	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 10: Guardianship and Adoption **Section 07:** Adoptive Family Recruitment Services	
	Effective Date: July 1, 2026	**Version:** 8

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 31-9-2.1-118: "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