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|  | <b>INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES</b><br><b>CHILD WELFARE POLICY</b>                              |                   |
|                                                                                   | <b>Chapter 10:</b> Guardianship and Adoption<br><b>Section 07:</b> Adoptive Family Recruitment Services |                   |
|                                                                                   | <b>Effective Date:</b> January 1, 2026                                                                  | <b>Version:</b> 7 |

## POLICY OVERVIEW

Through the Indiana Adoption Program (IAP), the Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) helps find adoptive families for children in out-of-home care when:

1. The court has ordered a permanency plan of adoption and the child is not living with a family that plans to adopt;
2. The court give permission to file a petition to end the parent's legal rights (called Termination of Parental Rights (TPR); or
3. A TPR petition has already been filed.

## POLICY STATEMENT

The IAP will provide the following recruitment services:

1. Publish non-identifying information about the child on the internet including:
  - Age,
  - Gender,
  - Summary of the child's educational, medical and social background,
  - The reason the child was removed from the home,
  - Whether a person has expressed an interest in adopting the child,
  - The name, address, and phone number for the Licensed Child Placing Agency (LCPA) or DCS representative that may be contacted for more information,
  - Whether TPR has been authorized, filed, or has occurred,

**Note:** This non-identifying information may not identify the child, their parents (biological or adoptive), their siblings, or their caregiver.

**Exception:** For a "hard to place" child, their first name and picture may be published on the IAP: Indiana's Waiting Children webpage.

2. Identify and plan for adoption recruitment activities that feature the child;
3. Help qualified prospective adoptive families prepare for a child; and
4. Arrange interviews with possible adoptive families to find the best match for the child.

## LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 31-9-2-51: "Hard to place child" or "Hard to place children"](#)
- [IC 31-19: Family Law: Adoption](#)
- [IC 31-19-27: Chapter 27. Program for Adoption of Hard to Place Children](#)
- [42 USC 675\(1\)\(E\): Definitions](#)