

CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES
STANDARDS FOR EFFECTIVE PRACTICE
STANDARDS FOR ADOPTION SERVICES

7.7 FOSTER PARENT ADOPTIONS

Council on Accreditation Standards

The Council on Accreditation Standards S14 (Adoptive Services); S14.3 (Services for the Child); S21 (Foster and Kinship Care Services) and S21.9 (Caregiver Education) link to and support Standard 7.7 *Foster Parent Adoptions*.

Administrative Code

The Ohio Administrative Code Rules 5101:2-48 (Approval of a Foster Home for Adoptive Placement) and 5101:2-48-11 (Foster Caregiver Adoption of a Foster Child who has Resided with the Caregiver for at Least 12 Months) address Standard 7.7 *Foster Parent Adoptions*.

*The current requirements for foster parents and adoptive parents differ, but dual license would require the same requirements.

I. Philosophy

CFASAs value foster parent adoptions, as it is in the best interest of children who are in need of an out-of-home placement to be effectively matched at time of placement, and for the child to experience only one placement. Foster parent adoptions occur when foster families are willing to adopt children who are currently placed in their home. Since permanency, continuity, and timeliness are paramount for all children in out-of-home care, requirements and supports should be consistent for both foster care and adoption so as to encourage and expedite foster parent adoptions.

II. Outcome

Children experience one out-of-home placement that provides permanency when reunification is no longer viable.

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 families that are dually licensed to foster and adopt;
- number of foster families that adopt;
- number of children adopted by foster families per year versus by other families;
- number of children in permanent custody per year;
- median length of stay in permanent custody prior to adoption finalization by the foster family compared to median length of stay in permanent custody prior to adoption finalization by other families;
- number of adoption disruptions in foster parent adoptive homes versus other adoptive homes.

IV. Standards for Implementation

- 1) In order to expedite foster parent adoptions and encourage continuity and permanency of the placement:
 - a. CFSA should dually license all interested applicants and converse with the applicants regarding their interest to foster as well as adopt;
 - b. Children should be placed into an out-of-home placement that is identified as the most appropriate home that can meet their needs and be willing to provide permanency (see Standard 6.1, *Placement of Children in Out-of-Home Care* and Standard 7.6, *Matching*);
 - c. Foster families should take part in the permanency plan for children by supporting concurrent planning, which includes reunification or adoption (see Standard 3.15, *Concurrent Planning*);
 - d. CFSA should provide services, as well as refer and/or educate families regarding community resources and supports to assist in maintaining the adoption (for financial supports see Standard 7.14, *Financial Supports for Adoptive Families*);
 - e. CFSA should actively recruit families who are interested in being dually licensed and approved for foster care and adoption (see Standard 7.3, *Recruitment of Adoption Homes*).

V. Financial Implications

There are no additional costs anticipated with the implementation of Standard 7.7, *Foster Parent Adoptions*, other than those identified in Standard 7.1, *Combined Certification and Approval for Foster Care and Adoptive Families*.