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Office of Safety & Permanency for Children

Authorized Signature

Number: CW-PT-11-001

Issue Date: 03/22/2011

Topic: Adoptions

Transmitting (check the box that best applies):

- New Policy
 Policy Change
 Policy Clarification
 Executive Letter
 Administrative Rule
 Manual Update
 Other: _____

Applies to (check all that apply):

- All DHS employees
 County Mental Health Directors
 Area Agencies on Aging
 Health Services
 Children, Adults and Families
 Seniors and People with Disabilities
 County DD Program Managers
 Other (please specify):

Policy/Rule Title:	I-E.3.6, Legal Permanency, Concurrent Planning, and Use of Permanency Committee I.E.3.6.3, Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement I-G.1.2, Identification and Consideration of Potential Adoptive Resources I-G.1.5, Adoption Placement Selection		
Policy/Rule Number(s):	OAR 413-070-0500 thru 0519 OAR 413-070-0520 thru 0565 OAR 413-120-0700 thru 0760 OAR 413-120-0000 thru 0060	Release No:	
Effective Date:		Expiration:	
References:			
Web Address:	http://www.dhs.state.or.us/policy/childwelfare/manual_1/i-e36.pdf http://www.dhs.state.or.us/policy/childwelfare/manual_1/i-e363.pdf http://www.dhs.state.or.us/policy/childwelfare/manual_1/i-g12.pdf http://www.dhs.state.or.us/policy/childwelfare/manual_1/i-g15.pdf		

Discussion/Interpretation:

These temporary rules are being filed to revise the permanent rules released in December of 2010, regarding permanency and adoption placement planning. The

substantive changes are a result of feedback received during the development of the permanent rules. Following is an overview of the substantive changes of each rule set.

I-E.3.6, Legal Permanency, Concurrent Planning, and Use of Permanency Committee

This rule set is being revised to clarify that individuals identified by the Department as a child's relatives are included in the potential permanency resources to be explored prior to a change in permanency plan. In addition, this rule set clarifies that a Child Welfare Program Manager must approve a decision on behalf of the Department regarding a permanency plan of APPLA, prior to a caseworker making the recommendation to the court. In addition, this rule now clarifies which individuals from the child's team remain during the entire permanency committee and which individuals are excused after their presentation.

I.E.3.6.3, Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement

This rule set is being revised to clarify that only a Child Welfare Program Manager, not a designee, can approve a decision on behalf of the Department regarding a permanency plan of APPLA, prior to a caseworker making the recommendation to the court.

I-G.1.2, Identification and Consideration of Potential Adoptive Resources

This rule set is being revised to clarify the order of preference that must be followed when identifying potential adoptive resources. In addition, I-G.1.2 OAR 413, 120-0760 now allows the Adoption Program Manager to approve an exception to the established order of preference in limited situations.

I-G.1.5, Adoption Placement Selection

This rule set is being revised to clarify the expanded circumstances under which the Central Office Adoption Committee and Adoption Decision Specialist process will be used to make an adoption placement selection. I-G.1.5 is being revised to allow the timelines regarding the adoption committee invitation and notification process to be adjusted by the committee facilitator when agreed upon by the adoption committee members and invited parties.

Implementation/Transition Instructions:

The adoption program staff have developed procedures specific to the process of requesting an exception to the order of preference in the adoption selection process. To access these procedures [click here](#). Please do not refer to the procedure manual for other adoption procedures. It is currently out of date and will be revised following the implementation of OR-Kids.

Revised procedures for a permanency plan of APPLA will be posted on the website on March 23, 2011, which was communicated in the Informational Memorandum posted on March 15th. Web-based training on consideration of an APPLA plan is available through the Learning Center.

Training/Communication Plan:

Updates and more information regarding the exception to the order of preference in identifying prospective adoptive resources will be provided at the Child Welfare Program Manager Meetings.

Staff can also contact the Adoption Program Manager, Adoption Program Assistant Managers, Adoption Placement Specialist, or Legal Assistance Specialists with questions and information on policy interpretation regarding these rules.

The Foster Care Program Manager or Assistant Manager, and Foster Care Coordinators are also available to provide consultation on the APPLA rules and permanency committee changes.

Local/Branch Action Required:

Local office staff responsible for developing plans and making decisions regarding permanency for children are expected to read and review these administrative rules.

Central Office Action Required:

Central Office is expected to respond to policy implementation questions, case consultation, and implementation of continued training opportunities for branch staff.

Field/Stakeholder review: Yes No

If yes, reviewed by: These rules are being filed to incorporate comments received as a result of a Rules Advisory Committee, public comments, and the public hearings process.

The Rules Advisory Committee convened during the rule writing process last fall provided input regarding the need for an exception to order of preference when such an exception is in the best interest of the child. This feedback is being incorporated at this time. The Rule Advisory Committee members will be informed of these revisions and asked for feedback. These rules will be scheduled for review at an upcoming Policy Council. Once filed as proposed permanent rules, a subsequent public hearing will also be scheduled.

Filing Instructions:

If you have any questions about this policy, contact:

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