

ADOPTIONS IN CALIFORNIA



General Information

1 (800) KIDS-4-US
(916) 651-7465

www.childsworld.ca.gov



TYPES OF ADOPTIONS IN CALIFORNIA

There are a variety of adoptions in California:

- **Agency Adoptions:** Licensed public and private adoption agencies place county dependent or voluntarily relinquished children in homes approved for adoptive placement.
- **Independent (Private) Adoptions:** Biological parents place their children directly with prospective adoptive parents of their choice.
- **Intercountry Adoptions:** Single adults and married couples living in California may adopt certain foreign-born children.
- **Step-parent Adoptions:** Step-parents may adopt the children of their spouses.
- **Adult Adoptions:** Adults may adopt other adults younger than themselves.

A "Directory of Licensed California Adoption Agencies" is available from the California Department of Social Services.

To receive a copy, visit our website at www.childsworld.ca.gov or contact the following:

Children & Family Services Division

Permanency Policy Bureau
744 P Street, M.S. 8-13-66
Sacramento, CA 95814
Telephone (916) 657-1858
Fax (916) 657-3791

CALIFORNIA KIDS CONNECTION PROGRAM

Using the power of the Internet to bring children and families together, the California Kids Connection Program is a registry of children waiting to be adopted and families interested in adopting. The program offers both a secure website (accessible only to California licensed adoption agency personnel) and a public site (accessible to any Internet user). The public site is available to anyone using the Internet at: www.cakidsconnection.com.

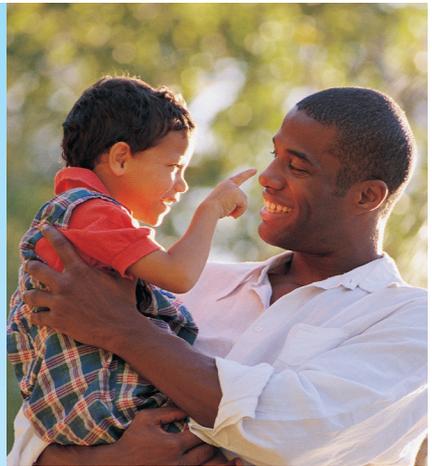
For more information about the website, please contact the California Kids Connection Program Coordinator at: **Family Builders by Adoption** (510) 272-0204.

ADOPTION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Federal subsidies were created by Congress (through Public Law 96-272- the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980) to encourage the adoption of special needs children and remove the financial disincentives for families to adopt. Recognizing that adoptive parents often experience financial difficulty meeting the special needs of children who formerly were placed in



California's foster care system, the State Legislature created the Adoption Assistance Program (AAP). In creating the program, the Legislature intended to benefit children in foster care by providing the security and stability of a permanent home through adoption. Children may receive a federally funded subsidy under Title IV-E or state-funded subsidy.



To apply for AAP, adoptive families must submit a completed Request for Adoption Assistance (AAP 1) form which is provided by their licensed adoption agency. The responsible public agency will determine the child's special needs eligibility for participation in the program.

If the child is deemed eligible, the responsible public agency will negotiate a signed adoption assistance agreement, or a deferred adoption assistance agreement will be executed with the adoptive parents, before the adoption is finalized. A reassessment of the child's needs and family's circumstances is conducted every two years. The amount of financial assistance is determined based upon the special needs of the child and circumstances of the family. An adopted child who receives AAP benefits from California may move anywhere in the world and still receive monthly subsidy payments until the age of 18 or 21, if the child has a mental or physical disability.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Adoptions Services Bureau
(916) 651-8089

INTERSTATE COMPACT ON ADOPTION AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE (ICAMA)

The State of California has joined the Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance (ICAMA). The ICAMA is intended to assist adoptive parents who move across state lines by providing a coordinated administration of medical services and benefits for adopted children in interstate situations. Under this Compact, non-federally eligible children who move out of California may be eligible for Medicaid in their new state of residence. In order to have your benefits continue in a new state of residence, the adoption agency must be notified of any change of address.

Comprehensive Health Care is available for eligible children at a low cost. For information about services and eligibility, contact the California Department of Health Care Services – Children's Medical Services Branch at (916) 327-1400 or visit www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/Pages/cms.aspx website. These programs, available to California residents, do not continue if the family moves out of the state.

- California Children Services offers specialized medical care for children with physical disabilities; and
- Children Health and Disability Prevention Program offers a preventive health program, diagnostic and treatment services for children.



FEES

The licensed public adoption agency or CDSS adoptions district offices require that the adoptive family pay a fee prior to submitting a report to the court. This fee may be deferred, reduced, or waived under certain conditions or type of adoption. Fees for services rendered by licensed private adoption agencies are not regulated by the State and may vary. The adoptive family should ask about the fee schedule when initially contacting the adoption agency.

FEDERAL TAX CREDIT

Adoptive parents may qualify for a Federal tax credit for certain expenses paid to adopt an eligible child with special needs and a State tax credit for adopting a child who was in the custody of a California public child welfare agency. For further information about the Federal adoption tax benefit, contact the Internal Revenue Services at www.irs.gov or 1 (800) 829-1040 and request Publication 968. For further information about the State tax benefit, contact the California Franchise Tax Board at www.ftb.ca.gov or 1 (800) 852-5711 and request information on Credit for Child Adoption Costs – Tax Credit Code 197.

INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT REQUIREMENTS

The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) affects the adoption of any child who has been determined to be either:

- A member of an Indian tribe, or
- Eligible for membership in an Indian tribe and who is the biological child of an Indian tribe member.

If a child comes within the provisions of the ICWA, additional procedural requirements must be met before finalization of the adoption, and the tribe may become involved in the adoption planning.



**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

Non-Discrimination Statement

Federal and state laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, religion, political affiliation, marital status, sex, age, ethnic group identification, sexual orientation, or domestic partnership in the administration of this program.