

Factors Considered When Selecting A Home for Each Child

The following factors are taken into consideration for each child who is available for adoption in determining what type of family would best meet the child's needs.

1. Placement with relatives.
2. Placement with foster parents.
3. Placement with siblings.
4. Special physical and emotional needs of the child.
5. The child's religious preferences.
6. The child's wishes, particularly if the child is age fourteen (14) or older.

More than 90 percent of the children placed by the DHS are adopted by relatives or by their foster parents.

Continued contact with parents or other members of the child's family may be encouraged when considered to be in the best interest of the child.

Adoption Subsidies

Michigan has three Adoption Subsidy programs to assist families who adopt eligible children. These programs provide financial assistance for the costs of the adoption process and raising the child. An **adoption support subsidy** provides a monthly payment for support until the child reaches at least 18 years of age. An **adoption medical subsidy** helps with costs that result from a physical, mental or emotional condition the cause of which existed prior to adoption and are not covered by other insurance. The **nonrecurring adoption expenses program** provides up to \$2,000 reimbursement to adoptive parents for specific expenses of adopting an eligible child.

Federal Tax Credit

Families adopting a child from Michigan foster care may be eligible for a federal tax credit. Additional information is available from the Internal Revenue Service (www.irs.gov).

Services Available After the Adoption is Complete

1. Assistance to families seeking medical subsidy.
2. Assistance to adult adoptees, former siblings, adoptive parents and birth parents requesting information from adoption records.

Fees

DHS does not charge fees for its adoption services.

Legal Representation

Adoptive parents have a right to independent legal representation when adopting a child placed by DHS. Limited reimbursement may be available through the nonrecurring adoption expenses program for adoption of an eligible child.

Adoption Program Statement

For more information please contact your local Department of Human Services.



State of Michigan
Department of Human Services

Quantity: 20,000
Order Cost: \$1,516.65 (\$0.08 each)
Approval: DHS Director

Department of Human Services (DHS) will not discriminate against any individual or group because of race, religion, age, national origin, color, height, weight, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, political beliefs or disability. If you need help with reading, writing, hearing, etc., under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you are invited to make your needs known to a DHS office in your area.

DHS Pub-255 (Rev. 7-09)
Previous edition obsolete.



State of Michigan
Department of Human Services

Adoption Program

Many Michigan children are in need of families and many kinds of families are needed for these children. The focus of the Department of Human Services (DHS) adoption program is to connect foster children who need homes with families interested in adopting them. The DHS delivers adoption services directly through its own staff and through purchase of service contracts with licensed private child care agencies in the state of Michigan.

If you have been thinking about adopting, here is some information about the DHS adoption program.

Geographic Area Served

DHS provides adoption services to all 83 Michigan counties.



The Children the Department Places for Adoption

The adoption program provides services to children in foster care whose parental rights are terminated. While all kinds of children are waiting, many of the children may be older, sibling groups of 2 or more children, minority children, or children with physical, emotional or mental impairments.

Services Provided to Adoptive Applicants

- Orientation to adoption.
- Adoption education.
- Adoptive family assessments.
- Placement assistance.
- Adoption supervision.

Services Provided to Releasing Parent(s)

- Counseling (unless waived) and the options related to the release and its consequences.
- List of adoption support groups.
- DHS Adoption Program Statement.

Eligibility Requirements for Adoptive Applicants

- **Application** — Applicants are required to complete an application.
- **Age** — Applicants must be age 18 or older.
- **Marital Status** — Both single and married persons may apply. If applicants are married, they must both apply.
- **Health** — A medical history and a recent physical examination are required.
- **Safety Checks** — Including fingerprinting and criminal background checks.
- **Family Assessment** — Applicants are required to participate in a family assessment. The assessment will include personal contact with each member of the family and must include a home visit. Some of the factors to be considered are:
 1. Reasons or motivation for adoption.
 2. Family history including emotional stability and compatibility of adopting parents.
 3. Strengths, weaknesses and health status of family members.
 4. Parenting ability including methods of child discipline.
 5. Education and employment history including current financial status.
 6. Adjustment and special needs of own children.



7. History or incidents involving domestic violence, substance abuse or child abuse or neglect involving any family member.
8. The family's attitude toward accepting an adoptive child, including the family's plan to discuss adoption with the child.
9. The family's capacity, and disposition to give an adopted child love, affection and guidance and to create an atmosphere that fosters the religion, racial identity, and culture of an adopted child.
10. Record of any criminal convictions other than minor traffic violations.
11. Three references by non-relatives.
12. Characteristics of the children the family is interested in adopting and the agency's recommendation of the age, sex and characteristics of children best served by the family.