

CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES
STANDARDS FOR EFFECTIVE PRACTICE
STANDARDS FOR ADOPTION SERVICES

7.4 ASSESSMENT OF THE CHILD FOR PERMANENCY PLANNING

Council on Accreditation Standards

The Council on Accreditation Standards S14 (Adoption Services) and S14.3 (Services to the Child) link to and support Standard 7.4 *Assessment of the Child for Permanency Planning*.

Administrative Code

The Ohio Administrative Code Rules 5101:2-48-03 (Social Medical History); 5101:2-48-04 (AdoptOhio Responsibilities); 5101:2-48-05 (Agency Adoption Policy and Recruitment Plan); 5101:2-48-06 (Adoption Agency Staffing); 5101:2-48-14 (Preparation of Child for Adoptive Placement); 5101:2-48-16 (Adoptive Placement Procedures); 5101:2-42-18-1 (MEPA/IEPA); 5101:2-48-21 (Child Study Inventory); and 5101:2-42-67 (Preparation of Lifebook) address Standard 7.4 *Assessment of the Child for Permanency Planning*.

I. Philosophy

The primary purpose of assessing the needs of children as part of the permanency planning process is to assure that children's best interests are served by being placed with families who match their short and long-term individual needs.

II. Outcome

Children grow up in safe, permanent families that meet their needs.

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:

- the number of child and family assessments that are completed and reviewed at point of entry, key decision-making points, case transfer and prior to adoption;
- number of concurrent plans developed at point of entry and modified throughout that identifies possible adoptive matches for the child;
- number of children in permanent custody per year;
- number of children with adoption finalizations per year;
- median length of stay in permanent custody prior to adoption finalization.

IV. Standards for Implementation

- 1) The assessment process should be initiated at the time the child comes into care and be updated on an ongoing basis to allow the child's assessment to be kept current with the child's development (see Standard 3.1, *The Child and Family Assessment*).

- 2) The staff should collect and document information regarding the child including, but not limited to, the following:
 - a. child's siblings and their whereabouts;
 - b. plan to maintain siblings together in placement or the visitation/plan for contact when the decision has been documented that a sibling group must be separated;
 - c. type of environment the child has been living in prior to agency involvement, including:
 - i. urban or rural setting,
 - ii. racial composition of neighborhood,
 - iii. socio-economic background of family,
 - iv. ethnicity,
 - v. religion,
 - vi. parental philosophy regarding discipline;
 - d. type of environment the child has been living in following agency involvement including, but not limited to, the following:
 - i. urban or rural setting,
 - ii. racial composition of neighborhood,
 - iii. socio-economic background of family,
 - iv. ethnicity,
 - v. religion,
 - vi. parental philosophy regarding discipline;
 - e. persons, places and/or things with whom the child has significant attachments or bonds;
 - f. significant others in the child's life (phone numbers and addresses) and regularity and types of contact;
 - g. child's medical history and current medical needs;
 - h. birth parents' social and medical history;
 - i. child's personality characteristics;
 - j. chronological listing of the child's significant life events;
 - k. anniversary dates of the child's significant life events;
 - l. review of the child's lifebook for completeness, and completion of the lifebook if not current and up-to-date;
 - m. any information on the child's culture and past and present emotional, psychological, behavioral, medical, social, and educational functioning; and
 - n. child's perception of self and his/her feelings about the current situation as appropriate to his/her age.

V. Financial Implications

There are no additional costs associated with Standard 7.4, *Assessment of the Child for Permanency Planning* other than those mentioned in the Standards under Ongoing Protective Services, Out-Of-Home Care Services and Administration.