	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 10: Guardianship and Adoption **Section 11:** Child Social Summary	
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026	**Version:** 3

POLICY OVERVIEW

DCS will give the Child Social Summary to the prospective adoptive parent. This helps the prospective adoptive parent understand the child's needs and decide if they can meet those needs.

POLICY STATEMENT

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) will:

1. Complete a Child Social Summary for every child in out-of-home care who has a permanency plan of adoption **within 45 days** of changing the permanency plan to adoption; and
2. Update the Child Social Summary **every year** until the adoption is final.

The Child Social Summary must:

1. Leave out any information that would identify the birth parents; and
2. Include information about the child's:
   a. Social,
   b. Medical,
   c. Psychological, and
   d. Educational records.

3. Be given to:
   a. The prospective adoptive parent or adoptive parent, and
   b. An adoptee who:
      - Is at least 21 years old; and
      - Shows proof of identity.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- IC 31-19-17-3: Exclusion of information identifying birth parent; release of records concerning child to adoptive parents and adoptee
- IC 31-19-17-4: Summary of social, medical, psychological, and educational records