We have four with ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder), one who is MRDD (mentally retarded/developmentally disabled), one who has FAE (fetal alcohol effects), one who is sight-impaired, one with RAD (reactive attachment disorder), and one with PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder). Their needs are all unique, but so are their gifts. They are like a beautiful wildflower garden!

We would like to encourage people to consider adopting special needs kids because there are so many who need homes, and parents can overcome many of their special needs through education, training and supports. We know our children will never be perfect, but it is important to us that each of our children grows up to be the best that they can be. They have made so many improvements, and they make us very proud.

We came to become adoptive parents through fostering. All of our adopted children were previously foster children in our home. We have adopted three sibling groups with two children each. We became foster parents because we felt a strong calling to help children needing homes. At first, we wanted to "save the world" by rescuing children from their previous lives and molding them into our family. It didn't take us long to realize that this theory was totally backwards. Ultimately, to be successful, we needed to mold our family and our lifestyle around the needs of the children.

It has been a rocky road at times because of some of the behavior issues that our children have experienced. At times our lives can be stressful, challenging and even chaotic. But our lives are also amazing, wonderful and absolutely beautiful. We wouldn't change anything because we feel we are so genuinely blessed to have all nine of our children. They truly make every day of life special for us.



Adoption Basics

What Is adoption?

Adoption is a legal process that creates a lifelong relationship between a parent and child who are not biologically related. Once the adoption of a child is approved by a court, the adoptive parents will receive an adoption decree and birth certificate, acknowledging that the child is a legal family member with all the rights and privileges of a birth child.

Who Are the Children Available for Adoption?

In Ohio there are currently more than 3,500 children waiting to be adopted. The tables on page 5 and on page 6 represent the number and percentage of available children by age and race at the start of FFY 2007 and FFY 2008.

Children Available for Adoption as of 10/01/2006			
Age Range	Permanent Custody	Percent	Percent without Missing Data
0 -1 Years	405	8.53%	8.58%
2 - 5 Years	977	20.58%	20.69%
6 - 9 Years	848	17.86%	17.95%
10 - 13 Years	859	18.09%	18.19%
14 - 17 Years	1339	28.20%	28.35%
18 - 20 Years	292	6.15%	6.18%
21 and Over Years	3	0.06%	0.06%
Missing Data	25	0.53%	0.53%
Total	4748	100.00%	100.00%
Children Available for Adoption as of 10/01/2006			
Race	Permanent Custody	Percent	Percent without Missing Data
American Indian/Alaskan Native	9	0.19%	0.21%
Asian/Pacific Islander	103	2.17%	2.45%
Black/African American	1892	39.85%	44.95%
White	2205	46.44%	52.39%
Missing Data	539	11.35%	12.81%

Children Available for Adoption by Age as Of 10/01/2007

Age Range	Permanent Custody	Percent
0 - 1 Years	270	7.67%
2 - 5 Years	745	21.15%
6 - 9 Years	564	16.01%
10 - 13 Years	725	20.58%
14 - 17 Years	1034	29.36%
18 - 20 Years	177	5.03%
21 and Over Years	1	0.03%
Missing Data	6	0.17%
Total	3522	100.00%

Children Available for Adoption by Race as Of 10/01/2007

Race	Number of Children	Percent
American Indian/Alaskan Native	6	0.17%
Asian/Pacific Islander	2	0.06%
Black/African American	1533	43.53%
Multi-Racial	126	3.58%
White	1821	51.70%
Missing Data	34	0.97%
Total	3513	100.00%

Children In Adoptive Home as of 10/01/2007

Custody Type	Number of Children
Adoption Homes**	480
Total	480

** Indicates Adoptive Placement AP, Other Agency Adoptive Home, Own Agency Adoptive Home

Number of Children Adopted as of 10/01/2007

Number of Children Adopted in 24 Months	Number
Total	1685

Number of Children discharged from Care FFY 2007	Number***
Total	1046

*** Includes FACSIS data for Cuyahoga and Summit counties. Both counties have not gone live in SACWIS.

Number of Children Available for Adoption FFY 2007	Number
Total	3513

Meet Adoptive Families - "Joan"

Joan started thinking about fostering to adopt when she turned 40. She says she always wanted to be a mom, and felt that she could make a good home for a child who needed a family.

"Adopting as a single woman presented a series of questions that I needed to answer: money, the effect on my job, and the kind of support that I could count on from my friends and family." As it turned out, Joan did not need to worry. She says her friends were thrilled, her boss was very excited for her, and her nieces and nephews couldn't wait to baby-sit.

"It really does take a village to raise a child," she said, "and I am proud to say that my village was mobilized almost immediately."



The next step was to sign up for the foster-to-adopt classes available at her local children services agency. She said the staff at the agency were extremely helpful and offered her a variety of assistance throughout the process.

"I was able to ask all the questions that I needed to make the right decisions to become a foster-to-adopt parent," she said.

After completing the classes, she filled out her application and completed all of the necessary paperwork. The next step was the home study, which an adoption coordinator conducted over several weeks during the summer.

"The home study was such an important step in this process, and agency adoption coordinator was wonderful to work with," Joan said. In October 2008, she received her certification to be a foster-to-adopt parent.

"I am very excited to be a part of the foster-to-adopt family," she said, "and I am awaiting my first placement. Being a foster-to-adopt parent is one of the best things that I have ever accomplished, and I can't wait to give a child a loving home."

Who Can Adopt?

There are all kinds of adoptive families. The most important requirement for adoption is that the family can provide a loving, stable and secure family for a growing child. Adoptive parents:

- can be married, single, divorced or widowed
- may or may not have other children
- must be at least 18 years old
- can be renters or home owners
- of a minimum yet stable income
- can have any level of education

Is Adoption Right for Your Family?

Adoption is a decision for the entire family. It requires all family members to talk about what adoption might be like and how adopting a child(ren) will affect the family's current structure. Since most of Ohio's waiting children are in foster care and are oftentimes adopted by their foster parents, your family may want to speak with others who have adopted children from the foster care system. Your family may also want to consider becoming foster parents. Families thinking about becoming an adoptive/foster family should also consider available community resources that may support their decision to adopt and/or foster a child.

Prospective Adoptive Families Should Consider

The North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC) recommends that prospective adoptive families examine themselves through a self-assessment process. The following is an excerpt from an NACAC's manual entitled How to Adopt:

Children don't need perfect parents, just one or two individuals willing to meet the unique challenges of parenting and make a lifetime commitment to caring for and nurturing their children. One of the advantages of special needs adoption is that almost any responsible adult can become an adoptive parent. However, it is important for prospective parents to possess important personal characteristics such as:

- a belief in adoption and an ability to commit;
- patience and perseverance;
- a good sense of humor and talent for keeping life in perspective;
- a love of children and parenting;
- the ability to roll with unexpected changes, stresses and challenges;
- the ability to deal with rejection without taking it personally;
- the ability to accept without judging;
- tolerance and understanding for your child's conflicting feelings and your own;
- an awareness that healing doesn't come quickly, all wounds cannot be healed, and your child may not attach to your family;
- the strength to be consistent and set limits;
- a willingness to learn new parenting techniques and advocate for your children's educational and medical needs; and
- resourcefulness.

If you have all or most of those qualities, then ask yourself these questions:

- Do I clearly understand why I want to adopt?
- If applicable—Do my partner and I work as a team? Are we both committed to adoption?
- Does my lifestyle allow me the time necessary to meet the needs of a special child?

Think carefully about your answers to these questions. Take the time to make a good decision, because it is a decision you and your adoptive child will live with for life.

In addition, before seriously contemplating special needs adoption, prospective parents must honestly evaluate their desire and ability to successfully parent children who have troubling pasts and uncertain futures. Many children who become available for adoption at older ages have not received the early care that kids need to develop a strong sense of security, trust and self-esteem.

Many also suffer from conditions caused by past trauma, or prenatal exposure to alcohol or drugs. Children whose backgrounds include traumatic experiences, abuse and/or neglect may exhibit symptoms of distress, such as:

- aggressiveness
- attachment disorders
- attention deficits and hyperactivity
- bed wetting
- defiance
- poor peer relationships/social skills
- depression
- impulsiveness
- learning disabilities
- low self-esteem
- lying

Fortunately, through therapy, medication, and consistent care, children can also find ways to overcome or at least better cope with many of these challenges.

Most children put their new adoptive parents through a period of testing to see if the parents are truly committed or just waiting for an excuse to desert the child as others have done before. To improve your chances of successfully adopting a child who has special needs, be prepared to offer a home environment that combines extra love, support and attention with clear structure and consistent limit-setting. Parents should also be ready to actively advocate for their child at school, with peers and within the community. It can be immensely helpful for parents to have a support network or belong to an adoptive parent support group.¹

¹ Retrieved from the North American Council on Adoptable Children's web site at www.nacac.org/howtoadopt.html. (2003).

Researching Adoption Agencies

This guidebook does not discuss infant adoptions, adoptions using private attorneys or international adoptions. It does, however, discuss the process of adoption through the use of a public children services agency (PCSA) or a private child placing agency (PCPA) that often works with public agencies in completing domestic adoptions.

Choosing an Adoption Agency

Many of the waiting children available for adoption within PCSAs are classified as children with special needs. “Special needs” is a phrase used to classify children who have a harder time finding families willing to adopt them. The phrase “special needs” is used to describe factors such as:

- age
- background
- physical, mental and emotional challenges sometimes found among adoptable children
- children that are part of a sibling group that is being placed for adoption together
- children who are members of a minority group.

The first step in starting the adoption process is to contact your local PCSA. Each county has its own PCSA. There is a list of contact information for the 88 county agencies on page 28 of this guidebook.

Questions to Ask When Researching Agencies

When you call the agency of your choice, the staff will ask you brief questions about whether you are interested in becoming a foster and/or adoptive parent. Because many of Ohio’s foster parents adopt children in their care, you can be licensed as a foster parent and approved as an adoptive parent in one process. Questions you may want to ask the agency as you make the choice of which agency to work with include:

- How many children and what type of children has the agency placed in the past few years?
- How many children does the agency have legally available for adoption?
- What are the characteristics of those children?
- How does the agency work with other public and private agencies both in Ohio and outside Ohio?
- How long, on average, must one wait for a child?
- What is the time lapse between application and placement?
- What are the agency’s policies concerning adoption paperwork, educational classes and visits?
- Are adoption subsidies available and how do I apply for adoption subsidies?
- What are the agency’s home study requirements and how do I start a homestudy?
- Have any of the agency’s adoptions disrupted in the past five years? How does the agency prevent adoption disruptions?
- What is the agency’s policy toward applicants who do not accept the first child offered to them?
- What services, including parenting classes, support groups, activities, access to therapy and counseling, and respite care, will the agency provide before and after the child is placed in your home?
- Can the agency provide references from parents who recently adopted from the agency?



Meet Adoptive Families

- "Family of 11"

As a little girl, when asked what I wanted to be, I always answered, "Get married and be a mommy." In 1976, the doctor informed me I would never have children.

I married John in 1980. He had two mentally handicapped sons from a previous marriage. Nine months later God blessed us with a daughter. In 1983 I legally adopted my husband's sons, John and Mark.



In 1985 my husband and I decided to become foster parents. The first three foster children were reunited with their families. Our fourth foster child, a 6-year-old boy, Robin, had mental delays and severe behavioral challenges. Robin's birth mother was unable to meet Robin's emotional and behavioral needs. In August 1989 Robin's mother placed Robin up for adoption. John and I had never talked about adoption. In January 1990 Robin became our first adopted child. Robin chose his new name to be Robbie.

On January 10, 1990, we were blessed to have a 4-week-old baby boy born addicted to cocaine join our family. He was a very fussy baby and presented many challenges, but we loved him. On March 25, 1991, Daniel permanently became ours.

On November 16, 1992, a beautiful biracial newborn was placed with our family. On December 27, 2006, Angel legally became a permanent part of our family. In our hearts, she was always ours. In 1999 our second foster child asked our family to adopt her 2-year-old daughter, Ashley. I had attended the birth of Ashley and was the first one to hold her.

On December 1, 2003, an 8-month-old sexually abused baby girl was placed in our home. Her mother had used drugs prenatally, and the baby displayed signs of this. On December 6, 2005, we adopted her and changed her name to Kaitlin.

As the children come into our home, it is so awesome to see them grow, laugh and come out of their shells. Usually they have been so hurt and lost so much. Showering them with love and watching them blossom is an experience I'll never forget. We have had children tell us they didn't know what love was until they came to our home.

Fostering and adoption is challenging, but so is life. The rewards are awesome. To relive life through the eyes of a child is an experience I'm thankful to be a part of.

We have been asked if we are crazy and when we are going to stop. John and I have opened our home and hearts to over 100 children. Neither one of us is ready to stop. I would recommend fostering or adoption

The Adoption Process

Attending Informational Meetings and Orientations

Agencies will generally invite people who have expressed an interest in adopting a child to an informational meeting and/or orientation. This meeting is designed to provide potential adoptive families with information about the homestudy process, pre-service training, general information about the pre-placement process and the finalization process. The agency may also discuss supportive services available in the county.

Pre-Service Training

You will be asked to participate in educational sessions in order to learn more about the children who are available for adoption, as well as to determine your strengths as an adoptive parent. These educational sessions will explore adoption from a child's point of view and describe the needs of children found within the foster care system. The training will help the adoptive applicant gain realistic expectations about adoption and gain confidence in the ability to parent a waiting child.

Topics discussed during pre-service include:

- The adoption process
- Child development
- Separation and loss that children experience
- Understanding behaviors and dealing with child behaviors and attachment
- Defining culture and diversity and cultural issues
- Adoption issues that relate to the child, birth family and extended family
- Community resources and the importance of advocating

The Homestudy

The homestudy is a process of education and self-evaluation. It is a time for you and your caseworker to look at your readiness to adopt, as well as identify special parenting abilities that you may offer to an adopted child. The process allows the adoptive family to look at their family structure and their support system. During the homestudy, adoptive parents will also explore their beliefs, attitudes and coping skills. Your caseworker will meet with you and everyone living in your home to discuss the adoption process. Through a series of group and individual meetings, you will learn more about the kind of children you might best parent.

Topics discussed during the homestudy include:

- Motivation for wanting to adopt
- Your life experiences and history
- Your marriage or relationship with a significant other
- Your ability to support your family financially
- Your health
- Your support system

When you complete the application for adoption, you will be assigned a caseworker who will work with your family to complete the homestudy process. The homestudy process can take up to six months to complete. However, many adoptive families may complete the homestudy process sooner.

During the homestudy process, certain documents are required to be viewed by your caseworker. Such documents include:

- Physical examination of applicants and medical statements for household members
- Financial statement
- Verification of marriage or divorce
- Verification of employment if you are employed
- Criminal background checks for household members over the age of 18
- Safety audit of the home

Families will receive notification when their homestudy has been completed and approved. In some cases, when the agency is not able to approve a homestudy, the family can meet with the caseworker and, if needed, the agency to discuss the reasons why the family was not approved and possible alternative options.



Meet Adoptive Families - “A Little Love and a Little Patience”

Throughout life’s twists and turns, Bill and Joyce never doubted there would be children in their lives. The surprise was how many and from where they would come. Theirs is a true success story with a Hollywood happy ending.

It all started more than two decades ago, when the couple concluded they could not have birth children. Shortly after they began to consider adoption, Joyce became pregnant with the first of two birth daughters. Fast forward 15 years.

“Our daughters came up to us and said we should adopt because we were such good parents to them,” recalls Bill. He and Joyce knew they had more love to give, and they recognized a calling to open up their home to children in need.



First, they adopted a young girl, Camryn, about four years ago. “Then the county asked us to provide respite care for two kids. We found out that they lived right down the street in foster care,” says Bill. Soon, he and his wife initiated the adoption of Jasmine and Austin, now 7 and 9.

They also intend to adopt the 3-year-old brother of one of their adopted children; a 7-year-old girl; and two brothers, ages 9 and 10. Also, they currently have five foster children living with them.

Bill and Joyce have had 31 adopted or foster children placed with them in the last five years. Adopting an older child can be difficult. “It’s challenging,” says Bill. “How can we do it? It’s the love we have for kids. We want to make a difference in their lives.” They also have a “deep faith,” added Bill, who is a minister.

He said they were pleasantly surprised to find out about all of the supportive services offered by the state. Bill and Joyce encourage others to consider adoption. “I don’t think I’m exceptional or my wife is exceptional. All it takes is a little patience and a little love,” he says.

Matching Children and Families

Your caseworker and agency will take into account the characteristics of children that you can best parent and the characteristics of children your homestudy approves you for when considering placement matches for your family. During a matching conference, adoption professionals consider the strengths, characteristics and needs of a waiting child, and compare those with the strengths and characteristics of waiting families. The length of time it takes to be matched with a child largely depends on the special characteristics of children that you are able to parent. A family who demonstrates the ability to parent a child with many special needs may not wait very long until a child is placed with them.

The Ohio Adoption Photo Listing Online

Prospective adoptive families are encouraged to regularly view the Ohio Adoption Photo Listing (OAPL) located online at the AdoptOHIO Kids Web site: <http://jfs.ohio.gov/oapl>. The Web site contains pictures and descriptions of waiting children in the custody of PCSAs throughout Ohio. The descriptions of the children are supplied by the children's social workers and are intentionally brief. Fuller descriptions of the children are available from the children's social workers to prospective adoptive families who have completed the homestudy process.

More than 2,000 children are listed on the OAPL website. Families interested in adoption are strongly encouraged to read the narratives and look at the pictures of children in order to gain an understanding of the types of children available for adoption in Ohio.

When Your Agency Matches a Child with Your Family

When your caseworker has identified a child for your family, you will be contacted and the caseworker will share detailed information about the child's background. Such background information will include all known, non-identifying information about the child, including:

- Birth parents and other relatives
- Medical, emotional and psychological history
- Past and current known developmental issues
- School history if applicable
- Placement history

Your caseworker will give you time to think about the information and will be able to assist you in making your decision to adopt the child. Your caseworker will also recommend that you discuss the child's information with your pediatrician or other professionals whom you would like to connect. If you decide to proceed with the child, your caseworker will arrange a time for your family and the child to meet.

Prior to this meeting, the caseworker may share your *Introduction to Your Family Book* with the child if your agency has requested that your family complete this book.

This book, prepared by the prospective adoptive family, includes pictures and information about your family. Many adoptive families choose to include pictures of family members, family pets, the child's room, and extended family members and friends. *The Introduction to your Family Book* helps in the preparation for the child's first meeting with their potential adoptive family.

Before the first meeting, your caseworker will also help prepare you and your family. The caseworker will give you and your family suggestions for who should be involved in the first meeting and what types of activities may be most comfortable for the child.

Following the first meeting, your caseworker will arrange for a series of additional pre-placement visits in order for you and the child and adoptive family to get to know one another. Pre-placement visits will be discussed with the foster parents or facility where the child resides in order to ensure the visitation schedule is acceptable to all involved parties. Prior to the placement, adoptive families will receive the *Child Study Inventory* which lists the child's interests, talents, traits, and social, medical and psychological history. After the pre-placement visits, the child will join your family in your home.

Placement of the Child into an Adoptive Home

Once the child is placed with your family, you become responsible for the child's care. Your social worker will continue to visit with your family for a period of time after the adoptive placement. These visits are designed to assist you in connecting your new family with services and to discuss potential issues that may arise. After a minimum period of six months, your family will become eligible to petition the court to finalize the adoption.



Meet Adoptive Families - “Kool-Aid House”

Our story begins some 40 years ago. My wife, Tracy, and I were born within two days of each other in the old Chillicothe hospital. We were in the nursery together and then did not meet again until our junior year of high school. We became high school sweethearts and have been together ever since. We decided to be young parents so that we could also be young grandparents.



In 1988, we became parents to a wonderful child, Randy. It was a rough delivery, and the doctors told us Tracy would not be able to have more children. As Randy grew, our house became known as the

“Kool-Aid house.” All the kids wanted to be with Randy at our house. Randy rarely spent the night at others’ houses because they always wanted to stay with him at our house. On Mother’s Day 1997, Randy was diagnosed with cancer. Our life was crushed; the big “C” had hit. By the end of 1998, Randy was in remission, and we had begun talking about expanding our family. We were all excited about the possibility of adoption.

In August 2001, Randy’s cancer returned. He had grown to be quite an exceptional young man. Exactly two months before his 14th birthday, we buried our one and only son. Before he died—on January 17, 2002—he thanked us both for taking such good care of him and told us that we were too good of parents not to have kids in the house. He told us that he wanted us to move forward in expanding our family, that he would still like to be a big brother.

A couple of years passed, and we began talking about more children. We realized we had a lot of love to give. When we began fostering children, we did not realize where it would lead us. In 2004 we brought home a child from the hospital that was not expected to live much more than six months. He is now almost 6, and he has become a permanent part of our family. Brenton now reads at a second-grade level and does almost everything they didn’t think he could ever do.

In March 2008, we accepted an adoption placement of another special needs child, Collin. We were told that he would never be able to do anything, that he was a quadriplegic, deaf and blind. Since coming to our home, he has started “commando crawling,” he is hearing, and is tracking his sight. Collin’s adoption was final in October 2008.

Tracy is a pediatric nurse, and I have ten years’ experience in the MR/DD field. This isn’t the path we thought we were going to travel, but it is the path where God has taken us. We truly believe that there are no throw-away children and that the things we have experienced in our life prepared us to love and care for our children. All children should have the chance to live as normal a life as possible. We feel so rewarded by the children we have and truly believe that if you’re not giving, then you’re not living.

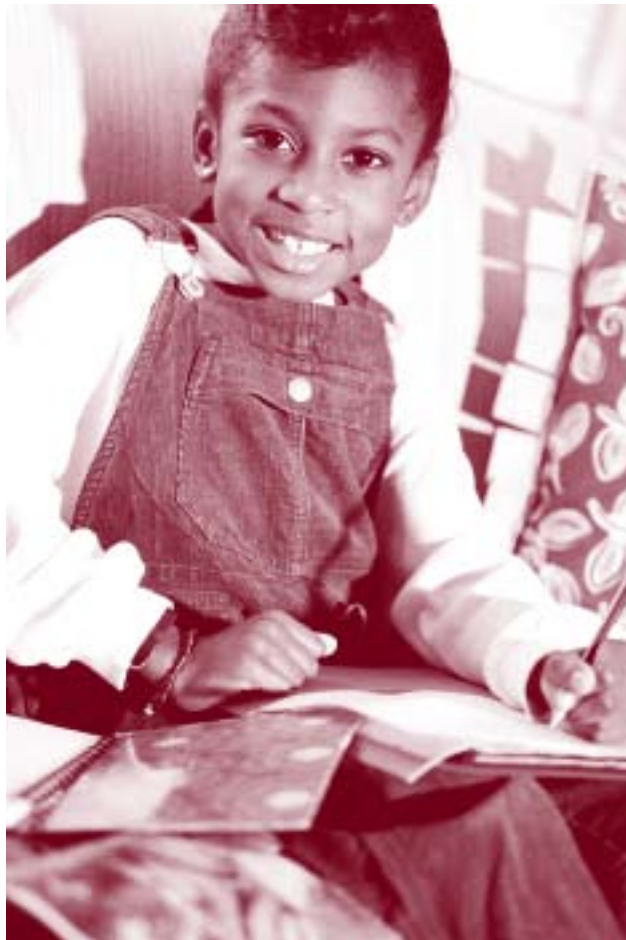
The final steps to adoption

The Legalization of an Adoption

Legalizing an adoption involves a short hearing at a probate court, during which adoptive parents are granted permanent legal custody of their adopted child. This legislative process finalizes the parent–child relationship that is created. Following the adoption hearing, adoptive parents will work with their caseworker and/or attorney to obtain the child’s new birth certificate and final decree of adoption.

Post-Finalization Services

A variety of formal and informal services are available to members of the adoptive family, either as a group or as individuals. Support groups, counseling, respite care, medical services, educational resources and a variety of community resources may be available to help meet ongoing needs or new needs that may have surfaced after the adoption finalization. Although types and locations of adoption services vary over time, you may always contact your child placement agency or any other adoption agency for assistance in locating adoption services in your area.



Financial Support that May Be Available

Post Adoption Special Services Subsidy

The Post-Adoption Special Services Subsidy (PASSS) program is for all adoptive families in Ohio whose children may be experiencing adoption-related difficulties or issues that were preexisting, but were not apparent at the time of adoption. Such services are available to prevent the disruption of an adoption. PASSS services may include:

- Medical services
- Psychological services
- Psychiatric services
- Counseling expense
- Residential treatment

For more information regarding the PASSS program, please contact your county's PCSA.

Title IV-E Adoption Subsidy

Title IV-E Federal Adoption Subsidy program provides federal financial support for children placed for adoption who meet the eligibility criteria. In order for a child to be eligible for Title IV-E Adoption Assistance, a PCSA must determine and document that:

- The child meets special needs status
- At the time the child came into custody of the PCSA or private child placement agency, and at the time adoption proceedings were initiated, the child would have been eligible for Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) or is determined eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits by the Social Security Administration prior to the finalization of adoption.

In addition to a monthly monetary payment, these children are eligible for medical coverage under Medicaid and may be eligible to receive assistance and services under the federal Title XX program. Applications for the Title IV-E subsidy must be completed by the adoptive family prior to adoption finalization. The amount of adoption assistance is determined by negotiation and mutual agreement between the adoptive parent(s) and the PCSA. For more information, please contact your county's PCSA.

State Adoption Maintenance Subsidy Program

The State Adoption Maintenance Subsidy Program is a financial program that provides monthly maintenance subsidy payments to adoptive families adopting children who meet the special needs criteria that is defined in the Ohio Administrative Code rules and who are not eligible for Title IV-E Adoption Assistance. The PCSA in your county is responsible for administering and determining eligibility for the State Adoption Subsidy Program. Applications must be completed by the adoptive family prior to finalization.

The family's income is taken into consideration when determining eligibility for the State Maintenance Subsidy. The child may also be eligible for medical coverage under Medicaid. Contact your adoption caseworker to learn more about obtaining the State Adoption Subsidy Program.

Non-Recurring Adoption Expense Subsidy

The Non-Recurring Adoption Expense is designed to promote the adoption of special needs children by providing eligible families the opportunity for reimbursement of certain costs related to adopting a child with special needs. Non-recurring adoption expenses are those one-time expenses directly related to the legal adoption of a child with special needs. The program provides reimbursement, up to a certain amount, for expenses such as supervision of placements prior to the adoption, attorney's fees, court costs, transportation costs, and the reasonable costs of lodging and foods. Reimbursement is also available for costs associated with the adoption homestudy and reasonable and necessary adoption fees. The adoptive family's income is not taken into consideration when determining whether payments for non-recurring expenses should be paid. Applications and agreements for the Non-Recurring Adoption Expense Subsidy must be completed by the adoptive family prior to adoption finalization.

Adoption Tax Benefits

The federal government and the state of Ohio allow families who adopt to receive a non-refundable tax credit for the year in which the adoption was legalized. Many foster and adoptive parents are eligible for tax benefits. The Hope for Children Act (Public Law 107-16) increases the previous \$5,000 adoption tax credit to \$10,000. All adoptive parents should meet with a tax advisor to discuss tax benefits (Application forms are available through the IRS and the State Treasurer's Office).

Building Families through Adoption

Being in a family offers all of us a chance to grow as humans, to reach our greatest potential. Becoming a parent can bring out the best in us. The need to care for and nurture another human, especially a child, is a strong human emotion and impulse.

On any given day, more than 22,000 children in Ohio are living with foster families or in other out-of home placement settings. More than 3,050 children have had their biological parents rights terminated and are currently residing in foster care settings as they wait for adoptive families. These children, who reside in the custody of local children service agencies, may be currently dealing with issues of past abuse, neglect and/or dependency. These children need families available to them through adoption.

Each year in Ohio, more and more children become legally free for adoption than Ohio agencies are able to place. Each year, more and more children turn to us looking for an answer.

We hope that you want to become an adoptive parent. But, if you decide that adoption is not right for your family, you can still be an important part in the mission to find families for Ohio's waiting children. There are many ways you can help. For instance, you could:

- Distribute adoption recruitment materials within your church and community
- Talk with other people about adoption and Ohio's waiting children
- Pass this guidebook on to someone who may be interested in adoption.

For more information, call
Ohio's Help Me Grow Helpline at
1-800-755-GROW (4769)



Meet Adoptive Families - “Chris and Beth”

Chris and Beth have been fostering children for approximately four years. During that time, they have had 13 placements, two of which have resulted in adoption: a 5-year-old girl, who they have had for more than two years, and a 22-month-old boy, who they have had since he was born. They also are fostering a 6-month-old boy, who is the brother of their son.

The family first became interested in fostering children when Chris, who is employed with United Ambulance, attended an in-service meeting featuring Guernsey County Children Services.

During that meeting, Chris was given literature highlighting foster care and adoption services, which he then took home to share and discuss with Beth.



Soon after, the family began their training, and in March 2004 they received their license to be foster parents. They were given their first placement in May of that year.

Chris and Beth have one biological daughter, who is 14 years old. Chris notes that this has been a big adjustment for their daughter, but that she has handled the changes very well.

“She’s a good big sister,” he said. “She helps out a lot, and does more than kids should have to, but she has been very receptive to it all.”

In addition to taking the continuing education classes that all foster parents are required to take, Chris and Beth have completed their training to operate a “certified treatment home.” This means that, in the future, they will have the ability to care for children with more serious problems. Both say they would recommend foster parenting to others.

“It’s a blessing,” Beth said. “It’s both rewarding and challenging.”

Chris offers this bit of advice for anyone interested in becoming a foster parent: “Follow your heart. It has its ups and downs, and does put a strain on your family at times. But I would do it all over again.”

Common Adoption Terms

Adoption: The creation, by a court, of parental rights and responsibilities between a child and an adult or adult couple.

Adoption agency: Entity that provides one or more of the following services: homestudy services for potential adoptive parents, counseling for birth parents, placement services for children in need of adoption, post-placement/pre-legalization services and post-legalization/finalization services. In Ohio, these agencies must be licensed by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

Adoption Assistance programs: (Title IV-E/federal) Created by the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980, these programs provide federal financial support for children who are described as having special needs who are adopted. In addition to a monthly monetary payment, children who are “IV-E eligible” are entitled to a state medical card and certain services under the federal Title XX program. (See “state adoption subsidy” for information on state financial programs.)

Adoption exchange: An organized way for “waiting children” to be listed along with “waiting families,” with the goal of making matches between the children and families. Local, regional, statewide and national exchanges have been designed to assure that permanent homes are found for children as quickly as possible. (See OAPL.)

Adoption Registry: Once a person whose adoption was legalized in Ohio reaches adulthood, he or she may sign up with this registry (which is maintained by the Ohio Department of Health) requesting identifying information about his or her birth family. If that adopted person’s birth family member also registers, a multiple-step process occurs: the probate court in the county where the adoption was finalized will decide if the Department of Health can connect the individuals filing matching registrations. For more information about this registry, call (614) 644-5635.

Adoption triad: The three primary groups of people affected by the adoption: the birth parents, the child and the adoptive parent(s).

Attachment: An emotional bond between two people that lasts over a long period of time and helps each person reach their potential and feel secure and connected.

Birth parent: Also called a biological parent; one of two people who genetically created a child. These two people have rights and responsibilities defined by law and the Constitution of the United States.

Closed adoption: An adoption in which all of one triad member’s identifying information is concealed from all other triad members.

Facilitator: A doctor, attorney, minister or other individual who informally aids or promotes an adoption by making a person seeking to adopt a minor aware of a child who is, or will be, available for adoption.

Finalization: (See “Legalization.”)

Foster-Adopt placement: In general, the term used to describe legal risk placements (see definition on page 26) and/or the adoption by foster parents of a child, currently placed in their home, whose initial plan was reunification with birth parents, but whose plan has, after diligent attempts at reunification have failed, been changed to the goal of adoption. In Ohio, many agencies offer a combined home-study process so that the applicant becomes a licensed foster parent and is also approved to adopt at the end of the process.

Guardian ad litem: A person, sometimes an attorney, appointed by a court to make sure that the child’s best interests are addressed in court hearings and other proceedings.

Home study: A process by which potential adoptive parents educate themselves about the challenges and rewards offered through parenting adopted children, and assess their own skills, life experiences and strengths to determine the type of adoptive children they could best parent.

Identifying information: Information such as name, address, place of employment, Social Security number, etc., which could significantly assist one individual in locating another individual.

Independent adoption: An adoption facilitated by an attorney.

Interstate adoption: The adoptive placement of a child (or children) who is a resident of one state with an adoptive parent (or parents) who is a legal resident of a different state.

The Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC): An agreement enacted in all 50 states that coordinates most types of placements of children across state lines. The Compact guarantees that each state’s laws and procedures are followed and that children’s placements are supervised according to state laws and proper court procedures.

Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance (ICAMA): An interstate agreement that ensures that medical coverage and other adoption services for eligible children are provided in their state of residence; removes the systemic barriers associated with obtaining medical assistance for adopted children.

Legalization: Also called “finalization,” the legal act that establishes a family connection between the adopting person and the adopted person. Usually done in a courtroom setting, it grants rights and responsibilities to the adoptive parent and child equal to those rights and responsibilities granted to families created by birth.

Legally free for adoption: A child is legally free when the parental rights of both birth parents have been terminated and the time period for the birth parents to appeal the decision is over.

Legal risk placement: A placement of a child with a family who is interested in adopting the child, even though the child placed is not legally free. The placement family is usually both a certified foster family and an approved adoptive home. The risk is that the birth parents rights may not be terminated and the court may order the child to be returned to the birth parent or a suitable birth relative. The benefit is that this type of placement decreases the number of placements a child may have.

Lifebook: A chronological record of a child's life, usually in a photo album or binder, created by the child and/or the caregivers, that documents for the child, in concrete ways, the events and relationships important to the child. It may include photographs, mementos, descriptions, etc., that help the child understand their biological origins and others who have played a significant role in his or her life.

Loss: The emotional and psychological state experienced when someone temporarily or permanently is separated from someone or something to which they have an emotional attachment or need. All loss causes emotional trauma, though the degree varies.

Medicaid: A type of medical insurance provided through the state, using combined federal and state funds, which most children who are considered to have special needs are entitled to receive. This can be used in conjunction with the adoptive family's medical insurance.

Multi-Ethnic Placement Act (MEPA): Sometimes called "Removal of Barriers to Interethnic Placement," this is a federal law enacted in 1994 and amended in 1996, which prohibits an adoption agency from delaying or denying the placement of any child on the basis of race, color or national origin.

Non-recurring costs: One-time expenses incurred by a person adopting a child, such as travel costs, legal costs and home-study-related costs. These are frequently reimbursable through federal and local funds when adopting a waiting child.

Ohio Adoption Photo Listing (OAPL): Photos and descriptions of children throughout Ohio who are legally free and waiting for adoption.

Open adoption/Openness: A wide continuum of adoption options that recognize the child's connection to both the birth family and adoptive family; usually involves an agreement made by the birth and adoptive parents to share information, or to have ongoing contact. In Ohio these agreements are legal, but non-binding.

Parent support groups: Formal or informal groups of adoptive parents and potential adoptive parents coming together to share information and resources. They often also offer friendship, emotional support and recreational activities for adoptive family members. Support groups form for a variety of reasons, usually based on a shared interest or characteristic.

Post Adoption Special Services Subsidy (PASSS): Unique to Ohio, this fund is available to any Ohio family who adopts, or any family who adopts a child in the custody of an Ohio agency, in which the child who develops needs related to pre-existing conditions or related to the adoption process itself, after the adoption is legalized. Each county is given state funds to pay for specialized services to adoptive families who apply.

Photo listings: Published photographs and descriptions of waiting children that are used by agencies and individuals to identify potential matches. Often an adoption exchange will publish a photo listing. (See “Ohio Adoption Photo Listing”).

Post-legalization services: Also called “post-legal adoptive services,” includes a variety of services offered to adoptive families after an adoption is legalized. Many of these services are community-based, and may be formal or informal in nature. This includes such things as ongoing educational opportunities to learn about adoption issues, counseling, respite care and special medical services.

Putative Father Registry: A mechanism designed to allow birth fathers to identify themselves for the purpose of establishing their legal right to notification should an adoptive plan be considered for their child.

Respite care: The assuming of care-giving duties for an individual (such as a child) on a temporary basis, usually by a non-family member; designed to give the primary caregiver (parent) a break from the stress of direct child care.

Special needs: The term used to describe a child waiting for adoption for whom identifying an adoptive home may be difficult.

State adoption subsidy: In Ohio, a medical card and/or financial support to assist families who adopt children with special needs. These are negotiated on an individual basis and are frequently granted if a child with special needs is ineligible for the federal Adoption Assistance program.

Surrender: Also known as “relinquishment,” the voluntary termination of parental rights by a birth parent.

Termination of parental rights: The legal severing of ties between a birth parent and his or her child. These parental rights and responsibilities may be voluntarily surrendered by the birth parent or, if the birth parent is proven unable to meet the child’s long-term needs, may be severed involuntarily through the court system.

Triad: See “adoption triad.”

Public Adoption and Foster Care Agencies

Adams County CSB
300 North Wilson Drive
West Union, OH 45693
(937) 544-2511

Allen County CSB
330 North Elizabeth Street
Lima, OH 45801
(419) 227-8590
www.allencsb.com

Ashland County DJFS
15 West Fourth Street
Ashland, OH 44805
(419) 282-5000

Ashtabula County CSB
3914 "C" Court
P.O. Box 1175
Ashtabula, OH 44005-1175
(440) 998-1811
www.kidshelpline.org

Athens County CSB
P.O. Box 1046
Athens, OH 45701
(740) 592-3061
www.athenschilchildrenservices.com

Auglaize County DFJS
12 North Wood Street
P.O. Box 368
Wapakoneta, OH 45895
(419) 739-6505

Belmont County DJFS
310 Fox Shannon Place
St. Clairsville, OH 43950
(740) 699-KIDS (5437)
www.hgo.net/bcdjfs

Brown County DFJS
775 Mt. Orab Pike
Georgetown, OH 45121
(937) 378-6104

Butler County CSB
300 North Fair Avenue
Hamilton, OH 45011
(513) 887-4055
www.bccsb.org

Carroll County DJFS
95 East Main Street
P.O. Box 219
Carrollton, OH 44615-0219
(330) 627-7313

Champaign County DJFS
1512 South U.S. Highway 68, N100
Urbana, OH 43078
(937) 484-1500
www.co.champaign.oh.us/djfs

Clark County DJFS
1345 Lagonda Avenue
P. O. Box 976-A
Springfield, OH 45501-1037
(937) 327-1700
www.clarkdjfs.org

Clermont County DJFS
2400 Clermont Center Drive, Suite 106
Batavia, OH 45103
(513) 732-7111
www.co.clermont.oh.us/djfs/cps/

Clinton County DJFS
1025 S. South Street, Suite 300
Wilmington, OH 45177
(937) 382-5935
www.clinton-kids.com

Columbiana County DJFS
110 Nelson Avenue
P.O. Box 9
Lisbon, OH 44432
(330) 424-1471

Coshocton County DJFS
725 Pine Street
Coshocton, OH 43812
(740) 622-1020

Crawford County CSB
865 Harding Way West
Galion, OH 44833
(419) 468-3255

Cuyahoga County DCFS
3955 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44115
(216) 432-3390
www.cuyahoga.oh.us

Darke County DJFS
631 Wagner Avenue
Greenville, OH 45331
(937) 548-3840

Defiance County DJFS
06879 Evansport Road, Suite A
P.O. Box 639
Defiance, OH 43512
(419) 782-3881

Delaware County DJFS
140 North Sandusky Street, 2nd Floor
Delaware, OH 43015
(740) 833-2316

Erie County DJFS
221 West Parish Street
Sandusky, OH 44870
(419) 624-6401
www.erie-county-ohio.net

Fairfield County DJFS
239 West Main Street
Lancaster, OH 43130
(740) 653-4060

Fayette County DJFS
133 South Main Street
P.O. Box 220
Washington Court House, OH 43160
(740) 335-0350

Franklin County CSB
855 W. Mound St.
Columbus, OH 43223
(614) 275-2571
www.co.franklin.oh.us/children_services

Fulton County DJFS
604 South Shoop Avenue, Suite 200
Wauseon, OH 43567
(419) 337-0010

Gallia County CSB
83 Shawnee Lane
Gallipolis, OH 45631
(740) 446-4963

Geauga County DJFS
12480 Ravenwood Dr.
P.O. Box 309
Chardon, OH 44024
(440) 285-9141
www.geaugajfs.org

Green County CSB
601 Ledbetter Road
Xenia, OH 45385
(937) 562-6600
www.greenecsb.org

Guernsey County CSB
274 Highland Avenue
Cambridge, OH 43725
(740) 439-5555

Hamilton County DJFS
222 East Central Parkway
Cincinnati, OH 45202-1225
(513) 946-1000 -- (513) 632-6366
www.hcjfs.hamilton-co.org

Hancock County DJFS
7814 County Road 140
P.O. Box 270
Findlay, OH 45839
(419) 424-7022

Hardin County DJFS
175 West Franklin Street, Suite 150
Kenton, OH 43326-1972
(419) 675-1130
www.hardincountyjfs.org

Harrison County DJFS
520 North Main Street
P.O. Box 239
Cadiz, OH 43907-0239
(740) 942-3015

Henry County DJFS
104 East Washington Street
P.O. Box 527
Napoleon, OH 43545
(419) 592-0946

Highland County CSB
117 East Main Street
Hillsboro, OH 45133-1468
(937) 393-3111

Hocking County CSB
93 W. Hunter Street
Logan, OH 43138
(740) 385-4168

Holmes County DJFS
85 North Grant Street
P.O. Box 72
Millersburg, OH 44654-0072
(330) 674-1111
www.holmescountrydjfs.com

Huron County DJFS
185 Shady Lane Drive
Norwalk, OH 44857-2373
(419) 668-8126
www.huroncochildcare.com

Jackson County DJFS
25 East South Street
Jackson, OH 45640-1638
(740) 286-4181

Jefferson County DJFS
125 S. Fifth St.
Mail: 240 John S.Scott HWY
Steubenville, OH 43952-3090
(740) 264-5515
www.jccsb-children.org

Knox County DJFS
117 East High Street
Mount Vernon, OH 43050-3401
(740) 397-7177

Lake County DJFS
177 Main Street
Painesville, OH 44077
(440) 350-4000

Lawrence County DJFS
1100 South 7th Street
P.O. Box 539
Ironton, OH 45638
(740) 532-3324

Licking County DJFS
74 South Second Street
P.O. Box 5030
Newark, OH 43058-5030
(740) 670-8814 or 670-8830
www.msmissp.com/lcdhs

Logan County CSB
1855 State Route 47 West
Bellefontaine, OH 43311
(937) 599-7290
www.co.logan.oh.us/childrenservice

Lorain County CSB
226 Middle Avenue
Elyria, OH 44035
(440) 329-5340
www.childrenservices.org

Lucas County CSB
705 Adams Street
Toledo, OH 43604
(419) 213-3200
www.lucaskids.net

Madison County DJFS
200 Midway Street
London, OH 43140
(740) 852-4770

Mahoning County CBS
222 W. Federal St., 4th Fl.
Youngstown, OH 44503
(330) 941-8888
www.mahoningkids.com

Marion County CSB
1680 Marion-Waldo Road
Marion, OH 43302-7489
(740) 389-2317
www.marionkids.com

Medina County DJFS
232 Northland Drive
Medina, OH 44256
(330) 722-9283
www.mcjfs.org

Meigs County DJFS
175 Race Street
P.O. Box 191
Middleport, OH 45760-0191
(740) 992-2117
www.meigsdjfs.net

Mercer County DJFS
220 West Livingston Street, Suite 10
Celina, OH 45822-1791
(419) 568-5106

Miami County CSB
1695 Troy-Sidney Road
Troy, OH 45373
(937) 335-4103

Monroe County DJFS
100 Home Avenue
P.O. Box 638
Woodsfield, OH 43793-1234
(740) 472-1602

Montgomery County DJFS
3304 North Main Street
Dayton, OH 45405
(937) 224-KIDS(5437)
www.montcsb.org

Morgan County DJFS
155 East Main Street, Room 009
McConnelsville, OH 43756-1299
(740) 962-3838

Morrow County DJFS
619 West Marion Road
Mt Gilead, OH 43338
(419) 947-5437
www.mtgilead.com/jfs.htm

Muskingum County CSB
205 North 7th Street
P.O. Box 157
Zanesville, OH 43702-0157
(740) 455-6710
www.jobandfamily.com

Noble County DJFS
18065 S.R. 78
P.O. Box 250
Caldwell, OH 43724-0250
(740) 732-2392

Ottawa County DJFS
8043 West State Route 163, Suite 200
Oak Harbor, OH 43449
(419) 898-3688

Paulding County DJFS
303 West Harrison Street
Paulding, OH 45879
(419) 399-3756

Perry County CSB
526 Mill Street
New Lexington, OH 43764
(740) 342-3836

Pickaway County DJFS
110 Island Road
P.O. Box 439
Circleville, OH 43113-0439
(740) 474-7588
www.pickawayjfs.org

Pike County CSB
525 Walnut Street
Waverly, OH 45690-1165
(740) 947-5080

Portage County DJFS
449 South Meridian Street, 2nd Floor
Ravenna, OH 44266-1208
(330) 298-1102
www.portagecountydhs.org

Preble County DJFS
1500 Park Ave.
Eaton, OH 45320-8680
(937) 456-1135

Putnam County DJFS
1225 East Third Street
Ottawa, OH 45875
(419) 523-4580

Richland County CSB
731 School Road
Mansfield, OH 44907
(419) 774-4100
www.richlandcountychildrenservices.org

Ross County DJFS
475 Western Avenue, Suite B.
P.O. Box 469
Chillicothe, OH 45601-0469
(740) 773-2651

Sandusky County DJFS
2511 Countryside Drive
Fremont, OH 43420-9987
(419) 334-8708
www.sanduskycountydjfs.org

Scioto County CSB
3940 Gallia Street
New Boston, OH 45662
(740) 456-4164
www.sciotocountychildrenservice.com

Seneca County DJFS
3362 South Township Road 151
Tiffin, OH 44883-9499
(419) 447-5011
www.djfs.co.seneca.oh.us

Shelby County DJFS
227 South Ohio Avenue
Sidney, OH 45365
(937) 498-4981

Stark County DJFS
221 3rd St., S.E.
Canton, OH 44702
(330) 451-8789
www.djfs.co.stark.oh.us

Summit County CSB
264 South Arlington Street
Akron, OH 44306-1399
(330) 379-1990
www.summitkids.org

Trumbull County CSB
2282 Reeves Road Northeast
Warren, OH 44483
(330) 372-2010
www.trumbullcsb.com

Tuscarawas County DJFS
389 16th Street Southwest
New Philadelphia, OH 44663
(330) 339-7791
<http://web.tusco.net/tcjfs>

Union County DJFS
940 London Ave., Suite 1800
P.O. Box 389
Marysville, OH 43040-0389
(937) 644-1010
www.co.union.oh.us/djfs

Van Wert County DJFS
114 East Main Street
P.O. Box 595
Van Wert, OH 45891
(419) 238-5430

Vinton County DJFs
30975 Industrial Park Drive
McArthur, OH 45651
(740) 596-2584

Warren County CSB
416 South East Street, 3rd Floor
Lebanon, OH 45036
(513) 695-1546
www.co.warren.oh.us/childrenservices/

Washington County CSB
204 Davis Ave.
Marietta, OH 45750
(740) 373-3485
www.washingtongov.org

Wayne County CSB
2534 Burbank Road
Wooster, OH 44691
(330) 345-5340
www.waynecsb.org

Williams County DJFS
117 West Butler Street
Bryan, OH 43506
(419) 636-6725

Wood County DJFS
1928 East Gypsy Lane Road
P.O. Box 679
Bowling Green, OH 43402-0679
(419) 352-7566

Wyandot County DJFS
120 E. Johnson Street
Upper Sandusky, OH 43351
(419) 294-4977

Private Adoption Agencies

A Child's Waiting Adoption Program
3490 Ridgewood Road
Fairlawn, OH 44333
(330) 665-1811
www.achildswaiting.com

A New Leaf, Inc.
221 Tarlton Road
Kingston, OH 45644

A Place To Call Home, Inc.
36 Central Station Place
Johnstown, OH 43031
(740) 967-2167

Action Inc.
6000 Philadelphia Drive
Dayton, OH 45415
(937) 277-6101

Adolescent Oasis, Inc.
201 Riverside Dr. Ste. 1B
Dayton, OH 45405
(937) 228-2810

Adopt America Network
1025 North Reynolds Road
Toledo, OH 43615-4753
(419) 534-3350
www.adoptamericanetwork.org

Adoption Assessors, Ltd.
1011 Sandusky St., Ste. N
Perrysburg, OH 43351
(419) 843-0095

Adoption Circle
400 S. Fifth St., 1 Americana Ste. 304
Columbus, OH 43215
(614) 237-7222
www.adoptioncircle.org

Adoption by Gentle Care
380 1/2 E. Town St.
Columbus, OH 43215
(614) 469-0007
www.adoptionbygentlecare.org

Adoption Center
12151 Ellsworth Road
North Jackson, OH 44451
(330) 547-8225

Adoption HomeStudy Services of Ohio
2128 South Union Avenue
Alliance, OH 44601
(330) 823-8986
www.homestudyohio.com

Adoption Link, Inc.
3642 East Emon Road
Yellow Springs, OH 45387
(937) 767-2466
www.adoptionlink.org

Adriel School, Inc.
414 N. Detroit St.
P.O. Box 188
West Liberty, OH 43357
(937) 465-0010
www.adriel.org

Advantage Adoption and Foster Care, Inc.
(AAFC)
43 East Fourth Street
Mansfield, OH 44902
(419) 528-4411, 1(800) 450-1287

Agape For Youth, Inc.
2621 Dryden Road, 2nd Fl
Dayton OH 45439
(937) 439-4406
www.agapeforyouth.com

Alliance Human Services, Inc.
9800 Rockside Road, Suite 800
Valley View, OH, OH 44125

American International Adoption Agency
7045 County Line Road
Williamsfield, OH 44093
(330) 876-5656

Applewood Centers, Inc.
2525 E. 22nd Street
Cleveland, OH 44115
(216) 696-5800
www.applewoodcenters.org

Bair Foundation
275 Martinel Drive
Kent, OH 44240
(330) 673-6339
www.bair.org

Beech Brook
3737 Lander Road
Pepper Pike, OH 44124
(216) 831-2255
www.beechbrook.org

Bellefaire Jewish Children's Bureau
22001 Fairmount Blvd.
Shaker Heights, OH 44122
(216) 932-2800
www.bellefairejcb.org

Berea Children's Home: Family Services
202 East Bagley Road
Berea, OH 44017
(440) 234-2006
www.bchfs.org

Buckeye Ranch, Inc. (THE)
5665 Hoover Road
Grove City, OH 43123
(800) 536-2433, (614) 384- 7700
www.buckeyeranch.org

Building Blocks Adoption Services
P.O. Box 1028
52 Public Square
Medina, OH 44258
(330) 725-5521
www.bbbs.org

Caring for Kids, Inc.
421/2 Munroe Falls Avenue
Munroe Falls, OH 44262
(330) 688-0044

Catholic Charities of Ashtabula County
4200 Park Avenue, 3rd Flr
Ashtabula, OH 44004
(440)992-2121, Fax (440) 992-5974

Catholic Charities Regional Agency
175 Laird Avenue NE, 3rd Flr
Warren, OH 44483
(216)393-4254

Catholic Charities Services Corporation of
Cleveland
6753 State Road
Parma, Ohio 44134
(440)845-7700

Catholic Charities Services – Lorain County
628 Poplar Street
Elyria, OH 44035
(440) 366-1106

Catholic Social Services of Southwestern Ohio
100 East Eighth Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202
(513)241-7745

Catholic Charities Services – Toledo
P.O. Box 985
1933 Spielbusch
Toledo, Ohio 43624
(419) 244-6711
rsevigny@Toledo Diocese.org

Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley
922 West Riverview Avenue
Dayton, OH 45407
(937) 223-7217

Catholic Social Services
197 E. Gay Street
Columbus, OH 43215
(614) 221-5891

Children's Home of Cincinnati, Ohio
5050 Madison Road
Cincinnati, OH 45227
(513) 272-2800

Child Placement Professionals, Inc.
1006 Orders St.
Ada, OH 45810
(419) 634-5033

Children's Community Access Program, Inc.
2245 Warrensville Center Rd., Suite 50
University Heights, OH 44118
(216) 361-0285

Christian Children's Home of Ohio
2685 Armstrong Road
P.O. Box 765
Wooster, OH 44691
(330) 345-7949
www.ccho.org

Cleveland Christian Home, Inc. (The)
2202 Prame Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44109
(216) 641-0977
www.cchome.org

Community Services of Stark County
6363 Promway Drive, North West
North Canton, OH 44720
(330) 305-9696

Directions for Youth and Families
1515 Indianola Avenue
Columbus, OH 43201
(614) 251-0130

Diversion Adolescent Foster Care of Ohio
2215 N. Main St.
Findlay, OH 45856
(419) 422-4770, 1(800)824-3007
www.diversionfostercare.org

European Adoption Consultants
9800 Boston Road
North Royalton, OH 44133
(440) 237-3554
www.eaci.com

Family Adoption Consultants
8536 Crow Drive, Suite 230
Macedonia, OH 44056
(330) 468-0673
www.facadopt.org

Greenleaf Family Center
212 East Exchange Street
Akron, OH 44304
(330) 376-9494, 1(800) 277-9494
www.greenleafctr.org

Family and Youth Institute
14 Sandalwood Drive
Newark, OH 43055
(740) 788-8850

Focus on Youth
8904 Brookside Ave.
West Chester, OH 45069
(513) 644-1030, 1(800)873-6576
www.focusonyouth.com

Graceworks Lutheran Services
11370 Springfield Pike
Cincinnati, OH 45246
(513) 326-5430

Hannah's Hope, Adoptions by Cathedral Ministries, Inc.
300 Strayer Road
Maumee, OH 43537
(419)866-2094, 1(800) 587-2850

Hattie Larlham Foundation
530 S. Main Street Suite 104
Akron, OH 44311
(330) 315-1856

House of New Hope, Inc.
8135 Mt. Vernon Road
St. Louisville, OH 43071
(740) 345-5437

House of Samuel, Inc.
420 North 8th Street
Cambridge, OH 43725
(740) 439-5634

Inner Peace Homes, Inc.
136 ½ South Main Street
P.O. Box 895
Bowling Green, OH 43402
(419) 354-6525

Jewish Family Service (Adoption Connection)
11223 Cornell Park Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45242
(513) 469-1188
www.jfscinti.org

LDS Family Services
4431 Marketing Place
Groveport, OH 43125
(614) 836-2466

Lighthouse Youth Services, Inc.
1501 Madison Road, 2nd Floor
Cincinnati, OH 45206
(513) 221-3350

Lutheran Social Services of Central Ohio
750 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43205-1000
(614)228-5200

Lutheran Graceworks Services
3131 South Dixie Drive
Dayton, OH 45439
(937) 643-0020
www.graceworks.org

Lutheran Social Services of Mid-America
204 North Fountain Avenue
Springfield, OH 45502
(937)325-3441

Lutheran Social Services of Northwest Ohio
2149 Collingwood Blvd.
Toledo, OH 43620
419-243-9178
www.lssnwo.org

Lutheran Social Services of Northwest Ohio
512 East State Street
Fremont, OH 43420
(419)334-3431

Lutheran Social Services of Northwest Ohio
1011 Sandusky, Suite 1
Perrysburg, OH 43551
(419)872-9111

Mended Reeds
4676 St. Rt. 93
Ironton, OH 45638
(740) 532-6220

Mid-Western Children's Home
4581 Long Spurling Road
P.O. Box 48
Pleasant Plain, OH 45162
(513) 877-2141

New Horizon Care Network, Inc.
240 Rennick Ave.
P.O. Box 6009
Chillicothe, OH 45601
(740) 779-3201

Northeast Ohio Adoption Services
5000 East Market Street, Suite 26
Warren, OH 44484
(330) 856- 5582
www.noas.com

Ohio Youth Advocate Program
23611 Chagrin Blvd., Suite 275
Beachwood, OH 44122
(216) 939-0145

Options for Families and Youth
5131 West 140th St.
Brook Park, OH 44142
(216) 267-7070
www.ofycares.org

Parenthesis Family Advocates
4480 Refugee Rd., Suite 311
Columbus, OH 43232
(614) 751-9112

Pathway Caring for Children
6370 Wise Ave. North West
North Canton, OH 44720
(330) 493-0083

Private Adoption Services, Inc.
3411 Michigan Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45208
(513) 871-5777, 1(888)-231-3339
www.privateadoptionsservice.com

Providence House
2037 W. 32nd Street
Cleveland, OH 44113
(216) 651-5982

Specialized Alternatives for Families & Youth
10100 Elida Road
Delphos, OH 45833
(800) 532-7239
www.safy.org

Specialized Alternatives for Families & Youth
of America
6465 Frank Avenue, NW
North Canton, OH 44720
(330)305-1668

St. Aloysius Orphanage
4721 Reading Road
Cincinnati, OH 45237
(513) 242-7600
www.staloyususcincinnati.org

Symbiont
29 West Church Street
Newark, OH 43055
(740) 345-3862

Synergy Family Foster Care Inc.
22 S. Market Street
Chillicothe, OH 45601
(740) 776-6636

The Bair Foundation
275 Martinel Drive
Kent, OH 44240
(330) 673-6339
www.bair.org

The Buckeye Rance
Square One for Youth
5665 Hoover Road
Grove City, OH 43123
(614)875-2371

The Children's Home of Cincinnati
5050 Madison Road
Cincinnati, OH 45227
(513) 272-2800
www.thechildrenshomecinti.org

The Tender Mercies Agency
2451 Harding Highway
Lima, OH 45804
(419) 228-3900

The Twelve of Ohio, Inc.
619 Tremont SW
P.O. Box 376
Massillon, OH 44648
(440) 322-1588
www.the12inc.org

United Methodist Children's Home
1033 N. High Street
Worthington, OH 43085
(614) 885-5020
www.umchohio.org

V.Beacon, Inc.
1718 Indianawood Circle, Suite A
Maumee, OH 43537
(419) 887-1629

Westark Family Services
42 1st Street, N.E.
Massillon, OH 44646
(330) 832-5043

World Family Adoption Studies, Inc.
723 Garrett Drive
Columbus, OH 43214
(614) 459-8406

Worlds Together, Inc.
5882 Kenwood Road
Cincinnati, OH 45243
(513) 631-6590

Youth Engaged for Success
3556 West Siebenthaler Ave.
Unit B & C
Dayton, OH 45460
(937) 458-0050

Youth Services Network of Southwest Ohio, Inc.
3817 Wilimington Pike
Kettering, OH 45429
(937) 294-4400



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State of Ohio

Douglas Lumpkin, Director
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

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