

CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES  
STANDARDS FOR EFFECTIVE PRACTICE  
**STANDARDS FOR ADOPTION SERVICES**

**7.12 POST ADOPTION SERVICES**

**Council on Accreditation Standards**

The Council on Accreditation Standards S14 (Adoption Services) and S14.9 (Pre- and Post-Legal Adoption Services) link to and support Standard 7.12 *Post Adoption Services*.

**Administrative Code**

The Ohio Administrative Code Rules 5101:2-39-07 (Supportive Services); 5101:2-44-071 (Post Adoption Special Services Subsidy); 5101:2-48-01 (AdoptOhio Agency Responsibilities); 5101:2-48-03 (Requirements of ODJFS 1616 "Social and Medical History"); 5101:2-48-04 (AdoptOhio Agency Agreements); 5101:2-48-07 (Listing and Withdrawing Children and Families with the "Ohio Adoption Photo Listing" (OAPL) and the AdoptOhio Photo Listing Web Page); 5101:2-48-08 (Redetermination of State Adoption Subsidy); 5101:2-48-15 (Provision of Information to the Adoptive Family); 5101:2-48-18 (Postfinalization Services); and 5101:2-48-20 (Release of Identifying and Nonidentifying Information) address Standard 7.12 *Post Adoption Services*

**I. Philosophy**

Post adoption services should support all adoption triad members (birth families, adoptive families and adult adopted persons) and assist all members in resolution of adoption issues and accessing community services. Post adoption services should be family/person initiated and driven. When community services are lacking, CFSA's must advocate for community-based specialized adoption counseling and support services.

Birth families should feel supported in their adoption decision and be encouraged to reconnect with the CFSA when further services are needed. CFSA's should be sensitive to the grief/loss and search needs of all birth families, irrespective of how parental rights were terminated.

CFSA's and the community should support adoptive families' adjustments and if needed, assist in preserving their family.

CFSA's should be sensitive to the grief/loss and search needs of all adopted persons irrespective of the age of the child at the time of adoption.

**II. Outcome**

All adoption triad members are supported in healthy resolution of adoption issues. Adoptive families maintain permanency.

**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:

- number of children adopted per year;
- documentation that post-finalization services were offered and made available to adoptive families, birth families and adult adopted persons;

- number of weekly visits made by agency staff during first month of placement in the adoptive home;
- number of post-finalization services utilized by adoptive families;
- number of post-finalization services utilized by birth families;
- number of post-finalization services utilized by adult adopted persons;
- number of adoptions that disrupt per year.

#### IV. Standards for Implementation

##### A. Birth Families

- 1) Services to birth families should include, but not be limited to:
  - a. counseling and support services;
  - b. information and referral;
  - c. openness issues;
  - d. intermediary services;
  - e. updating medical and social history; and
  - f. search services.

##### B. Adoptive Families

CFSA should service any adoptive family residing in their county, regardless of how the adoption occurred.

- 1) Prior to finalization, staff should meet with the adoptive family to discuss the community services that are available including, but not be limited to:
  - a. counseling;
  - b. respite;
  - c. adoption sensitive community services;
  - d. ongoing training on adoption issues;
  - e. advocacy with community service providers;
  - f. crisis intervention;
  - g. subsidy (see Standard 7.14, *Financial Supports for Adoptive Families*);
  - h. updating medical and social history;
  - i. information and referral; and
  - j. search issues.
- 2) Upon request, families should be extended lifelong post adoptive services. The post adoptive worker should serve as a facilitator to link the family with the appropriate service(s).
- 3) If adoptive families enter the CFSA's system through another avenue of services, such as intake or ongoing protective services, the post adoption worker should assist with the case.

##### C. Adult Adopted Persons

- 1) Services that may be available to the adult adopted person include, but not be limited to:
  - a. counseling;
  - b. adoption sensitive community services;
  - c. crisis intervention;
  - d. updated medical and social history;
  - e. non-identifying information;

- f. information and referral;
- g. referral to adoption triad groups; and
- h. search issues.

**V. Financial Implications**

Costs associated with Standard 7.12, *Post Adoption Services* are dependent on the services identified as needed to maintain the child in the adoptive placement and to support the adoptive parents, family unit and adult adopted person.