	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES **CHILD WELFARE POLICY**
	Chapter 10: Guardianship and Adoption **Section 03:** Preparing the Child for Adoption
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026 — **Version:** 4

POLICY OVERVIEW

It is important to prepare a child for adoption and give them the help that they need to feel safe and ready for their new family. The circumstances of their past can be understood in a healthy way and services will be put in place to help them.

POLICY STATEMENT

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) will help prepare a child for adoption based on the assessments and observations to determine the child's readiness for adoption. DCS may have individual discussions with the child and/or provide an opportunity for the child to speak with other adopted children. DCS will ensure the child has appropriate resources to help prepare for adoption.

DCS will discuss informed consent with any youth age 14 years and older and explain that, in accordance with Indiana law, written consent must be obtained from the youth for the adoption to be completed.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- IC 31-19-9-1: Consents required