

CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES
STANDARDS FOR EFFECTIVE PRACTICE
STANDARDS FOR ADOPTION SERVICES

7.10 INTERAGENCY ADOPTIVE PLACEMENTS

Council on Accreditation Standards

The Council on Accreditation Standards S14 (Adoptive Services); S14.2 (Administrative Practices); and S15 (Inter-County Adoption Services) link to and support Standard 7.10 *Interagency Adoptive Placements*.

Administrative Code

The Ohio Administrative Code Rules 5101:2-39-50 (Cooperation with Other Organizations to Coordinate Service Delivery to Children and Families); 5101:2-42-20 (General Requirements Applicable to Interstate Placements of Children Into or From Ohio); 5101:2-42-21 (Agency and Court Interstate Placement Requirements); 5101:2-42-22 (Independent Interstate Requirements); 5101:2-42-23 (Requirements Applicable to Placements of Foreign-Born Children into Ohio for the Purpose of Adoption); 5101:2-48-04 (AdoptOhio Agency Agreements); 5101:2-48-05 (Agency Adoption Policy and Agency Recruitment Plan); 5101:2-48-06 (Adoption Agency Staffing); 5101:2-48-13 (Adoption Requirements Pursuant to the Multiethnic Placement Act); 5101:2-48-14 (Preparation of Child for Adoptive Placement); 5101:2-48-16 (Adoptive Placement Procedures); and 5101:2-48-17 (Prefinalization Services) address Standard 7.10 *Interagency Adoptive Placements*.

I. Philosophy

For children to be placed in a timely manner with a family that best meets their needs, all available adoptive resources should be considered. All children deserve a permanent, stable home in which to grow. In order to accomplish this, it is vital for agencies to cooperate with one another by sharing adoptive services and supports offered to families. Interagency adoptions must be addressed in a uniform and consistent manner throughout the state.

II. Outcome

All children will have a permanent, safe home.
Agencies collaborate and share adoptive resources.

III. Evaluation

FACSIS events, CPOE and the Federal Health and Human Services outcomes may be considered when evaluating this standard. In addition, the CFSA may consider the following:

- documentation that a formal agreement was established to identify the role of both agencies with regards to matching, pre-placement activities, placement activities, post-placement supervisions, finalization and post-finalization services;
- number of concurrent plans developed at point of entry and modified throughout that identifies possible adoptive matches for the child;

- number of aggressive recruitment plans developed within seven days of receiving permanent custody of children;
- number of pre-placement activities and visits held per child and prospective adoptive family;
- median length of stay in permanent custody prior to adoption finalization;
- number of adoption disruptions through interagency adoptive placements versus child custodial adoptive placements.

IV. Standards for Implementation

Agencies should develop and enter into a formal agreement that identifies who will be responsible for each service provided to the family and children. These services include, but not limited to: Matching Process; Pre-Placement Activities; Placement Activities and Post-Placement Supervision; and Finalization and Post-Finalization Services.

A. Matching Process

- 1) CFSAs should meet face-to-face to assess the potential adoptive family's ability to meet the needs of the waiting child (see Standard 7.6, *Matching*). This conference may be conducted by telephone when distance is a prohibiting factor.
- 2) It should be the responsibility of the custodial CFSA to arrange and facilitate the matching process (see Standard 7.6, *Matching*, for more information regarding identification of family, staffing and determination).
- 3) The responsibilities of each agency within the matching process should be clearly determined and agreed upon in writing.

B. Pre-Placement Activities

- 1) Visitation
 - a. The CFSAs should collaborate on behalf of the child, adoptive family and foster family to create a written pre-placement visitation schedule, specifying the location of each visit, parties responsible for transportation, and length of each visit.
 - b. The visitation plan should focus on the child's needs and who is responsible for supervision of the visitation (see Standard 7.11, *Placement of Children in Adoptive Home*).
 - c. This plan may need to be modified. When this is necessary, the child, each agency, the adoptive family and foster family (if applicable) should participate.
- 2) Subsidy
 - a. The subsidy package should be discussed and agreed upon by all (see Standard 7.14, *Financial Supports for Adoptive Families*).
 - b. The subsidy package should include adoption services and supports beyond just financial.
- 3) Formal Interagency Agreement
 - a. Agencies should sign a formal agreement regarding the responsibilities of each agency.
 - b. These responsibilities should include, but not be limited to:
 - i. post-placement supervision;

- ii. monthly reports from the supervising agency, including dates of contact, adjustment of child and family, identified needs of child and family, follow-up to needs, any other recommendations;
- iii. billing procedures (if needed);
- iv. referrals to appropriate community resources;
- v. finalization services to be provided, including court location and agency completing pre-finalization report and other court documents; and
- vi. post-finalization services.

C. Placement Activities and Post-Placement Supervision

- 1) Placement Activities
 - a. The CFSA's should be present at the signing of the adoption placement agreement and other related documents.
 - b. The family should have a copy of the formal interagency agreement, which includes the roles and responsibilities of each agency.
 - c. The CFSA should refer to Standard 7.11, *Placement of Children in Adoptive Home*, for further placement activities.
- 2) Post-Placement Supervision
 - a. The supervising agency should be responsible for visits with the child and family until finalization. Frequency and number of visits should be determined by the needs of the child and family.
 - b. The CFSA should refer to Standard 7.11, *Placement of Children in Adoptive Home*, for further post-placement activities.

D. Finalization and Post-Finalization Services

- a. All parties should be in agreement as to when finalization should occur.
- b. The agency identified in the formal interagency agreement should provide the finalization and post-finalization services.
- c. The supervising agency should prepare the child and family for finalization. Refer to Standard 7.11, *Placement of Children in Adoptive Home* for further post-placement activities and Standard 7.12, *Post-Adoption Services*.
- e. An opportunity should be provided to all agencies to reflect on and strengthen the interagency experience through reviewing the following:
 - I. implementation of the interagency process;
 - II. identification of administrative "glitches", miscommunication;
 - III. identification of procedures and practices for resolution of problem areas.

V. Financial Implications

No additional costs have been estimated for the implementation of Standard 7.10, *Interagency Adoptive Placements* other than those identified in Standards 7.1, *Combined Certification and Approval for Foster Care and Adoptive Families*, 7.6 *Matching*, and 7.11, *Placement of Children in the Adoptive Home*.