

# Indiana Department of Child Services Child Welfare Services Coordinator Areas



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# Indiana Special Needs Adoption Program

In 1989, Indiana established a program for hard to place children who are in the custody of the state. This is a federally mandated program that Indiana legislated under IC 31-19-27. Over 7,000 Indiana special needs children have been placed with adoptive families since 1990.

The **Special Needs Adoption Program (SNAP)** includes a program director and seven adoption specialists serving Indiana's 92 counties (as outlined on back). The SNAP Specialists assist in the adoptive placement of waiting children by working collaboratively with case managers, families and service providers.

## What Your Snap Specialist Can Do For You...

- Clarify DCS policy regarding adoption
- Meet and photograph children needing recruitment
- Participate in case conferences relating to permanency, when needed
- Network and dialogue with various agencies, professionals and other states to help recruit families for waiting children
- Feature children at adoption fairs and public events to increase the pool of approved families and aid recruitment
- Assist in interviewing families for waiting children
- Help identify adoption resources available for children and families
- Provide support to waiting families
- Act as a liaison between families and the children's case managers
- Provide training, when needed, and support staff in their adoption work
- Maintain team meeting minutes for county/state use
- Keep organized statistics about county, region and state adoption work
- Participate in various educational settings, such as conferences and parent trainings, to promote current adoption practices and thinking