



Adoption & Disclosure

*A Guide for Families Adopting
From the Foster Care System in Alaska*

Developed by:

Alaska Center for Resource Families

A Project of Northwest Resource Associates

840 K Street, STE 101, Anchorage, Alaska 99501

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We are stewards of our children's adoption story. It does not belong to us. The definition of stewardship is the "careful management of something entrusted to one's care." The story belongs to the child and they have the right to know their history, all of it.

Quote From **Adoption Learning Partners**
www.adoptionlearningpartners.org

Acknowledgements

This guide was written by Brenda Ursel, Adoption Support Specialist with the Alaska Center for Resource Families, with assistance from Aileen McInnis to address changes and updates in the statewide Office of Children's Services Policy and Procedures regarding disclosure in adoption. This guide was assembled with the assistance and review by Yvonne Hill of State of Alaska Office of Children's Services State Adoption Unit and input from OCS Permanency Staff Dawn Adams, Tara Pickett, Tammy Decker, Carla Cheap, Heather Fink, Jessica Veldstra, Rose Sandhofer, and Emily Sisson. This guide strives to be accurate and up to date. However, policies and procedures may change and practice may be slightly different in your area of the state. In cases of conflicting information, regulations, statutes, and OCS policies and procedures take precedence over the information in this handbook. Direct any questions to your local OCS office.

INTRODUCTION

What is Disclosure and Why this Guide for Families?

As you move toward adoption or guardianship, you will hear about the process of disclosure. *Disclosure* is the sharing of information about a child who is in the child welfare system and is moving from foster care into a more permanent placement such as adoption, foster care or relative placement. Information often cannot be shared during foster care placement because of confidentiality restrictions, but as children move toward adoption, potential adoptive parents need and have the right to more complete information. The State of Alaska has written into its policies what information should be shared with families moving toward adoption. The goal of this guide is to help you understand what information you should be given and when you should receive it. The process of disclosure often depends on you knowing what information you should be receiving.

This guide is aimed at families moving towards accepting placement of a legally free child from the State of Alaska Office of Children's Services (OCS) for the purpose of adoption or those foster families where the permanency goal for the child has been changed to adoption.

How to Use this Guide

This guide is a tool to help families understand what information can be requested from OCS, who is responsible for gathering the information and at what point the information will be provided to the parent. This information is based on the Office of Children's Services Child Protective Services Policy and Procedures Manual *Section 3.15.5 Full Disclosure to Adoption/Guardianship Placements*. These policies are fairly new and all areas of the state are learning to put them into practice. So be patient and persistent. In ideal circumstances, all pertinent information would be readily accessible to families, but that will often not be the case. Sometimes information is lacking or hidden in a case file or was not captured. Sometimes you just won't get the specific information listed in this guide. Sometimes your social worker is new to the process.

If you find yourself frustrated, and asking yourself "why didn't we get that information?", take a breath. Be patient, but be persistent.

Beginning the Process

For pre-adoptive families, the disclosure process should begin before the child ever sets foot into your home. If the child is not an emergency placement into your home, your family may have time to gather information prior to moving the child into your family. Gather as much information as you can regarding the child and his circumstances. This will not only help you better understand and parent the child, but will help the child build a coherent life story that clarifies his history and the events that led him to place he is today. This is not always possible but still is important. The process of gathering a child's story is critical for the health and stability of the youth and your family. It helps you get to know the child and make a commitment to what it is going to take to parent this child to adulthood. Sometimes, families may feel pressure to make the commitment to adoption or guardianship prior to having the necessary information. It is important for families to ask for a disclosure meeting in order to help them make the decision for permanency.

Full disclosure prior to adoption is vital for the success and stability of the family in the days and years to come. However, you will not get this information all at once. Disclosure is not like an instruction manual given to you with the child! This information will come in pieces and often come to you over time. Your job as a potential adoptive parent is to seek out the information you need so you can make decisions about supportive services, resources, needed training prior to finalization of the adoption. You are an active member in gathering the information.

The Language of Adoption Disclosure

The world of child protection, foster care and adoption has a language all its own, filled with terms and acronyms that can be confusing to those new to this world. This section include phrases common to the disclosure process will help you understand and navigate this process with confidence.

Team Decision Making Meeting: The Team Decision Making Meeting, or TDM, is a meeting held prior to each potential placement change for a child who may currently in or coming into the jurisdiction of the Office of Children’s Services. These potential placements may include: initial removal from a child’s birth family, change of foster care placement, and reunification. A TDM can also be requested in order to preserve a placement or for the family to get additional information on a child in order to make a decision for adoption. The goal in each case is to hold a TDM before the child is moved or the day after emergency removal in order to gather all those involved with a family to work jointly on making decisions. (NOTE: In Alaska, not all regions have TDM facilitators.)

Pre-Placement: This refers to the time before the child has moved into your home. If you live in a community that uses TDMs, you will have an opportunity to learn about the needs, behaviors and history of the child coming into your home. If you do not have TDMs in your area, you may have a pre-placement meeting with a caseworker, Guardian ad Litem (GAL) or other team members to get some basic information about the child.

Placement Date: This refers to the official date the child will move into your home. A child must be in a potential adoptive home for at least six months before an adoption can be finalized. While that doesn’t mean that adoption will automatically happen after six month of placement, the placement date is the date that begins the six month countdown.

Adoption Home Study: The adoption home study is a detailed written report and screening of the home and life of prospective adoptive parents prior to allowing an adoption to take place. In the U.S. and in all international adoptions, a home study is required by law. This can take three to six months to finish. The adoption home study requires the prospective adoptive family to gather different documents, answer several questions, and explore their reasons for adopting. Through a series of visits and interviews the home study writer can get a complete picture of who prospective adoptive parents are and what life is like in their family. OCS will not refer a family for an adoption home study until the child has been in the home for at least three months.

Post Home Study: This refers to the period of time when the home study has been completed and approved by the OCS Regional Permanency Specialist and the family is preparing for subsidy and disclosure meetings.

Regional Permanency Specialist (RPS): In each of the five State of Alaska OCS regions, there is a Regional Permanency Specialist who is the OCS worker who signs off on home studies (meaning that it is approved) and helps guide the family toward permanency. The RPS or an adoption worker facilitates the subsidy discussion process.

Finalization: This is the court action that legalizes the adoption. Specifically this is the legal process which transfers custody of a child to the adoptive parents. In a court hearing, an attorney represents the family and presents the case to the judge, resulting in the adoption decree. Finalization is the moment when the adoptee becomes the permanent, legally adopted child of the adoptive parents.

CINA: (Pronounced “China”) CINA is an acronym that stands for Child In Need of Aid. This refers to the petition filed with the court when a child enters the child protection system. When the CINA case is closed, it is referred to as being “dismissed.”

Disclosure Meeting: This meeting should happen after the home study has been approved by the Regional Permanency Specialist and before the Finalization Hearing. During this meeting, families will receive certain disclosure forms and information regarding the child’s physical, emotional, behavioral and educational history, and non-identifying information about the birth family.

Legally Free: This term refers to a situation where a child is legally free for adoption which means that parental rights have been terminated and the child is able to be legally adopted by another family.

Foster Adoptive: Refers to a foster family caring for a child who is not legally free for adoption, yet the family is open and willing to adopt the child if he is unable to go home.

Termination of Parental Rights (TPR): Termination of parental rights is the severing of the parent-child relationship by the state. The parent is no longer the legal parent and no longer holds any legal rights over the child.

ADOPTION DISCLOSURE PROCESS

The Stages of Adoption Disclosure

As you think about disclosure, think about the information you receive about a child. It helps to think of adoption disclosure as a process, not a one-time event. Different information is provided at different times during the process. The disclosure process begins when the child is placed into foster care and ends with the finalization of the adoption at which point the OCS case is closed and the CINA (Child In Need of Aid) case is dismissed. When a child's case is dismissed, the child's records will be sealed for one hundred years and can only be opened with a court order.

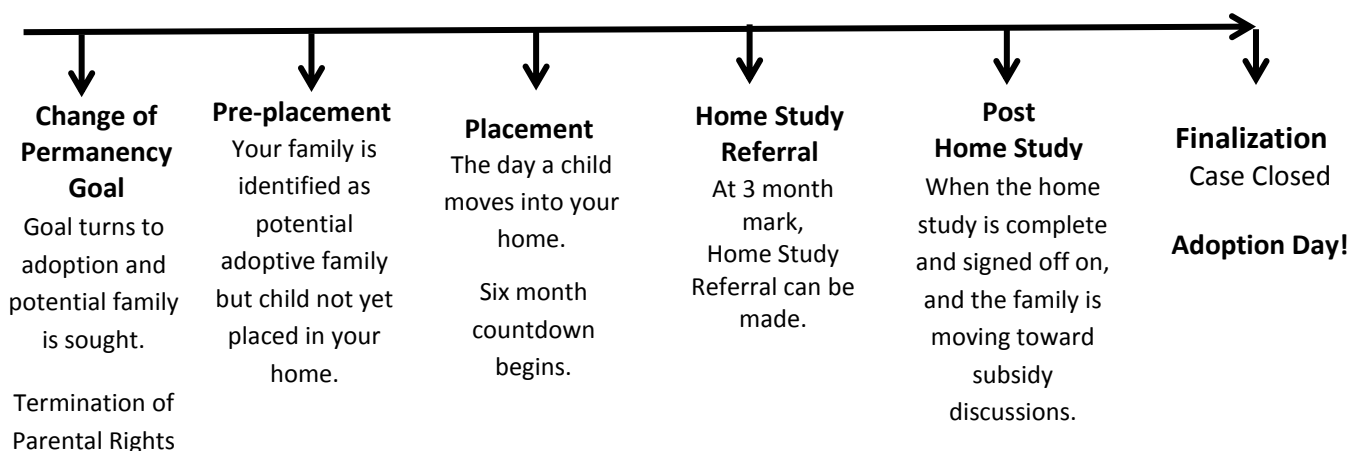
Disclosure is a process, not a one-time event.

There are distinct stages in the adoption process and in the following section, we will discuss the information that can be gathered at some of these different stages. The disclosure process differs for families who are seeking placement of a legally free child and for foster families where the plan has turned to permanency through adoption (foster adoptive).

For Pre-Adoptive Families with Legally Free Child or Youth

For families intending to adopt a legally free youth, the first time you receive information about a child is when you are considering taking placement of a child. The time frame for adoption will vary from situation to situation. The child has to be in your home a *minimum* of 6 month before finalization can take place. You will be receiving and gathering information all during this time.

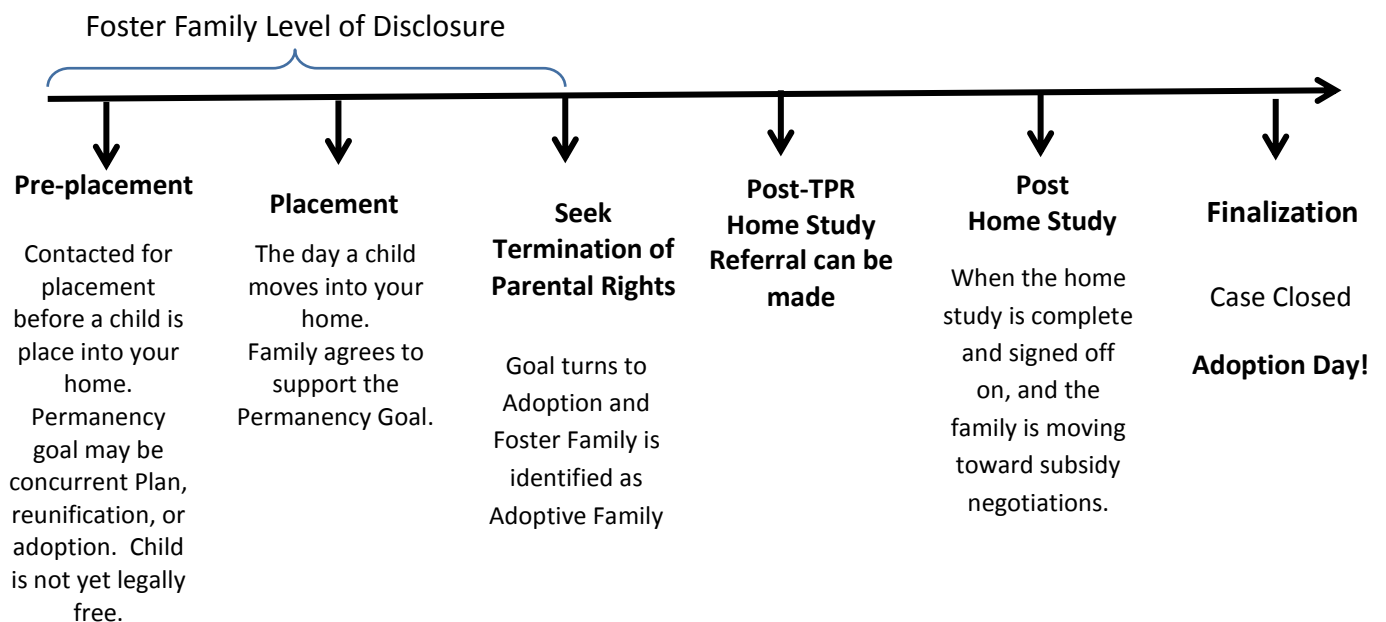
GRAPH 1: *Continuum for Families with Legally Free Child or Youth*



For Foster Adoptive Families with a non-Legally Free Child or Youth

For foster adoptive families, the disclosure process looks a little different. The main difference between foster adoptive families and legally free families is when full disclosure occurs. For foster adoptive families, full disclosure happens later in the process, when the plan turns to adoption. Rarely will a foster adoptive family be provided with full information on the child upon placement. However, a foster adoptive family has the benefit of the knowledge gained through parenting the child every day and from contact with the birth family. Foster adoptive families are also involved in the coordination of services and supports to help the child succeed so they have firsthand experience with the needs and history of the child. They may even have more information than the social worker and what is written in the case file. When the child’s permanency goal is changed to adoption, and termination of parental rights is sought, then the foster-adoptive families can begin to seek a deeper level of disclosure for the child.

GRAPH 2: *Continuum For Foster Adoptive Families with a non-Legally Free Child or Youth*



Let's go through the four main stages of Pre-Placement, Placement, Post-Home Study, and Finalization and look at what you should know about disclosure.

1. Pre-Placement

Remember, the best defense is a good offense. As a potential adoptive parent, be proactive in gathering relevant information prior to accepting placement of a child into your home. The more information you have before the child is placed in your home, the better you can plan to provide for this child.

Ideally, before moving a child into your home, there will be a meeting to discuss the child's needs and history. In many areas in Alaska, this takes the form of a TDM or Team Decision Making Meeting where many of the people working with a child meet to exchange information and make placement decisions.

The decision to adopt is life changing and should not be entered into lightly. Disruptions can devastate children and hurt families. Whenever possible, pre-adoptive parents should have a list of questions to ask prior to taking placement of a child. Ask questions about the child's needs, placement history, why she was removed from her family, behavioral issues, services the child is receiving, peer relationships, family contact requirements, and school performance. It is also helpful to learn of how the child will be introduced to your family and how she will be prepared for the transition to your family.

2. Placement

At the time a child enters foster care, the foster family should receive a child's health and education information and should begin to keep records about the care he receives while in that home. If the child is moving from a foster family to a pre-adoptive family, the current foster family should be prepared to provide this information to the new pre-adoptive family. Ask for this information when a child transitions into your family.

Disclosure is an
ACTIVE Process.
Know what to ask
and when to ask it!

This information should include the most recent information available regarding;

- a. The names and addresses of the child's health and educational providers
- b. The child's grade level performance
- c. The child's school record
- d. A record of the child's immunizations
- e. The child's known medical problems/allergies
- f. The child's medications

Any other relevant health and education information concerning the child determined appropriate to his care may also be included. Many regional OCS offices give resources families a placement packet (sometime referred to as "the red folder") when a child is placed into their family. That packet should

follow the child, so ask for it. Also, talk to the foster family or relative provider about what they know about the child. Foster families often have cared for children for a significant amount of time and may be able to share developmental milestones, pictures, or family history.

Families will also benefit from and are encouraged to attend court hearings relevant to the child's permanency and well-being. These may include some OCS permanency reviews and court hearings. Foster parents should be given notice of these hearings and are allowed to attend (though they may be asked to leave parts of the hearings and reviews that deal with confidential information regarding birth parents.) If you don't know which hearings are most helpful to attend or not sure when the next hearing is coming up, contact the Guardian ad Litem working with your child or your child's social worker.

Specifically For Foster Adoptive Families:

When the Permanency Goal Turns to Adoption: When children come into foster care as a Child In Need of Aid, OCS must attempt to reunify them with their birth parents. The permanency goal is reunification. The law states that when a child has been in foster care for 15 out of the past 22 months, barring "compelling reasons", a petition for termination of parental rights (TPR) must be filed. At this time, the permanency goal may change. Even before this time, the Office of Children's Services may move to a concurrent plan of re-unification and adoption or the permanency goal may change to permanency through adoption. Foster parents may be asked if they would consider adopting. Keep in mind that OCS must consider appropriate relatives as permanent homes as well and Indian Child Welfare Act placement preferences must be pursued if the child is American Indian or Alaska Native.¹

Post TPR Home Study Referral: The home study referral for a foster family who has been identified as a potential adoptive placement is usually made after parental rights have been terminated and when the child has been in your home for at least three months. In some circumstances, a home study may be requested prior to TPR; however, this will be done on a case-by-case basis.

You can find out who the OCS Regional Permanency Specialist for your area is by:

- *Calling your local OCS Office*
- *Contacting the ACRF in your region*

¹ For more information about ICWA foster and adoptive placement preferences and the role of ICWA in permanency for children in custody, go to www.acrf.org/resources/icwa

Post-Home Study

The post-home study time refers to the time between approval of the home study by the Regional Permanency Specialist and the finalization court hearing. This is an important time to get the information you need because after finalization, some records will be closed to you. Disclosure information is gathered by the Protective Services Specialist (the social worker). Within 30 days after the permanency goal turns to adoption, the social worker tries to meet with the birth parents to gather information about the child and family to share with the adoptive parents. If the family is not cooperative or can't be found, the social worker fills out the form to the best of his ability and tries to gather information from the file or the child's record. This information is recorded on the *Descriptive Information Regarding Biological Parents* form.

Prior to the finalization of the adoption, the worker should schedule a formal **Full Disclosure** meeting with your family. This meeting should occur once your family has completed the home study and it has been approved and signed by the Regional Permanency Specialist. Once your home study is signed, ask your worker or Regional Permanency Specialist about scheduling a disclosure meeting. The Full Disclosure meeting will be coordinated between you, the social worker, and the adoption worker. Practices across regions will differ. Some regions have the disclosure meeting as part of the subsidy discussion. Contact the Permanency Specialist for your region for direction as to when this meeting will occur.

During the Full Disclosure meeting, your family will receive a copy of *the Full Disclosure* information form, the *Descriptive Information Regarding Biological Parents*, and other associated documents. There will also be an opportunity to talk and discuss the information with the workers. Take advantage of this time and come prepared with your questions.

Once the information has been reviewed and questions answered, you will be asked to sign the original Full Disclosure Information form. The Full Disclosure meeting must take place prior to the finalization of the adoption. Once the adoption is finalized, and the CINA case closed, the records can only be opened with a court order.

What information will be shared during a disclosure meeting?

The general rule of thumb for what information can be shared with you as the pre-adoptive families is "any information that will help you parent the child should be made available."

However, families need to keep in three things in mind:

1. The Office of Children's Services may not have all the information regarding a child. There is always going to be information that OCS did not know or that they were unable to obtain. They cannot give you what they don't have.
2. Some information regarding birth parents is protected. While full disclosure is essential for the success of an adoptive family, there is some information that will not be revealed. Specific protected health and/or identifying information regarding the birth parents/guardian or a sibling is protected information and will not be disclosed to the pre-adoptive parents.

Protected information DOES NOT include child's birth records, pre-natal exposure to drugs and alcohol, and genetic traits or medical conditions inherited by the child which are all pertinent to the successful parenting of the child. OCS files a court order along with the permanency findings that allows them to share this information with a pre-adoptive family.

3. If the family does not finalize the adoption with the child, the Full Disclosure documents must be returned to OCS. Please remember you will receive confidential information. As a steward of this information, protect the child's story and the hard details of his life from anyone who has no reason to know.

When the information is available, hard copies of the following should be provided to the family for their future reference. Below is a summarized list of the information that can be requested by the prospective adoptive parent. Use this list as a guide to the information you should be gathering during the disclosure meeting. However, be aware that you may find sections of the documentation blank where information is unknown. This is common that some information will be missing at this stage. Be patient and persistent if information is missing and gather as much information as you are able.

1. Child's General Information
 - Demographics
 - Birth Information
 - Developmental Information
2. Child's Health Information
 - Medical Information
 - Behavioral /emotional/mental health information
3. Child's Education Information
 - School Information
 - Independent living skills information/plans, if applicable
4. Out of Home Care Experiences
 - Chronological placement history
 - Reasons for foster care
 - Other critical events in a child's life, chronological
5. Descriptive Information Regarding Biological Parents. This information includes the following:
 - Age of biological parents at time of birth
 - Heritage of biological parents
 - National origin /race of parents
 - Ethnic background/countries of origin
 - Tribal Membership

For a comprehensive list of information that can be disclosed, please go to *Section 3.15.5 Full Disclosure to Adoption/Guardianship Placements* of the **Office of Children's Services Child Protective Services Policy and Procedures Manual**. You can find this manual at the State of Alaska website on the OCS page under *Publications*.

- Medical history of the biological parent and blood relatives
- Blood type
- Childhood diseases
- Allergies
- Medical information about blood relatives
- Schooling of birth parents- grade level completed.
- Physical description of birth parents on the day of child's birth
- Height/weight, color of eyes, hair and skin
- The number of other children born to mother and father
- Whether biological parents were alive at the time of adoption
- Religious preferences of birth parents.
- Special information such as pictures, letters, statements etc.

6. A list of current/and /or recommended Providers and Services with contact information

Other Sources of Information

While the Office of Children's Services is primarily responsible for providing your family with disclosure information, OCS is not your only source of information regarding the child. In most cases, children in OCS have an entire team around them. Most children in State's custody have a CASA or GAL (Guardian Ad Litem). These individuals may know the child better than the social worker and can be a great source of history and pictures.

Medical, mental health and birth records can also provide a wealth of information. As you gather information, take the initiative to contact former schools, teachers and counselors. Ask for releases of information from the social worker to gather additional information directly from professionals who have served your child in the past. The social worker may need to engage the Guardian ad Litem for releases to obtain mental health assessments.

If a child is continuing contact with his birth family, there is an incredible opportunity for pre-adoptive families to ask the birth parent or relative for stories, pictures and early developmental history. Send a disposable camera with the child and ask permission to take pictures during the visits. Though it is not always possible, do your best to forge a relationship with the birth family. If you are able, ask them to give your child an "adoption blessing." This can be a letter or video where they give the child permission to love you and become part of your family. Contact the Alaska Center for Resource Families for information and guidance.

Engage your
child's team.
Information may
be found in
several different
places.

Finally, as you review the placement history, take note of former foster families. Ask if they are willing to be contacted. Former foster families can be a gold mine of information and may have pictures and stories they are willing to share.

4. Finalization

By the time your family reaches finalization, you should have all the information available to you. While the child's OCS file is sealed at the time of finalization, it is still possible to get records directly from former providers. Prior to finalization, ask your social worker for releases of information for your child's former service providers, such as doctors, therapists and other health care professionals.

On the day of Finalization (or "Adoption Day") the only paperwork you should be concerned about is the Adoption Decree. Ask your attorney if you will receive the signed decree at the Adoption Hearing or it will be provided in the weeks following the hearing.

Once you have the new birth certificate and adoption decree, it is important to remember to go to the Social Security office and update the changes in your child's information. Many families request a new Social Security number for their child, while others keep the same number but change the name. This is important because if the child's name and social security number do not match, it can result in the rejection of tax returns and Permanent Fund Dividend applications.

Keeping it all together

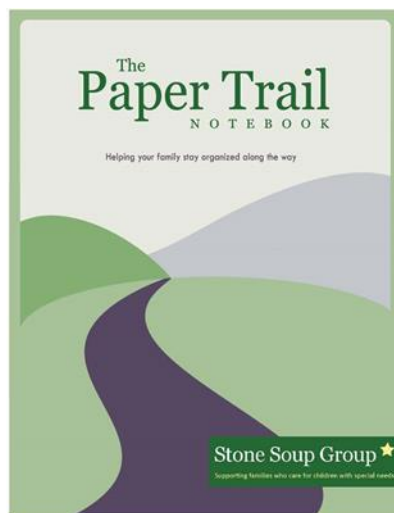
Gathering the information is one thing, but keeping it all organized is another. Youth from tough beginnings can have literally volumes of information and history to keep straight. From clinical assessments to subsidy and administrative documents, it can be tough to keep it all organized. Look for ways to keep and stay organized.

I finally got it all together then I forgot where I put it!

For any child with complex or special needs, a parent can contact the organization **Stone Soup Group** in your area or call toll free 1-877-786-7327 or check out their website at www.stonesoupgroup.org. Stone Soup Group is an Alaska statewide parent advocacy group who can provide parents with a Paper Trail Note Book, that helps keep track of a child's information, history and services. Instead of having multiple binders or folders for each provider, the Paper Trail Notebook keeps everything in one place.

Families can also purchase a three ring binder and design their own note books, tailored to individual needs of their child. Binder tabs can be purchased to help keep essential information organized for easy reference and access. Recommended tabs can include subsidy information, medical, placement history, mental health, birth family history, birth certificate, tribal information, resources, treatment plans and legal documents.

Finally, any type of scanning and filing information program on your home computer can keep your files in accessible format if you take the time to label and organize them. Copying information to a thumb drive or other storage device for back up and keeping it in a secure location is also recommended.



www.stonesoupgroup.org

1-877-786-7327

AFTER FINALIZATION

Post-Adoption Support

Even with full disclosure (or information that is lacking), successful adoptive families understand that no amount of information can fully prepare parents for some of the challenges they may face. Your child's early trauma is going to manifest differently as the child grows and matures. Parenting children from hard places is a journey filled with joy and challenges. While finalization marks the end of your family's involvement with and support from the Office of Children's Services, there are many services and supports still available to you.

The Alaska Center for Resource Families (ACRF) provides a comprehensive array of services to support your family "post-adoption". Our post-adoption services include offer ongoing support, referrals, training, crisis management, and support groups to help your family thrive in the midst of challenging circumstances. A list of services and trainings can be found online at www.acrf.org or you can sign up to receive our newsletter *Training Tracks* and email announcements. ACRF has four regional offices across the state and you will find contact information listed on the back of this publication.

Strengthening Your Forever Family: A Step by Step Guide to Post-Adoption is a great resource, published through a cooperative effort between the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption and Jockey Being Family. This resource is available at ACRF and is also available on at www.acrf.org under *Publications*.

All families need support at one time or another. Children from hard places have learned maladaptive skills that kept them alive through very difficult circumstances. They do not give up these skills just because they are placed into a healthy family and that can present quite a challenge for parents. Remember you are not alone. There are lots of other foster adoptive parents and professionals who are willing to partner with you along the way.

“When choosing professionals, it’s important to make sure they understand the needs of adopted children and their families. Ask these questions of licensed counselors and therapists before working with them...”

Excerpted from **Strengthen Your Forever Family: A Step by Step Guide to Post-Adoption**

ATTACHMENT A: *Sample Disclosure List Form Adapted From the ACRF PARKA Project (Preparation for Adoption Readiness for Kids in Alaska).*

In the following pages, we have included a sample disclosure listing of questions that is used in the ACRF PARKA Project, which prepares and support families for adopting legally free children from the foster care system. This form is used for initial disclosure for placement of a legally free child with the intent to adopt. The questions give you an example of what kinds of questions might be helpful to ask when making the decision about saying yes to a pre-adoptive placement. This form is not an official OCS disclosure form, but a list of questions we use in our PARKA Project. Remember, OCS may not have all this information prior to placement, but the questions give you a guide to what might be helpful to get to know a child and make a good decision for your family.



A project of Northwest Resource Associates

ATTACHMENT A: Sample Disclosure List Form Adapted From the Alaska Center for Resource Families **PARKA Project** (Preparation for Adoption Readiness for Kids in Alaska).

For Initial Disclosure: Please attach a current picture

General Information:

Child's Name: _____

Date of Birth _____

Race/Ethnicity _____ Cultural Identity/Religion _____

Personality/ Strengths:

1. Describe the child's personality.
2. List the child's best qualities.
3. What are the child's favorite foods/restaurants?
4. What skills, hobbies and talents does the child have? What does he/she love to do?
5. What are the child's favorite sports or activities?
6. List the after school/ sports or other activities he/she is currently or has been involved in?
7. What are the child's favorite toys and/or movies?
8. What is his/her weekly routine? Appointments, wake up, bedtime/ rituals?

Child's Health Information:

- 9 Is there prenatal exposure to alcohol or drugs? If yes, please list.
- 10 Does the child have any known allergies?
- 11 Has the child had any hospitalizations/surgeries: Please list.
12. Is the child taking any medications?
13. Last medical Exam Date: _____ Dr. _____
Dental Exam Date: _____ Dr. _____
Hearing Date: _____ Dr. _____
14. What assessments have been completed? Neuropsych, Mental Health, FASD ?
- Date: _____ Dr. _____
- Date: _____ Dr. _____
- Date: _____ Dr. _____

Birth Family Information:

15. Is there birth family history of mental health issues, poverty, or domestic violence?
16. Did the child suffer neglect, sexual abuse, physical, or emotional abuse? How long and by whom?
17. Does he/she have siblings, how many, ages and whereabouts? Does he/she have contact with siblings?

18. Where are the birth parents? Do they have consistent contact with the child? What is the expected contact level post adoption?

Behavioral/Emotional Information:

19. Do he/she have an aggressive, sexualized or fire setting behaviors?

20. Describe behavior challenges/triggers/frequency.

21. How is he/she with pets? Has he/she had pets?

22. Is he/she safe with younger children?

23. If neglect is the issue, is the child parentified? Has he/she learned to meet own needs or does he/she trust adults to help?

24. What services are currently being provided and by whom? (i.e. individual therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy?)

Education History:

25. What school is he/she currently attending?

26. What grade is he/she in and who is the teacher?

27. How does the child do in school?

28. Is he/she on an IEP? Is he/she working at grade level?

29. What services (if any) are being provided through the school district?

30. How are the child's peer interactions? Does he/she have friends? How does he/she get along with others?
31. What are the child's favorite subjects, extracurricular activities, or special interests?

Out-of-Home Care Experiences:

32. Why did the child come into custody? How old was he/she and how was he/she removed, (i.e. by police, in the night time)?
33. What is the placement history of the child? Why was he/she moved from placement?
34. Does the child know why he/she is in foster care? How has he/she been prepared for adoption?
35. Who is the child's Guardian ad Litem?

Native/Cultural Connections:

36. What is his/her tribal affiliation? Who is the tribal representative?
37. Is he/she enrolled in their tribe?
38. If the child is Alaska Native, what is the tribe's involvement? If applicable, will the tribe support an adoption by a non-Native family?
39. What is the child's current involvement in cultural activities?

Alaska Center for Resource Families

www.acrf.org

Adoption and Post Adoption Support and Services

Fairbanks

815 Second Avenue, Suite 202

Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

1-907-479-7307 or

1-800-478-7307

FAX: 1-907-479-9666

acrf@nwresource.org

Anchorage

840 K Street, Suite 101

Anchorage, Alaska 99501

1-907-279-1799 or

1-866-478-7307

FAX: 1-907-279-1520

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