



## Permanency Support and Preservation

Based on the competencies identified in the *Adoption Competency Curriculum*, the following check list and coaching tips were developed to help guide discussions regarding the realities of adoption and are intended to support the work of practitioners.

### Practitioner Check List

- ✓ Provide, during family preparation and assessment, information regarding permanency support and preservation services available within the state, as well as who provides the services.
- ✓ Engage families in developing an individualized plan for family support.
- ✓ Ensure families understand the funding sources and resources for all possible services for their families.
- ✓ Discuss and describe the permanency support and preservation services families and children request most often. Help parents understand the ongoing needs of children/youth who have experienced trauma.
- ✓ Help families understand adoption developmental stages and survival behaviors and their effects on adoption preservation.
- ✓ Help families understand and view crisis as a normal, predictable part of the adoption process.
- ✓ Provide families with information and tools to help them during a crisis. Explain the importance of having a contingency plan to support stabilization of the family during the time of crisis.
- ✓ Support families as they adjust to adoption. Encourage families to take the time to discuss adoption disruption and dissolution and their impacts on children/youth, parents and other family members.

### Coaching Tips for Supervisors

- Provide to staff a current resource list of available services across the state. Ensure staff is familiar with service providers and their specialties.
- Ensure staff is helping families to develop empowerment skills and the ability to network with community-based resources that offer support to families—area churches, schools, and community centers.
- Provide to staff a package of resources and funding sources for permanency support and preservation services. Review the list of funding sources and resources with staff frequently.
- Track the type and frequency of services provided by contracted providers/or those delivered by state agencies. Have some knowledge of national statistics about service delivery from research/literature. Search for evidenced-informed services to share with staff.
- Ensure staff provides families with information about services and needed training necessary to fully support them during the adoption process and after adoption.
- Ensure staff assists families in connecting with parent support groups. Provide information regarding local support groups where there are no or minimal support groups, provide information regarding creating adoption support groups.
- Ensure staff has referral and resource packages available for families before the adoption that contain contact information; develop mentoring families and assign during the preparation and assessment phase.
- Assist staff in developing solution-focused strategies that empower the family to seek support early, utilize peer support, educational groups, and specialized clinical support.

# Permanency Support and Preservation

The following websites provide additional information on permanency support and preservation services:

**Adoption Support and Preservation Services: A Continuing Public Interest.** Author National Resource Center for Adoption

<http://www.nrcadoption.org/wp-content/uploads/Adoption-Support-Preservation-A-Continuing-Public-Interest-with-Surveys2.pdf>

**Finding and Using Postadoption Services.** Author Child Welfare Information Gateway

[https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/f\\_postadoption.cfm](https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/f_postadoption.cfm)

**Parenting After Adoption.** Author Child Welfare Information Gateway

[https://www.childwelfare.gov/adoption/adopt\\_parenting/](https://www.childwelfare.gov/adoption/adopt_parenting/)

**Post-Adoption Services: Meeting the Mental Health Needs of Children Adopted from Foster Care.** Author North American Council on Adoptable Children

<http://www.nacac.org/adoptalk/postadoptpaper.pdf>

**The California Evidenced-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare**

<http://www.cebc4cw.org/search/topic-areas>