

Ohio Adoption Guide

A Handbook for Prospective Adoptive Families



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Welcome!

Welcome to Ohio's adoption community. This book is designed to assist individuals and families interested in learning more about the adoption process. Please use this adoption guidebook as a resource for your beginning steps in researching the adoption process.

In Ohio, more than 2,500 children are waiting to be adopted, and more than 1,000 children are joined with their adoptive families each year. These adoptive families include foster caregivers, kinship providers and biological relatives. Many available children still are waiting for adoptive families. Adoption can be a reality for many of you interested in adding a child to your family. For more information, please call your local public children services agency or private adoption agency listed at the end of this guide.

We wish you all the best as you begin your adoption journey!



Adoption Basics

What Is Adoption?

Adoption is a legal process that creates a life-long relationship between a parent and child who are not biologically related. Once the adoption of a child is approved by a court, the adoptive parents will receive an adoption decree and birth certificate, acknowledging that the child is a legal family member with all the rights and privileges of a birth child.

Who Can Adopt?

There are many kinds of adoptive families. The most important requirement for adoption is that the family must be able to provide a loving, stable and secure family for a growing child. Adoptive parents:

- Can be married, single, divorced or widowed
- May or may not have other children
- Must be at least 18 years old
- Can be renters or home owners
- Must have a stable income
- Can have any level of education

Is Adoption Right for Your Family?

Adoption is a decision for the entire family. It requires all family members to talk about what adoption might be like and how adopting a child or children will affect the family's current structure. Adoption may include adopting a biological relative whose parents are no longer able to provide care. Relative adoptions can keep a child out of foster care and in contact with birth relatives.

Since most of Ohio's waiting children are in foster care and often are adopted by their foster parents, your family may want to speak with others who have adopted children from the foster care system. Your family also may want to consider becoming foster parents. Families thinking about becoming an adoptive/foster family also should consider available community resources that may support their decision to adopt and/or foster a child.

What Prospective Adoptive Families Should Consider

The North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC) recommends that prospective adoptive families examine themselves through a self-assessment process. The following is an excerpt from an NACAC's manual called "How to Adopt."

"Children don't need perfect parents, just one or two individuals willing to meet the unique challenges of parenting and make a lifetime commitment to caring for and nurturing their children. One of the advantages of special needs adoption is that almost any responsible adult can become an adoptive parent. Prospective parents do not have to be rich, married, under 40, highly educated, or home owners to adopt. Far more important are personal characteristics like:

- a belief in adoption and an ability to commit;
- patience and perseverance;
- a good sense of humor and talent for keeping life in perspective;
- a love of children and parenting;
- the ability to roll with unexpected changes, stresses and challenges;
- the ability to deal with rejection without taking it personally;
- the ability to accept without judging;
- tolerance and understanding for your child's conflicting feelings and your own;
- an awareness that healing doesn't come quickly, all wounds cannot be healed, and your child may not attach to your family;
- the strength to be consistent and set limits;
- a willingness to learn new parenting techniques and advocate for your children's educational and medical needs; and resourcefulness.

“If you have all or most of those qualities, then ask yourself these questions:

- Do I clearly understand why I want to adopt?
- If applicable—Do my partner and I work as a team? Are we both committed to adoption?
- Does my lifestyle allow me the time necessary to meet the needs of a special child?
- Am I willing to change my lifestyle to accommodate the needs of a special child?

“Think carefully about your answers to these questions. Take the time to make a good decision, because it is a decision you and your adoptive child will live with for life.

“In addition, before seriously contemplating special needs adoption, prospective parents must honestly evaluate their desire and ability to successfully parent children who have troubling pasts and uncertain futures. Many children who become available for adoption at older ages have not received the early care that kids need to develop a strong sense of security, trust and self-esteem. Many also suffer from conditions caused by past trauma, or prenatal exposure to alcohol or drugs. Children whose backgrounds include traumatic experiences, abuse and/or neglect may exhibit symptoms of distress, such as:

- aggressiveness
- attachment disorders
- attention deficits and hyperactivity
- bed wetting
- defiance
- depression
- impulsiveness
- learning disabilities
- low self-esteem
- lying
- poor peer relationships/social skills

“Fortunately, through therapy, medication, and consistent care, children can also find ways to overcome or at least better cope with many of these challenges.

“Most children put their new adoptive parents through a period of testing to see if the parents are truly committed or just waiting for an excuse

to desert the child as others have done before. To improve your chances of successfully adopting a child who has special needs, be prepared to offer a home environment that combines extra love, support and attention with clear structure and consistent limit-setting. Parents should also be ready to actively advocate for their child at school, with peers and within the community. It can be immensely helpful for parents to have a support network or belong to an adoptive parent support group.”¹

Researching Adoption Agencies

This guidebook does not discuss infant adoptions, adoptions using private attorneys or international adoptions. It does, however, discuss the process of adoption through a public children services agency (PCSA) or a private agency that works with the PCSA in completing adoptions from foster care.

Choosing an Adoption Agency

Many of the children available for adoption through PCSAs are classified as children with special needs. “Special needs” is a phrase used to identify children who have a harder time finding families willing to adopt them. “Special needs” is used to describe factors such as:

- Age
- Background
- Physical, mental and emotional challenges sometimes found among adoptable children
- Children who are part of a sibling group being placed together for adoption
- Children who are members of a minority group.

The first step in starting the adoption process is to contact your local PCSA or a private adoption agency. Each county has its own PCSA, and there are numerous private adoption agencies throughout the state. Contact information for both public and private agencies can be found at the end of this guide.

¹ Retrieved from the North American Council on Adoptable Children's website at nacac.org/howtoadopt/howtoadopt.html (2013).

Questions to Ask When Researching Agencies

When you call the agency of your choice, the staff will ask you brief questions about whether you are interested in becoming a foster and/or adoptive parent. Because many of Ohio's foster parents adopt children in their care, you can be licensed as a foster parent and approved as an adoptive parent in one process. Questions you may want to ask agencies as you decide which one to work with include:

- How many and what type of children has the agency placed in the past few years?
- How many children does the agency have legally available for adoption?
- What are the characteristics of those children?
- How does the agency work with other public and private agencies both in Ohio and outside Ohio?
- How long, on average, must one wait for a child?
- What are the agency's policies concerning adoption paperwork, educational classes and visits?
- Are adoption subsidies available, and how do I apply for them?
- What are the agency's homestudy requirements, and how do I start a homestudy?
- Have any of the agency's adoptions been disrupted in the past five years?
- Does the agency offer services to adopted children and families after finalization?
- What is the agency's policy toward applicants who do not accept the first child offered to them?
- What services—including parenting classes, support groups, activities, access to therapy and counseling, and respite care—will the agency provide before and after the child is placed in your home?
- Can the agency provide references from parents who recently adopted from the agency?

The Adoption Process

Attending Informational Meetings and Orientations

Agencies generally will invite people who have expressed an interest in adopting a child to an informational meeting and/or orientation. This meeting is designed to provide potential adoptive families with information about the homestudy process, pre-service training, and general information about the pre-placement and the finalization processes. The agency also may discuss supportive services available in the county.

Pre-Service Training

You will be asked to participate in educational sessions to learn more about the children who are available for adoption, as well as to determine your strengths as an adoptive parent. These educational sessions will explore adoption from every point of view and describe the needs of children found within the foster care system. The training will give the prospective adoptive parent realistic expectations about adoption and confidence in the ability to parent a waiting child. Topics discussed during pre-service include:

- The adoption process
- Child development and how it is impacted by abuse and neglect
- Separation and loss that children experience
- Understanding behaviors and dealing with child behaviors and attachment
- Defining diversity and cultural issues
- Adoption issues that relate to the child, birth family and adoptive family
- Community resources and the importance of advocating for your child

The Homestudy

The homestudy is a process of education and self-evaluation. It is a time for you and your assessor to look at your readiness to adopt, as well as identify special parenting abilities that you may offer to an adopted child. The process allows the adoptive family to look at its family structure and support system. During the

homestudy, adoptive parents also will explore their beliefs, attitudes and coping skills. Your caseworker will meet with you and everyone living in your home to discuss the adoption process. Through a series of group and individual meetings, you will learn more about the kind of children you might best parent.

Topics discussed during the homestudy include the following:

- Motivation for wanting to adopt
- Your life experiences and history
- Your marriage or relationship with a significant other
- Your ability to support your family financially
- Your health
- Your support system

When you complete the application for adoption, you will be assigned an assessor who will work with your family to complete the homestudy process. The homestudy process can take up to six months to complete. However, many adoptive families may complete the homestudy process sooner.

During the homestudy process, your assessor is required to review certain documents. Such documents include:

- Physical examination of applicants and medical statements for household members
- Financial statement, including proof of income
- Verification of marriage or divorce
- Criminal background checks for household members over the age of 18
- Safety audit of the home
- Records of involvement with a PCSA

Families will receive notification when their homestudy has been completed and approved. In some cases, when the agency is not able to approve a homestudy, the family can meet with the assessor and, if needed, the agency, to discuss why the family was not approved and possible alternative options.

Matching Children and Families

Your assessor and agency will take into account the characteristics of children that you can best parent and the characteristics of children your homestudy approves you for when considering placement matches for your family. During a matching conference, adoption professionals consider the strengths, characteristics and needs of a waiting child, and compare those with the strengths and characteristics of waiting families. The length of time it takes to be matched with a child largely depends on the special characteristics of children that you are willing and able to parent. A family who demonstrates the ability to parent a child with many special needs may not wait long for placement.

When Your Agency Matches a Child with Your Family

When your assessor identifies a child who may be a good match for your family, he or she will contact you to share detailed information about the child's background. Such background information will include all known, non-identifying information about the child, including:

- Birth parents and other relatives
- Medical, emotional and psychological history
- Past and current developmental issues
- School history if applicable
- Placement history

Adoptive families also will receive the Child Study Inventory, which documents the child's interests, talents, traits and history, as well as the known history of the birth parents. Your assessor will give you time to think about the information and will be able to assist you in deciding whether to adopt the child. Your assessor also will recommend that you discuss the child's information with your pediatrician or other professionals from whom you or your child may need services. If you decide to proceed with the match, your assessor will arrange a time for your family and the child to meet.

Prior to this meeting, the assessor may share your *Welcome Book* with the child, if your agency has requested that your family complete one.

This book, prepared by the prospective adoptive family, includes pictures and information about your family. Many adoptive families choose to include pictures of family members, family pets, the child's room, extended family members and friends. The *Welcome Book* helps in the preparation for the child's first meeting with his or her potential adoptive family.

Before the first meeting, your assessor also will help prepare you and your family. The assessor will give you and your family suggestions for who should be involved in the first meeting and what types of activities may be most comfortable for the child.

Following the first meeting, your assessor will arrange for a series of additional pre-placement visits in order for you, the child and the rest of the adoptive family to get to know one another. Pre-placement visits will be discussed with the foster parents or facility where the child resides in order to ensure the visitation schedule is acceptable to all involved parties. After the pre-placement visits, the child will join your family in your home.

Placement of the Child into an Adoptive Home

Once the child is placed with your family, you become responsible for the child's care. Your assessor will continue to visit with your family for a period of time after the adoptive placement. These visits are designed to assist you in connecting your new family with services and to discuss potential issues that may arise. After a minimum period of six months, your family will be eligible to petition the court to finalize the adoption.

Final Steps to Adoption

Legalizing an Adoption

Legalizing an adoption involves a short hearing at a probate court, during which adoptive parents are granted permanent legal custody of their adopted child. Following the adoption hearing, adoptive parents will work with their assessor and/or attorney to obtain the child's new birth certificate and final decree of adoption.

Post-Finalization Services

A variety of formal and informal services are available to members of the adoptive family, either as a group or as individuals. Support groups, counseling, respite care, medical services, educational resources and a variety of community resources may be available to help meet ongoing needs or new needs that may have surfaced after the adoption finalization. Although types and locations of adoption services vary over time, you always can contact your child placement agency or any other adoption agency for assistance in locating services in your area.

Financial Support that May Be Available

Title IV-E Adoption Assistance

Title IV-E Adoption Assistance was established by the federal government to provide financial support to encourage the adoption of eligible children with special needs. The concept of "special needs" often seems confusing. The term "special needs" describes circumstances that prevent or delay a child from being placed into an adoptive home. Federal law states that when determining a child's special needs, a state must make several determinations. This includes determining whether a specific factor or condition exists that would prevent the child from being placed with the adoptive parents if not for adoption assistance.

Title IV-E Adoption Assistance provides financial assistance to eligible families based on the child's special needs at the time of the adoptive placement. The benefits may include monthly adoption assistance payments and Medicaid eligibility.

The PCSA in the child's county is responsible for administering and determining eligibility for this program. If the child is not in the custody of a PCSA, then the PCSA in the adoptive parent's county determines whether the child meets the eligibility requirement. Contact your PCSA to learn more about Title IV-E Adoption Assistance.

State Adoption Maintenance Subsidy Program

The State Adoption Maintenance Subsidy (SAMS) program is a financial program designed to help adoptive families with expenses related to their adoptive child's ongoing therapy or treatment needs. SAMS provides monthly subsidy payments to families adopting children who (1) meet the criteria for "special needs" as defined by the Ohio Administrative Code and (2) are not eligible for Title IV-E Adoption Assistance.

The family's income is taken into consideration when determining eligibility for the SAMS program. The child may also be eligible for medical coverage under Medicaid.

The PCSA in your county administers and determines eligibility for SAMS. Contact your adoption assessor to learn more about the State Adoption Maintenance Subsidy program and to obtain an application.

Non-Recurring Adoption Expense Subsidy

Nonrecurring adoption expenses are one-time expenses directly related to the legal adoption of a child with special needs. This program provides payment or reimbursement for expenses such as supervision of placements prior to the adoption finalization, attorney's fees, court costs, reasonable costs of transportation, and food for the child and/or adoptive parent(s) when necessary to complete the placement or adoption process. Payment or reimbursement may also be available for costs associated with the adoption homestudy, health and psychological examinations related to the homestudy, and reasonable and necessary adoption fees.

Post-Adoption Special Services Subsidy

The Post-Adoption Special Services Subsidy (PASSS) program is for all adoptive families (except stepparent adoptions) in Ohio whose children may be experiencing adoption-related difficulties or issues that were preexisting, but

were not apparent at the time of adoption. Such services are available to prevent the disruption of an adoption. PASSS services may include:

- Medical services
- Psychological services
- Psychiatric services
- Residential treatment
- Respite care

For more information regarding the PASSS program, please contact your county's PCSA.

Adoption Tax Benefits

The federal government and the state of Ohio allow families who adopt to receive a non-refundable tax credit for the year in which the adoption was legalized. Many foster and adoptive parents are eligible for tax benefits.

The State Adoption Tax Credit is a tax credit for the expenses incurred in the legal adoption of a minor child (less than 18 years of age). The State Adoption Tax Credit is limited to \$1,500 per child adopted during the taxable year. Any unused amounts can be carried forward for up to five years. For additional information on the State Adoption Tax Credit, please contact the Ohio Department of Taxation at 1-800-282-1780 or tax.ohio.gov.

The Federal Adoption Tax Credit is a nonrefundable tax credit for qualifying expenses paid to adopt an eligible child. Families have five years to use the entire credit. For additional information on the Federal Adoption Tax Credit, see Internal Revenue Services (IRS) Topic 607 "Adoption Credit and Adoption Assistance Program" and IRS form 8839 "Qualified Adoption Expenses," or contact the IRS at 1-800-829-1040 or irs.gov.

Building Families through Adoption

Being in a family offers all of us a chance to grow as humans, to reach our greatest potential. Parenting can bring out the best in us. The need to care for and nurture another human, especially a child, is a strong human emotion and impulse.

On any given day, more than 12,500 children in Ohio are living with foster families or in other out-of-home placements. More than 2,500 children's biological parents have had their rights terminated, and most of those children are residing in foster care settings as they wait for adoptive families. These children, who are in the custody of local children service agencies, may be dealing with issues of past abuse, neglect and/or dependency. They need permanent families.

Each year in Ohio, more children become legally available for adoption than Ohio agencies are able to place. We hope that you want to become an adoptive parent. If you decide that adoption is not right for your family, however, you still can help find families for Ohio's waiting children. For instance, you could:

- Distribute adoption recruitment materials within your church and community
- Talk with other people about adoption and Ohio's waiting children
- Pass this guidebook on to someone who may be interested in adoption.

Common Adoption Terms

Adoption: The creation, by a court of competent jurisdiction, of parental rights and responsibilities between a child and an adult. This includes the termination of all parental rights and responsibilities that have not yet been surrendered or terminated by court order between other persons and the child.

Adoption agency: An entity that provides one or more of the following services: homestudy services for potential adoptive parents, counseling for birth parents, placement services for children in need of adoption, post-placement/pre-legalization services and post-legalization/finalization services.

Adoption triad: The three primary groups of people affected by the adoption: the birth parents, the child and the adoptive parent(s).

Attachment: An emotional bond between two people that lasts over a long period of time and helps each person reach his or her potential and feel secure and connected.

Birth parent: A biological parent of an adopted person.

Closed adoption: An adoption in which birth and adoptive families have no legal connection to each other.

Finalization: See "Legalization."

Foster-adopt placement: In general, the term used to describe "legal risk placements" (see definition) and/or the adoption by foster parents of a child who is currently placed in their home with an initial plan of reunification with birth parents, but whose plan has been changed to the goal of adoption, after diligent attempts at reunification have failed. In Ohio, many agencies offer a combined homestudy process so the applicant becomes a licensed foster parent and is approved to adopt at the end of the process.

Guardian ad litem: A guardian appointed by the juvenile court to represent and protect the best interest of a child who is alleged or adjudicated to be abused, neglected or dependent.

Homestudy: A process by which potential foster and adoptive parents educate themselves about the challenges and rewards offered through caring for foster and adopted children, and assess their own skills, life experiences and strengths to determine the type of children they could best parent.

Identifying information: Information such as name, address, place of employment or Social Security number, which could significantly help one individual locate another individual.

Independent adoption: An adoption facilitated by an attorney.

Interstate adoption: The adoptive placement of a child (or children) who is a resident of one state with an adoptive family who resides in a different state.

The Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC): A uniform law enacted by states and jurisdictions of the United States that establishes orderly procedures for the placement of children across state lines and for assigning responsibilities for those involved in placing children.

Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance (ICAMA): An interstate compact that formalizes cooperation among party states and provides standardized procedures for arranging for medical assistance and services for adopted special needs children and their families when a state adoption assistance agreement or a federal adoption assistance agreement is in effect.

Legalization: Also called “finalization,” the legal act that establishes a legal family connection between the adopting person and the adopted person. Usually done in a courtroom setting, it grants rights and responsibilities to the adoptive parent and child equal to those rights and responsibilities granted to families created by birth.

Legally free for adoption: A child is legally free when the parental rights of birth or legal parents have been terminated.

Legal risk placement: A placement of a child with a family who is interested in adopting the child, even though the child placed is not legally free. The placement family usually is both a certified foster family and an approved adoptive home. The risk is that the parents’ rights may not be terminated, and the court may order the child to be returned to the parent(s) or a suitable relative. The benefit is that this type of placement decreases the number of placements a child may have.

Lifebook: A record of the child’s life, which helps identify events in the child’s past, including what happened while in agency care. It includes a chronological listing of important events and relationships in the child’s life, and may include photographs.

Loss: The emotional and psychological state experienced when someone temporarily or permanently is separated from someone or something to which they have an emotional attachment or need. All loss causes emotional trauma, though the degree varies.

Medicaid: A type of medical insurance provided through the state, using combined federal and state funds, that most children who are considered to have special needs are entitled to receive. This can be used in conjunction with the adoptive family’s medical insurance.

Multi-Ethnic Placement Act (MEPA): A federal law enacted in 1994 and amended in 1996 that prohibits an adoption agency from delaying or denying the placement of any child on the basis of race, color or national origin.

Non-recurring costs: One-time expenses incurred by a person adopting a child, such as travel, legal and homestudy-related costs. These are frequently reimbursable through federal and local funds when adopting a waiting child.

Open adoption/Openness: A wide continuum of adoption options that recognize the child’s connection to both the birth family and adoptive family; usually involves an agreement made by the birth and adoptive parents to share information, or to have ongoing contact. In Ohio, these agreements are legal but non-binding.

Parent support groups: Formal or informal groups of adoptive parents and potential adoptive parents coming together to share information and resources. They often offer friendship, emotional support and recreational activities for adoptive family members. Support groups form for a variety of reasons, usually based on a shared interest or characteristic.

Post Adoption Special Services Subsidy (PASSS): A unique subsidy program designed to assist Ohio families whose children may be experiencing adoption-related difficulties or issues after the finalization of their adoption.

Photo listings: Published photographs and descriptions of waiting children that are used by agencies and individuals to recruit potential families.

Post-finalization services: Services provided or arranged by a local agency to support, maintain and assist an adopted child, adoptive family or birth parent any time after an adoption is finalized.

Respite care: Services designed to provide temporary relief of child-caring functions. These services may include paid individuals who provide child care within the home or outside the home.

Special needs: A need or circumstance that may be a barrier to placement or adoption, such as emotional or physical disorders, age, race, inclusion in a sibling group, a history of abuse, or other factors.

State Adoption Maintenance Subsidy Program: A state-funded adoption subsidy program intended to make permanent homes possible for children with special needs. This subsidy is negotiated on a case-by-case basis and is frequently granted if a child with special needs is ineligible for the federal Adoption Assistance program.

Surrender: Also known as “relinquishment,” the voluntary termination of parental rights by a legal parent.

Termination of parental rights: The legal severing of ties between a parent and his or her child.

These parental rights and responsibilities may be voluntarily surrendered by the parent or, if the parent is proven unable to meet the child’s long-term needs, may be severed involuntarily through the court system.

Title IV-E Adoption Assistance: Created by the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980, these programs provide federal financial support for children who are described as having special needs who are adopted. In addition to a monthly monetary payment, children who are “IV-E eligible” are entitled to a state medical card and certain services under the federal Title XX program. (See “state adoption subsidy” for information on state financial programs.)

Triad: See “Adoption triad.”

Public Adoption and Foster Care Agencies

Adams County Children Services

300 North Wilson Dr.
West Union, OH 45693
(937) 544-2511

adamscountychildren.org

Allen County Children Services

123 W. Spring St.
Lima, OH 45801-4305
(419) 227-8590

allencsb.com

Ashland County Dept. of Job and Family Services

15 W. Fourth St.
Ashland, OH 44805
(419) 282-5000

ashlandjfs.org

Ashtabula County Children Services

3914 “C” Court
P.O. Box 1175
Ashtabula, OH 44005-1175
(440) 998-1811

help-a-child.com

Athens County Children Services

P.O. Box 1046
Athens, OH 45701
(740) 592-3061

athenschilchildrenservices.com

Auglaize County Dept. of Job and Family Services
12 N. Wood St., P.O. Box 368
Wapakoneta, OH 45895
(419) 739-6505

Belmont County Dept. of Job and Family Services
310 Fox Shannon Pl.
St. Clairsville, OH 43950
(740) 695-1074
belmontcountyohio.org

Brown County Dept. of Job and Family Services
775 Mt. Orab Pike
Georgetown, OH 45121
(937) 378-6104

Butler County Children Services
300 N. Fair Ave.
Hamilton, OH 45011
(513) 887-4055
butlercountychildrenservices.org

Carroll County Dept. of Job and Family Services
95 E. Main St., P.O. Box 219
Carrollton, OH 44615-0219
(330) 627-7313
carrollcountyjfs.com

Champaign County Dept. of Job and Family Services
1512 S. U.S. Highway 68, Ste. N100
Urbana, OH 43078-0353
(937) 484-1500
champaigndjfs.org/fcs

Clark County Dept. of Job and Family Services
1345 Lagonda Ave., P. O. Box 976-A
Springfield, OH 45501-1037
(937) 327-1700
clarkdjfs.org

Clermont County Dept. of Job and Family Services
2400 Clermont Center Dr., Ste. 106
Batavia, OH 45103
(513) 732-7173
clermontforkids.org

Clinton County Dept. of Job and Family Services
1025 S. South St., Ste. 300
Wilmington, OH 45177
(937) 382-5935
co.clinton.oh.us/childrens_services/adoption

Columbiana County Dept. of Job and Family Services
7989 Dickey Dr., Ste. 2
Lisbon, OH 44432
(330) 420-6600
columbianacountyjfs.org

Coshocton County Dept. of Job and Family Services
725 Pine St.
Coshocton, OH 43812
(740) 622-1020
coshoctonjfs.org

Crawford County Dept. of Job and Family Services
224 Norton Way
Bucyrus, OH 44820
(419) 563-1570
crawfordcountyjfs.org/

Cuyahoga County Dept. of Job and Family Services
3955 Euclid Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44115
(216) 432-3390
cfs.cuyahogacounty.us/

Darke County Dept. of Job and Family Services
631 Wagner Ave.
Greenville, OH 45331
(937) 548-3840

Defiance County Dept. of Job and Family Services
6879 Evansport Rd., Ste. A
Defiance, OH 43512
(419) 782-3881

Delaware County Dept. of Job and Family Services
140 N. Sandusky St., Second Fl.
Delaware, OH 43015-1789
(740) 833-2300
delawaredjfs.org/

Erie County Dept. of Job and Family Services
221 W. Parish St.
Sandusky, OH 44870
(419) 626-6781
eriecountychildrenservices.com

Fairfield County Dept. of Job and Family Services
239 W. Main St.
Lancaster, OH 43130
(740) 653-4060
fcjfs.org

Fayette County Dept. of Job and Family Services
133 S. Main St.
Washington Court House, OH 43160
(740) 335-0350

Franklin County Children Services*
855 W. Mound St.
Columbus, OH 43223
(614) 341-6060
childrenservices.franklincountyohio.gov

Fulton County Dept. of Job and Family Services
604 S. Shoop Ave., Ste. 200
Wauseon, OH 43567
(419) 337-0010

Gallia County Children Services
83 Shawnee Ln.
Gallipolis, OH 45631
(740) 446-4963

Geauga County Dept. of Job and Family Services
12480 Ravenwood Dr., P.O. Box 309
Chardon, OH 44024
(440) 285-9141
geaugajfs.org

Greene County Children Services
601 Ledbetter Rd.
Xenia, OH 45385
(937) 562-6600
co.greene.oh.us

Guernsey County Children Services
274 Highland Ave.
Cambridge, OH 43725
(740) 439-5555
guernseycountycs.org

Hamilton County Dept. of Job and Family Services
222 E. Central Pkwy.
Cincinnati, OH 45202-1225
(513) 946-1000
hcjfs.org

Hancock County Dept. of Job and Family Services
7814 County Road 140, P.O. Box 270
Findlay, OH 45839
(419) 424-7022
hancockjfs.org

Hardin County Dept. of Job and Family Services*
175 W. Franklin St., Ste. 150
Kenton, OH 43326-1972
(419) 675-1130
co.hardin.oh.us

Harrison County Dept. of Job and Family Services
520 N. Main St., P.O. Box 239
Cadiz, OH 43907-0239
(740) 942-3015

Henry County Dept. of Job and Family Services
104 E. Washington St., P.O. Box 527
Napoleon, OH 43545
(419) 592-0946
henrycountyohio.com

Highland County Children Services
1575 N. High St., Ste. 100
Hillsboro, OH 45133
(937) 393-3111

Hocking County Children Services
(South Central Ohio Dept. of Job and Family Services)
389 W. Front St.
Logan, OH 43138
(740) 385-4168

Holmes County Dept. of Job and Family Services
85 N. Grant St., P.O. Box 72
Millersburg, OH 44654-0072
(330) 674-1111

Huron County Dept. of Job and Family Services
185 Shady Lane Dr.
Norwalk, OH 44857-2373
(419) 668-8126
huroncountydjfs.org

Jackson County Dept. of Job and Family Services
25 E. South St.
Jackson, OH 45640-1638
(740) 286-4181
jacksoncountyjfs.com

Jefferson County Dept. of Job and Family Services
125 S. Fifth St.
Steubenville, OH 43952-3090
(740) 264-5515
jcdjfs.com

Knox County Dept. of Job and Family Services
117 E. High St.
Mount Vernon, OH 43050-3401
(740) 397-7177
co.knox.oh.us

Lake County Dept. of Job and Family Services
177 Main St.
Painesville, OH 44077
(440) 350-4000
lakecountyohio.gov

Lawrence County Dept. of Job and Family Services
1100 S. Seventh St., P.O. Box 539
Ironton, OH 45638-0539
(740) 532-3324
lawrencecountydjfs.com

Licking County Dept. of Job and Family Services
74 S. Second St., P.O. Box 5030
Newark, OH 43058-5030
(740) 670-8999
lickingcountyjfs.com

Logan County Children Services
1855 S.R. 47 West
Bellefontaine, OH 43311
(937) 599-7290
co.logan.oh.us

Lorain County Children Services
226 Middle Ave.
Elyria, OH 44035
(440) 329-5340
childrenservices.org

Lucas County Children Services
705 Adams St.
Toledo, OH 43604
(419) 213-3200
lucaskids.net

Madison County Dept. of Job and Family Services*
200 Midway St.
London, OH 43140
(740) 852-4770
co.madison.oh.us/djfs/adoption.html

Mahoning County Children Services
222 W. Federal St., 4th Fl.
Youngstown, OH 44503
(330) 941-8888
mahoningkids.com

Marion County Children Services
1680 Marion-Waldo Rd.
Marion, OH 43302-7489
(740) 389-2317
marionkids.com

Medina County Dept. of Job and Family Services
232 Northland Dr.
Medina, OH 44256
(330) 722-9300
mcjfs.us

Meigs County Dept. of Job and Family Services
175 Race St., P.O. Box 191
Middleport, OH 45760-0191
(740) 992-2117
meigsdjfs.net

Mercer County Dept. of Job and Family Services
220 W. Livingston St., Ste. 10
Celina, OH 45822-1791
(419) 568-5106
mercercountyohio.org/jfs

Miami County Children Services
510 W. Water St., Ste. 210
Troy, OH 45373
(937) 335-4103
miamicountykids.org

Monroe County Dept. of Job and Family Services
100 Home Ave.
Woodsfield, OH 43793-1234
(740) 472-1602
monroecountyohio.com

Montgomery County Dept. of Job and Family Services
3304 N. Main St.
Dayton, OH 45405
(937) 225-4155
mcoho.org

Morgan County Dept. of Job and Family Services
155 E. Main St., Rm. 009
McConnelsville, OH 43756-1299
(740) 962-3838

Morrow County Dept. of Job and Family Services
619 W. Marion Rd.
Mt Gilead, OH 43338
(419) 947-9111
jfs.morrowcountyohio.gov

Muskingum County Children Services
205 N. Seventh St., P.O. Box 157
Zanesville, OH 43701
(740) 455-6710
muskingumkids.org

Noble County Dept. of Job and Family Services
46049 Marietta Rd.
Caldwell, OH 43724
(740) 732-2392
ncdjfs.org/fcs

Ottawa County Dept. of Job and Family Services
8043 W. S.R. 163, Ste. 200
Oak Harbor, OH 43449
(419) 898-3688
co.ottawa.oh.us

Paulding County Dept. of Job and Family Services
252 Dooley Dr.
Paulding, OH 45879
(419) 399-3756

Perry County Children Services
526 Mill St.
New Lexington, OH 43764
(740) 342-3836

Pickaway County Dept. of Job and Family Services
110 Island Rd., P.O. Box 610
Circleville, OH 43113
(740) 474-7588
pickawayjfs.org

Pike County Children Services
525 Walnut St.
Waverly, OH 45690-1165
(740) 947-5080

Portage County Dept. of Job and Family Services
449 S. Meridian St.
Ravenna, OH 44266-1208
(330) 296-2273

Preble County Dept. of Job and Family Services
1500 Park Ave.
Eaton, OH 45320-8680
(937) 456-1135

Putnam County Dept. of Job and Family Services
1225 E. Third St.
Ottawa, OH 45875
(419) 523-4580
putnamcountyohio.gov

Richland County Children Services
731 Scholl Rd.
Mansfield, OH 44907
(419) 774-4100
richlandcountychildrenservices.org

Ross County Children Services
(South Central Ohio Dept. of Job and Family Services)
475 Western Ave., Ste. B, P.O. Box 469
Chillicothe, OH 45601-0469
(740) 773-2651

Sandusky County Dept. of Job and Family Services
2511 Countryside Dr.
Fremont, OH 43420-9987
(419) 334-8708
sanduskycountydjfs.org

Scioto County Children Services
3940 Gallia St.
New Boston, OH 45662
(740) 456-4164
sciotocsb.com

Seneca County Dept. of Job and Family Services
900 E. C.R. 20
Tiffin, OH 44883
(419) 447-5011
senecadjfs.org

Shelby County Dept. of Job and Family Services
227 S. Ohio Ave.
Sidney, OH 45365
(937) 498-4981
shelbycountyjfs.org

Stark County Dept. of Job and Family Services
221 Third St. S.E.
Canton, OH 44702
(330) 451-8789

Summit County Children Services
264 S. Arlington St.
Akron, OH 44306-1399
(330) 379-9094
summitkids.org

Trumbull County Children Services
2282 Reeves Rd. N.E.
Warren, OH 44483
(330) 372-2010
trumbullcsb.com

Tuscarawas County Dept. of Job and Family Services
389 16th St. S.W.
New Philadelphia, OH 44663
(330) 339-7791
tcjfs.org

Union County Dept. of Job and Family Services
940 London Ave., Ste. 1800, P.O. Box 389
Marysville, OH 43040-0389
(937) 644-1010

Van Wert County Dept. of Job and Family Services
114 E. Main St., P.O. Box 595
Van Wert, OH 45891
(419) 238-5430

Vinton County Dept. of Job and Family Services
(South Central Ohio Dept. of Job and Family Services)
30975 Industrial Park Dr.
McArthur, OH 45651
(740) 596-2584

Warren County Children Services
416 S. East St., Third Fl.
Lebanon, OH 45036
(513) 695-1546
co.warren.oh.us/childrenservices/

Washington County Children Services
204 Davis Ave.
Marietta, OH 45750
(740) 373-3485
<http://www.wcdjfs.org/>

Wayne County Children Services
2534 Burbank Rd.
Wooster, OH 44691
(330) 345-5340
waynecsb.org

Williams County Dept. of Job and Family Services
117 W. Butler St.
Bryan, OH 43506
(419) 636-6725

Wood County Dept. of Job and Family Services
1928 E. Gypsy Lane Rd., P.O. Box 679
Bowling Green, OH 43402-0679
(419) 352-7566
woodcountyjfs.com

Wyandot County Dept. of Job and Family Services
120 E. Johnson St.
Upper Sandusky, OH 43351
(419) 294-4977

* Agencies marked with an asterisk can give out adoption information but do not complete adoptive homestudies as part of their services.

Private Adoption Agencies

Access for Youth, Inc.
1320 Woodman Dr., Ste. 120
Dayton, OH 45432
(937) 424-8815

Adolescent Oasis, Inc.
201 Riverside Dr. Ste. 1B
Dayton, OH 45405
(937) 228-2810

Adopt America Network
3100 W. Central Ave. Ste. 225
Toledo, OH 43606
(800)246-1731
adoptamericanetwork.org

Adoption by Gentle Care
370 S. Fifth St., Ste. 100
Columbus, OH 43215
(614) 469-0007
adoptionbygentlecare.org

Adoption Circle
400 S. Fifth St., Ste. 304
Columbus, OH 43215
(614) 237-7222
adoptioncircle.org

Adoption Connection
8487 Ridge Road
Cincinnati, OH 45236
(513) 489-1616
adoptioncincinnati.org

Adoption Dreams, LLC
312 Walnut St. Ste. 1600
Cincinnati, OH 45202
(513) 762-7616

Adoption HomeStudy Services of Ohio
358 Edna St.
Alliance, OH 44601
(330) 829-9400
homestudyohio.com

Adoption Link, Inc.
512 Dayton St.
Yellow Springs, OH 45387
(937) 767-2466
adoptionlink.org

Adoption Professionals, LLC
2758 Erie Ave., Second Fl.
Cincinnati, Ohio 45208
(513) 321-2229

Adoption S.T.A.R.
433 W. Loveland Ave.
Loveland, OH 45140
(513) 631-6590

Adriel School, Inc.
414 N. Detroit St.
West Liberty, OH 43357
(937) 465-0010
adriel.org

Agape For Youth, Inc.
2300 S. Edwin Moses Blvd., Ste. 140
Dayton OH 45417
(937) 439-4406
agapeforyouth.com

All God's Children International
4100 Executive Park Dr., Ste. 20
Cincinnati, OH 45241
(513) 886-7183

America World Adoption Association Ohio, Inc
51 Benton St
Pataskala, OH 43062
(800) 483-3369
awaa.org

Applewood Centers, Inc.
10427 Detroit Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44102
(216) 696-5800
applewoodcenters.org

Bair Foundation, (The)
275 Martinel Dr.
Kent, OH 44240
(330) 673-6339, (800) 543-7037
bair.org

Beech Acres
6881 Beechmont Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45230
(513) 231-6630
beechacres.org

Beech Brook
3737 Lander Rd.
Pepper Pike, OH 44124
(216) 831-2255
beechbrook.org

Bellefaire Jewish Children's Bureau
22001 Fairmount Blvd.
Shaker Heights, OH 44118
(216) 932-2800
bellefairejcb.org

Bethany Christian Services
665 E. Dublin Granville Rd.
Columbus, OH 43229
448-2885
bethany.org

Brightside Adoption Connection, LLC
118 W. Streetsboro St., Ste. 88
Hudson, OH 44236
(800) 745-2198
brightsideadoption.com

Buckeye Ranch, Inc. (The)
5665 Hoover Rd.
Grove City, OH 43123
(614) 384-7700
buckeyeranch.org

Building Blocks Adoption Service, Inc.
52 Public Sq.
Medina, OH 44258
(330) 725-5521
bbas.org

Caring for Kids, Inc.
650 Graham Rd., Ste. 101
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221
(330) 928-0044
www.cfkadopt.org

Catholic Charities Diocese of Toledo
1933 Spielbusch Ave.
Toledo, Ohio 43604
(419) 244-6711, ext. 448

Catholic Charities Regional Agency
319 W. Ravenwood Ave.
Youngstown, OH 44511
(330) 744-3320

Catholic Charities Corporation dba Parmadale
6753 State Rd.
Parma, Ohio 44134
(440)845-7700

Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley
922 W. Riverview Ave.
Dayton, OH 45402
(937) 223-7217, (800) 300-2937

Choice Network, Inc.
693½ High St.
Worthington, OH 43085
(866) 989-1466
choicenetworkadoptions.com

Choosing Hope Adoptions
616 N. Limestone St.
Springfield, OH 45503
(937) 471-2954
choosinghopeadoptions.org

Christian Children's Home of Ohio
2685 Armstrong Rd., P.O. Box 765
Wooster, OH 44691
(330) 345-7949
ccho.org

CommQuest Services, Inc.
dba Community Services of Stark County
625 Cleveland Ave. N.W.
N. Canton, OH 44702
(330) 455-0374
communityservicesofstark.org

ENA, Inc.
415 Glensprings Dr., Ste. 201
Springdale, OH 45246
(513) 771-9600

European Adoption Consultants, Inc.
12608 Alameda Dr.
Strongsville, OH 44149
(440) 846-9300

Family and Community Services
705 Oakwood St., Ste. 221
Ravenna, OH 44266
(330) 297-7027

Focus on Youth
8904 Brookside Ave.
West Chester, OH 45069
(513) 644-1030, (800)873-6576
focusonyouth.com

Forever Home Adoptions, Inc.
16255 Chatman Dr., Ste. 104
Strongsville, OH 44149
(440) 879-8174
foreverhomeadoptions.com

House of New Hope, Inc.
8135 Mt. Vernon Rd.
St. Louisville, OH 43071
(740) 345-5437

House of Samuel, Inc.
420 N. Eighth St.
Cambridge, OH 43725
(740) 439-5634

Inner Peace Homes, Inc.
136 ½ S. Main St., P.O. Box 895
Bowling Green, OH 43402
(419) 354-6525

Keeping Kids Safe
417 N. Main St.
Findlay, OH 45840
(567) 525-4520

Kids Count Too, Inc.
1616 E. Wooster St., Ste. 3
Bowling Green, OH 43402

Life Start., Inc.
142 N. High St.
Gahanna, OH 43230
(614) 478-5448

Lighthouse Youth Services, Inc.
401 E. McMillan St.
Cincinnati, OH 45206
(513) 221-3350

Mended Reeds
700 Park Ave.
Ironton, OH 45638
(740) 532-1613

Mid-Western Children's Home
4585 Long Spurling Rd.
Pleasant Plain, OH 45162
(513) 877-2141

National Youth Advocate Program
1801 Watermark Dr., Ste. 200
Columbus, OH 43215
(614) 487-8758

NECCO, Inc.
415 Glensprings Dr., Ste. 201
Cincinnati, OH 45246
(513) 771-9600

Northeast Ohio Adoption Services
5000 E. Market St., Ste. 26
Warren, OH 44484
(330) 856- 5582
noas.com

Oasis Therapeutic Foster Care Network, Inc.
34265 S.R. 681 E.
Albany, OH 45710
(740) 698-0340

Open Arms Adoptions
876 Middlebury Rd.
Kent, OH 44240
(330)697-4751
openarmsadopt.com

Ohio Guidestone
202 E. Bagley Rd.
Berea, OH 44017
(440) 234-2006
ohioguidestone.org

Options for Families and Youth
5131 W. 140th St.
Brook Park, OH 44142
(216) 267-7070
ofycares.org

Pathway Caring for Children
4895 Dressler Rd. N.W., Ste. A
Canton, OH 44718
(330) 493-0083, (800) 838-7284

Private Adoption Services, Inc.
3411 Michigan Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45208
(513) 871-5777, (888)-231-3339
privateadoptionsservice.com

Providence House
2037 W. 32nd St.
Cleveland, OH 44113
(216) 651-5982

Res-Care Ohio, Inc. dba ResCare Youth Services
8228 Mayfield Rd., Ste. 6B
Chesterland, OH 44026
(440) 477-9246

Sojourners Care Network
605 ½ W. Main St.
McArthur, OH 45651
(740) 596-1117

Specialized Alternatives for Families & Youth
10100 Elida Rd.
Delphos, OH 45833
(419) 695-8010, (800) 532-7239
safy.org

Spirit of Faith Adoptions
3315 Centennial Rd., Ste. A2
Sylvania, OH 43560
(419) 843-5355

Synergy Family Foster Care Inc.
769 E. Main St., P.O. Box 875
Chillicothe, OH 45601
(740) 776-6636

Twelve of Ohio, Inc. (The)
619 Tremont Avenue SW
Massillon, OH 44647
(888) 513-8706
the12inc.org

UMCH Family Services
1033 High St.
Worthington, OH 43085
(614) 885-5020
umchohio.org

Village Network (The)
2000 Noble Dr.
Wooster, OH 44691
(330) 202-3800

Youth Advocate Services
825 Grandview Ave.
Columbus, OH 43215
(614) 258-9927

Notes



John R. Kasich, Governor
State of Ohio

Cynthia C. Dungey, Director
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

Office of Communications
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