

CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES
STANDARDS FOR EFFECTIVE PRACTICE
STANDARDS FOR ADOPTION SERVICES

7.13 ADOPTIVE PARENT TRAINING**Council on Accreditation Standards**

The Council on Accreditation Standards S14 (Adoption Services); S14.7 (Services for Adoptive Applicants and Adoptive Services); and S14.9 (Pre- and Post-Legal Adoption Services) link to and support Standard 7.13 *Adoptive Parent Training*.

Administrative Code

The Ohio Administrative Code Rules 5101:2-48-04 (AdoptOhio Agency Responsibilities) and 5101:2-48-09 (Recruitment Programs and Education Training) address Standard 7.13 *Adoptive Parent Training*.

I. Philosophy

Joint pre-service training to foster/adoptive applicants should be offered by CFSA's, since foster parent adoptions are at least 70% of agencies' adoptions. The decision to become a foster/adoptive family requires information, knowledge, and introspection. CFSA's must assure, to the best of their ability, that the foster/adoptive applicant is well-prepared to make a lifelong commitment. Applicants should be encouraged to seriously consider the lifelong impact of foster/adoption on their family.

Pre-service training provides foster/adoptive applicants with an opportunity to explore their personal feelings regarding adoption, gain valuable information, and acquire the knowledge needed to make an informed decision as to whether fostering and/or adopting is right for their family.

In an effort to provide the best possible supportive services to an adoptive family after placement, the CFSA should offer ongoing training on adoption issues to the adoptive family after adoptive placement and prior to finalization (for post-finalization training, see Standard 7.12, *Post Adoption Services*). Pre-finalization training responds to the unique challenges facing each family and the common experiences all adoptive families face.

II. Outcome

Families will have access to ongoing training that will support and educate them regarding adoption related issues and parenting.

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 adoptive families that complete pre-service training for foster/adoptive applicants;
- number of families that participate in pre-finalization trainings (at minimum three trainings);
- number of adoptive families participating in support groups made available by CFSA;
- number of post-finalization services utilized by adoptive family;
- number of adoptions per year;
- number of adoptions that disrupt per year.

IV. Standards for Implementation

A. Pre-Service Training

- 1) Refer to Standard 7.1, *Combined Certification and Approval for Foster Care and Adoptive Families, Section H, Training* for standards regarding pre-serving training for foster/adoptive applicants.

B. Pre-Finalization Training

- 1) The CFSA should assess the family's strengths and determine training needs of the family to increase their knowledge of adoption issues, which is more meaningful with an adoptive child in their home. The CFSA should make available to each family a minimum of three trainings on adoption issues. The training should be educational for families and relate information to the needs of the adoptive families. When feasible, the CFSA should coordinate training with other agencies to maximize resources and encourage adoptive families to make connections with one another.
- 2) The pre-finalization training opportunities should include, but not be limited to:
 - a. adjustments for parents and child in transition from fostering to adopting;
 - b. adoption myths;
 - c. information regarding child abuse and neglect;
 - d. examination of applicant's personal attitudes, feelings regarding adoption, and general issues facing all adopters/adoptees;
 - e. parenting of the physically or sexually abused child;
 - f. adoptive child's specific special circumstances or needs;
 - g. use of behavior management and discipline techniques and effective parenting styles;
 - h. reactive attachment disorder and attention deficit disorder;
 - i. issues of separation and loss, attachment;
 - j. how to discuss adoption with your adopted child (including searching for the child's birth family, sibling contact, and birth family involvement, based on child's familial history);
 - k. how to create the family's adoption story to share with other family members and community;
 - l. tools and resources available to help stabilize families;
 - m. transcultural reality of all adoption and its impact on the child and family (see Standard 7.8, *Supports for Multi-Racial, Multi-Cultural and Multi-Ethnic Adoptive Families*);
 - n. impact of adoption on children at various developmental stages;
 - o. predictable stages of adoptive family development;
 - p. open adoption;
 - q. triggers for adoptive parents and child; and
 - r. infertility and the "dream" child.

- 3) The CFSA should make adoptive parent/family support group information available to the applicant prior to placement and highly recommended after placement of a child in the home.

A. Post-Finalization Training

- 1) The CFSA should review Standard 7.12, *Post-Adoption Services*, regarding the provision of training and/or services once the adoption has been finalized.

V. Financial Implications

Costs associated with *Standard 7.13, Adoptive Parent Training* would include recruitment and pre-adoption training for a total of:

6 hours x \$89.25 = \$535.50 per training session

Plus additional costs for other services (i.e., Post-Finalization Training) are dependent and will vary, based on the services needed to support the child and adoptive family to maintain the adoptive placement.