

El Dorado County Department of Human Services

Adoption Services





What is Adoption?

- Adoption is a legal process which permanently gives parental rights to adoptive parents.



Types of Adoption

- There are four types of adoption in California for children under 18 years of age.
 - Agency
 - Independent Adoption
 - Inter-Country
 - Step-parent



El Dorado County is Licensed

- El Dorado County Department of Human Services is a licensed County (Public) Adoption Agency!
- In the State of California, there are 28 Counties that are licensed to provide their own adoption services.



About the Children

- Foster children of all ages are in the child welfare system awaiting permanent homes.
- Parental rights to these children have been terminated by court order.
- The goal is to find a “forever family” for the child.

The 366.26 Process: Planning for the Permanent Plan for the Child

The Adoption Social Worker assesses
Four Permanent Plans
(Permanent to Least Permanent Plan)



Adoption

Legal
Guardianship
w/o
Dependency

Legal
Guardianship
with
Dependency

Long Term
Foster Care



Forever Families

- How do we find families for the children who are needing “forever families”?
 - If a child is already living with a relative or foster family who wants to adopt, the Department will refer the family to an adoption agency for home study.



The Adoption Home Study

- The laws of every State and the District of Columbia require all prospective adoptive parents (no matter how they intend to adopt) to participate in a home study.
- Three purposes
 - to educate and prepare the adoptive family for adoption,
 - to gather information about the prospective parents that will help a social worker match the family with a child whose needs they can meet, and
 - to evaluate the fitness of the adoptive family.



Elements of the Home Study

- Training
- Interviews
- Home Visit
- Health Statement
- Income Statement
- Background Checks
- Autobiographical Statements
- References



The Home Study Report

- Education/employment
- Relationships
- Daily Life
- Parenting
- Neighborhood
- Religion
- Feelings/Readiness for Adoption
- Approval or Recommendation

Common Questions about the Home Study

- On average, the home study process takes three to six months to complete.
- Agencies conducting domestic adoptions of children from foster care do not charge a fee for the home study.



Adoption Assistance Program (AAP)

- Federal subsidies were created by Congress through Public Law 96-272 – the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980.
- These subsidies help to encourage the adoption of special needs children and remove the financial disincentives for families to adopt.

El Dorado County AAP

- We currently have 370 AAP cases
- This means we have 370 families that we provide post adoption services to.



Adoptions Finalized in El Dorado County

- In 2007, we finalized 46 adoptions.
- In 2008, we finalized 53 adoptions.
- In 2009, we finalized 34 adoptions.
- Currently we have 150 children who are in permanent placement. This means there are no identified permanent families for these children.



Private Adoption Agency Reimbursement Program (PAARP)

- Provides one-time compensation to private adoption agencies for the cost of adoptive parent recruitment, home studies and for facilitating the adoptions of special needs children.