	STATE OFFICE for SERVICES to CHILDREN and FAMILIES **CLIENT SERVICES MANUAL I** **ISSUED BY:** Program Operations **EFFECTIVE DATE:** January 2, 1996	**NUMBER:** I-G.2.1 **SECTION:** G. Adoption **SUBSECTION:** 2. Oregon Adoption Agencies
SUBJECT: 1. Minimum Standards for Adoptive Homes		

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Interpretation: Manager, Permanency and Adoptions

Approval: Assistant Administrator, Program Operations

REFERENCES: ORS 109.309 (5)(a)(C)

PURPOSE

413-120-300 The purpose of these rules is to establish minimum standards for adoptive homes in Oregon. An adoptive home study, completed or approved by a licensed Oregon adoption agency or the State Office for Services to Children and Families, shall assess the potential adoptive parent's compliance with each of the minimum standards set out in OAR 413-120-310. Nothing in these rules precludes SOSCF or a licensed Oregon adoption agency from utilizing additional standards for adoptions for which the agency provides the legal consent to adopt.

Statutory Authority: HB2004
Stats. Implemented: ORS 109.309 (5)(a)(C)

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR ADOPTIVE HOMES

413-120-310 Basic professional home study investigation requirements and minimum standards for adoptive applicants have been established for the purpose of ensuring to the court that prospective adoptive parents meet minimum standards for adoptive homes as set forth in these rules.

(1) A proposed adoptive home shall have living conditions that promote the health, safety and well-being of an adoptive child or children:

(a) There shall be an on-site observation of the prospective home to verify living, health and safety conditions;

(b) The home site to be evaluated shall be identified with a detailed physical description and a full legal address;

(c) The total number of children to be adopted by prospective adoptive parents shall not exceed their capacity to adequately care for and parent the children.

(A) The director of the licensed Oregon adoption agency working with the applicants, or in the case of a proposed SOSCF adoption home study, the SOSCF branch manager of the county where the potential adoptive parents reside, shall convene a committee to review and approve the adoption

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application of parents who provide full time physical care for eight or more children under the age of eighteen. The findings and recommendations of the review committee shall be included in the home study report.

(B) Adoptive applicants, including stepparents and relatives, who provide full time physical care for eight or more children under the age of eighteen shall not be eligible for waiver of a home study.

(d) Relationship of all members of the household to an adoptive child shall be evaluated.

(2) Proposed adoptive parents and other members of the household shall maintain a lifestyle and have a personal history, that demonstrates the capacity to meet emotional and physical needs of adoptive children.

(a) Married or unmarried prospective adoptive parents should have a relationship of sufficient duration to give evidence of stability, and will be evaluated for their ability to parent adoptive children;

(b) Each adoptive applicant who requests an adoption home study under ORS 109.304(1) and ORS 109.309(5)(a)(C) shall consent to a check of the State Office for Services to Children and Families Child Protection records and a criminal records check. Criminal records information shall also be requested and must be provided for other household members who are over eighteen years old. Criminal record information shall be furnished according to administrative rules adopted by the State Office for Services to Children and Families to implement ORS 181.537 and ORS 181.525.

(c) There shall be financial ability within the household to ensure the stability and financial security of the family and to meet the needs of children to be adopted;

(d) Prospective adoptive parents must demonstrate an understanding of adoption issues and a preparedness for adoptive parenting.

(3) Prospective adoptive parents must evidence that their physical and mental health is sufficient to be able to undertake and follow through with responsibilities of parenthood of adoptive children.

(a) A complete physical and mental health history, and proof of a physical examination performed within one year of date of the request for a home study, shall be required;

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(b) Health history will include review of alcohol and other substance abuse;

(c) The applicant will provide medical releases to the adoption agency necessary to obtain medical information.

Statutory Authority: HB2004
Stats. Implemented: ORS 109.309 (5)(a)(C)