



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
CHILDREN'S ADMINISTRATION
Specific Office

Date

Name and Mailing Address

TO: Prospective Adoptive Parent(s)

Washington state law requires the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) to provide information to pre-adoptive parents on the limitations of the adoption support program at least six months in advance of finalizing the adoption of a child who has been in the Department's custody. The law requires that you receive the following information about the limitations of the adoption support program:

Monthly Cash Payments

Like any parent, adoptive parents are financially responsible for the needs of their children. The program supplements parents' and community resources to assist in covering the ordinary and special needs of the child. The extent of assistance is determined through discussion and negotiation between the adoptive parents and the Adoption Support Program staff. The amount a family can receive as a monthly cash payment is limited to a negotiated amount that cannot exceed 80% of the maximum foster care maintenance payment the child would receive if the child were in a foster family home.

One-Time Payments

The Adoption Support Program offers a lump sum or one-time payment when a child has an extraordinary need requiring immediate attention. The one-time amount received is decided through discussion between the adoptive parents and the Adoption Support Program staff. One-time payments are rare. Considerations are individualized.

Residential Placement or Group Care

The law does not permit DSHS to pay for the residential placement or group care to a child not in its custody. Adopted children receive the same services, including foster care placement, to the same extent as any child in the general population. Adoption Support Program staff will refer adoptive parents to their local DSHS/Children's Administration to discuss what services are available.

Accessing Mental Health Services

Adoption Support offers assistance with individual therapy. Individual therapy means treatment focused on child’s needs, behaviors, and interaction with family.

In addition to this letter, you are receiving the link to the booklet titled “Post Adoption Services Questions and Answers.” The booklet is available from an adoption social worker, an adoption support consultant, and this website:

<https://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/adoption-and-adoption-support/adoption>

Adopted children have access to other mental health services available to any child in the general population. Information is available at the DSHS Children’s Mental Health web page:

<https://www.dshs.wa.gov/mental-health-and-addiction-services>

Eligibility for mental health services, the nature of the services, and funding are subject to change. To find out what services are currently available, contact your adoption support program consultant at 1-800-562-5682. For crisis situations, call your local 24-hour crisis line. If a life-threatening emergency exists, call 911.

Availability of Mental Health Services and Assistance with Funding

Families report many challenges in obtaining mental health services for their children whether birth or adopted. Some challenges include cost of services exceeding available family resources; availability of mental health providers in certain areas and a lack of providers who have the expertise to address foster care/adoption issues. The Adoption Support Program provides limited mental health services funding. Talk to your regional Adoption Support Program Manager about the current availability of mental health services funding.

We/I received this document and we/I have access to the Post Adoption Question and Answer booklet.

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