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Child Protective Services

Adoption and Post Adoption Services

Overview

What is Adoption?



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- Adoption is the legal process through which a child joins a family different from his or her birth parents. Adoption is a permanent, lifelong commitment to a child.
- Once adopted, a child has the same legal and inheritance rights as naturally born children.



What is Post Adoption Services?



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- All families of children adopted through DFPS can get post-adoption services. This service is available to families whether or not they receive Title IV-E or state-paid adoption subsidies from DFPS. After a child has been adopted, services are provided to help the child and family:
 - Adjust to the adoption.
 - Cope with any history of abuse of the child.
 - Avoid permanent or long-term removal of children from the adoptive family setting.



Eligible Population



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All families of children adopted through DFPS can access post-adopt services if:

- the adoption is consummated;
- the adoptive parents have requested Post Adoption Services; and
- the child is younger than 18 (when necessary, services may continue for up to 90 days past the child's 18th birthday to ensure an orderly termination of services).



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Post Adoption Service Array

- Community Engagement, Referral, and Service Authorization
- Information and Referral
- Case Management and Service Planning
- Crisis Intervention
- Support Groups
- Parent Training
- Post Adoption Counseling
- Day Treatment Services
- Therapeutic or Specialized Camp
- Intermittent Alternate Care (Respite)
- *Residential Treatment Services
- Other DFPS Approved Services

*Availability of these services is dependent on funding and the individual child and family situation





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Contracted Post Adoption Providers

Regions 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10:

Centers for Children and Families

3701 Andrew Highway
 Midland, TX 79703
 (432) 570-1084 – Main Line
 (432) 570-0027 – Post-Adopt Line
<http://www.centerstx.org/postadoption.php>



Regions 3:

CK Family Services

320 Westway Place, Suite 530
 Arlington, TX 76018-1000
 (817) 516-9100
<https://www.ckfamilyservices.org/programs-and-services/post-adoption>



Regions 6 and 11:

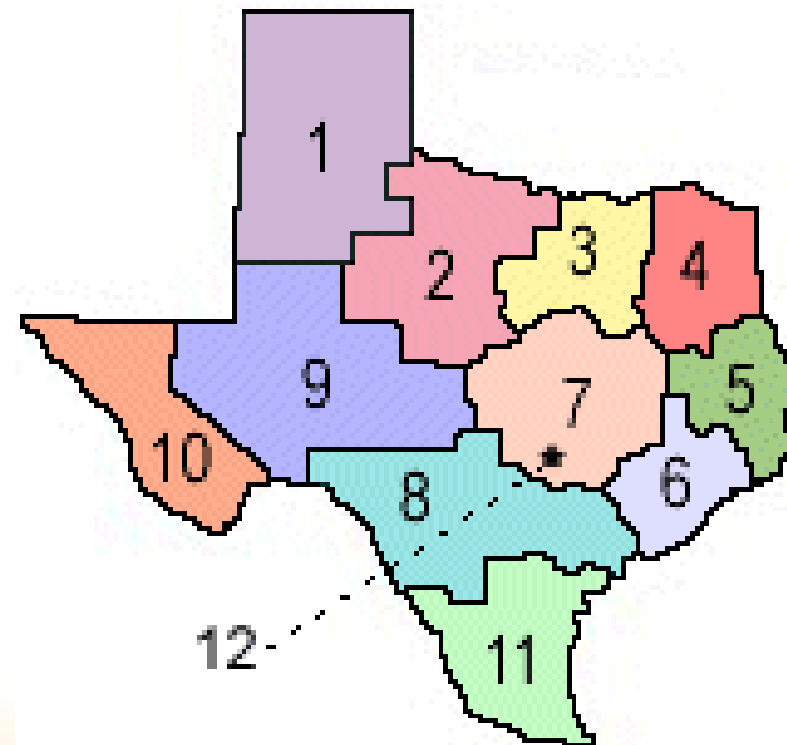
Arms Wide Adoption Services

6925 Portwest Drive, Suite 110
 Houston, TX 77024
 (713) 681-6991, 1-800-460-6298



Arms Wide Adoption Services

500 N. Water Street Suite 604, South Tower
 Corpus Christi, Texas 78410
 361-850-8200, 1-800-460-6298
www.armswide.org



When do families enroll in Post Adoption Services?



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- Families are eligible to enroll the day the adoption is consummated.
- Post Adoption Services is meant to be proactive, preventative services that aids in the continued support of the family and assists in maintaining the adoption.
- Ideally, Post Adoption Services works with the family to provide intense in-home treatment and wrap around services to avoid out of home placement.
- Unfortunately, many families wait until they are in crisis to access services, specifically Residential Treatment Center (RTC) Services for out of home placements.

What does accessing services through Post Adoption look like?



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- The family is referred to or seeks to enroll in Post Adoption Services in their area.
- The provider makes contact and initiates the application and enrollment process.
- A service plan is developed and renewed every 6 months to assess the needs of the family and possible services.

What if a child who has been adopted needs Residential Treatment Services?



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Ideally:

- The family will have been enrolled and already receiving services through the post adoption provider.
- The family will have been working with post adoption to exhaust all efforts to maintain an in-home placement.
- The Case Manager will work with the family to prepare the paperwork needed to begin a placement search.

Family in crisis:

- The family will have to complete the enrollment, assessment, and provide all historical information and efforts to prevent out of home placement in a short period of time.
- The Case Manager will assess the family as best as possible for their efforts and commitment to the child and the plan of reunification.
- The Case Manager will work the family to prepare the paperwork needed to begin a placement search.

What if RTC services has been exhausted through Post Adoption Services?



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- If Post Adoption Services is out of funding for RTC, or if they have exhausted efforts to locate an RTC for a child, a referral can be made to the HHSC RTC Project.
- As a last resort, adoptive families may access residential treatment services through DFPS through policy 6961 Post Adoption Substitute Care. To be eligible for this service the adoptive family must:
 - be residents of Texas;
 - have adopted a child directly from CPS custody;
 - have followed through with all tasks addressed on the service plan developed with the post adoption service provider, to the extent the provider determines appropriate (service plan tasks may include family, group, or individual therapy for the parents or the child); and
 - have exhausted all community resources, their insurance benefits, and available post adoption services.

DFPS Adoption Support



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- DFPS is strengthening the adoption program to better support children and families through the adoption process.
 - National Adoption Competency Mental Health Training Initiative (NTI).
 - In depth, evidence-based training on providing adoption competent services, funded by the Children's Bureau. Currently available at childwelfare.gov.
 - Policy updates and consent to allow for the Post Adoption Providers to contact families.



What can you do?



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- Ask the questions!
 - Ask if the family has been provided with information on post adoption services.
 - Keep brochures for the providers with you.
 - Ensure that every family has reviewed their child's case file and understands the potential needs and how to get help if needed.





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Thank you

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737-249-8363

You may also reach out to adoption.policy@dfps.texas.gov with questions.