

ADOPTION HOME STUDY PROCESS

- Pre-service training (21 hours) if the child has not been placed in the prospective adoptive parent's home for 6 months or longer.
- Minimum of 2 visits to the home by an Adoption Case Manager to gather pertinent information about the family's capacity for adoptive parenting.
- Prospective parents will be asked to provide information about their childhood experiences, motivation for adopting, parenting philosophy, discipline techniques, current lifestyle and the impact that adopting will have on their family.
- Background screening process that includes child abuse and neglect checks, local and state law enforcement checks as well as having fingerprints screened at the federal level.
- References will be requested from the applicants employers, school officials if they have children, and character references from individuals who have known the family.



Who can adopt? To be eligible to adopt you may be married or single, already a parent or never a parent, in your 60s or in your 20s, a person of modest means or wealth. If you have the ability to love a child, to provide the basics for a child and to make a lifelong commitment, you can be an adoptive parent.

For Additional information
Please contact:



2232 Altamont Avenue
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ADOPTION INFORMATION GUIDE



ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

Child meets criteria of special needs, which includes:

- Permanent custody has been awarded to DCF or to a licensed child-placing agency, and who has established significant emotional ties with his or her foster parents or is not likely to be adopted because he or she is:
 - ⇒ Eight years of age or older;
 - ⇒ Developmentally disabled;
 - ⇒ Physically or emotionally handicapped;
 - ⇒ Of black or racially mixed parentage;
 - ⇒ Member of a sibling group, provided 2 or more siblings remain together for purposes of adoption;



BENEFITS:

- Maintenance Adoption Subsidy – Monthly payment made for support and maintenance of a special needs child until age 18. Standard subsidy is \$417 per month.
- Medicaid – Available until age 18. If the child is adopted after turning 16, Medicaid until age 21.
- Medical Assistance – Need must be documented before finalization; aid of last resort and is paid directly to the medical provider. Adoptive parents should use Medicaid or private Insurance, prior to requesting medical assistance. Case Manager must pre-approve before use.
- Tuition Waiver – Applies to children adopted after May 5, 1997 through DCF. Exemption of tuition and student fees at Florida public postsecondary educational institutions until age 28.
- Post-Adoption Services – Temporary case management services to assist in locating available services related to the child's special needs. Available until age 18.
- Reimbursement of non-recurring expenses – Payments for one-time expenses related to the special needs adoption. Example: attorney's fees. Limited to \$1000 per child.



BENEFITS (continued):

- Post-secondary Services and Supports (PESS) - Financial assistance in the amount of \$1,256 per month if youth was at least 16 years of age when adopted out of foster care, has reached 18 years of age but is not yet 23 years of age, has earned a standard high school diploma or its equivalent, is enrolled as a full-time student in a postsecondary institution that is Florida Bright Future eligible and has applied for financial aid, grants and other scholarship.
- Extended Maintenance Adoption Subsidy (EMAS) - Extension of subsidy benefits if the youth was at least 16 years of age when adopted and, following his or her 18th birthday, is involved in a qualifying activity.
- Adoption Benefits for Qualifying Employees of State Agencies—An employee of the State, State University or Community College, School District, Water Management District and instructional personnel employed by the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind, provided the employee is paid from regular salary appropriations, is eligible to apply for the Adoption Benefit Program, which is a monetary benefit in the amount of \$10,000 per child
- Potential tax credit for the year in which the child is adopted.
- The child becomes the legal heir to the adoptive parents.