	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 10: Guardianship and Adoption **Section 04:** Preparing the Child for Guardianship or Adoption	
	Effective Date: July 1, 2026	**Version:** 7

POLICY OVERVIEW

Children need caring adults. These adults should support the child's permanency plan and help the child reach permanency. They should also let the child know that their questions and feelings are normal and okay.

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) works with the resource parent and helps the child get ready for the guardianship or adoption process.

POLICY STATEMENT

DCS will communicate with the resource parent. DCS will include the resource parent in planning and carrying out the guardianship or adoption process.

DCS will support the resource parent's choice to seek guardianship or adoption (if it applies). This support will happen if DCS agrees it is best for the child.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- IC 31-9-2.1-116: "Guardian"
- IC-31-9-2.1-192: "Prospective adoptive parent"
- IC 31-19-2-2 Adoption of minor child; petition; venue; substituting petitioner
- IC 31-19-2-15 Information provided to current foster parent and prospective adoptive parent; explanation of information; signature
- 45 CFR 1355.34: Criteria for determining substantial conformity