

**CLINTON COUNTY JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES
FOSTER CARE PROGRAM
POLICY FOR FOSTER TO ADOPT NOTIFICATION**

Clinton County Job and Family Services has established the following policy outlining the procedures pertinent when notifying foster caregivers of the adoption process when a foster child placed in the foster home becomes available for adoption.

A. Clinton County Job and Family Services shall notify foster caregivers if and when a foster child placed in their home becomes available for adoption. The notification shall be in writing and shall explain that the foster caregivers shall be given consideration as the agency must consider giving preference to an adult relative over a non-related caregiver when determining a placement for a child provided that the relative can best meet the needs of the child. Further, the foster parents will be informed that a child shall only be placed into an adoptive home which meets the child's best interest and special needs, based on, but not limited to the information contained in the child study inventory, child's caseplan and adoptive/foster family homestudy. **In determining the best interest of a child, the agency shall give consideration, regardless of geographic location, to all of the following:**

1. All adult relatives of the child who have expressed an interest in adopting the child and meet all relevant state child protection standards unless the agency determines that the placement is not in the child's best interest.
2. Placing siblings together, unless it is not in the best interest of one or more members of the sibling group.
3. The child's foster caregiver who has expressed an interest in adopting the child. **Unless the agency determines that the placement is not in the best interest of the child.**
4. Approved adoptive families.
5. The placement preferences of the birth parent pursuant to Rule 5101:2-48-13 of the Administrative Code.

B. **When a foster caregiver expresses an interest in pursuing an adoptive placement, the agency will provide the foster parents with the JFS 01692, ODJFS Application for Adoption of a Foster Child. The agency shall also include in the notification a description of the adoption process and the guidelines foster caregivers must follow if they are interested in pursuing adoption.**

Submitted by:

Kathi Spirk, LSW
Adoption/Foster Care Supervisor

Revised: June 30, 2008

Approved by:

John Hosler
Director