

Child and Family Services <b>PROGRAM STANDARDS MANUAL</b>	Section: 532	Effective: Oct 1/88 Revised: Dec 1/99	Page: 1
Subject: <b>PLACEMENT SERVICES</b>			

## STANDARDS

### 532.1 **Adoption registration**

Once a decision to place a permanent ward for adoption is made, the child is registered with the Central Adoption Registry **within five working days**. All procedures set down for the Central Adoption Registry are followed (see Procedures).

### 532.2 **Selecting adoptive family**

The selection of an adoptive family is made from those families referred for the permanent ward from the Central Adoption Registry. Suitability is assessed both in terms of capacity and interest of the adoptive parents to meet the needs of the particular child and the capacity of the child to benefit from placement with them.

The responsibility of choosing an adoptive parent for a child remains with the child's guardian agency. Staff members who know the child are to participate in the decision.

### 532.3 **Decision for placement**

The final decision for placement is based on a combined knowledge of the child and adoptive family. The decision is made by at least two experienced staff members, one of whom is the child's worker and another staff who is in a supervisory capacity.

### 532.4 **Placement timing**

The timing of an adoptive placement is planned within the following criteria:

- a) Infants are placed in the adoptive homes at as early an age as possible, except when the needs of the child make early placement inadvisable.
- b) If interim care for the child prior to adoption placement is required, the agency assures that foster families are available who can meet the needs of the child.

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- c) Older children are placed in adoptive homes only when the preparation of an older child, the adoptive family and the child's present caregiver is completed.

This allows time for the child to become separated from the biological family and accept the idea of adoption and new parents. It allows time for a complete needs assessment to take place on behalf of the child and it also allows for some children to learn to trust adults and to form close relationships. Any need for post-adoption supports is identified during this period.

#### 532.5 **Preplacement visits**

The number of preplacement meetings with the adopting parent is determined by the child's age, and the needs of the child and the adoptive parent.

#### 532.6 **Child's participation**

When the child is old enough to understand he/she is allowed to participate in the adoption decision and the selection of his/her new family.

#### 532.7 **Sibling placements**

Brothers and sisters are placed together, unless it is not in their best interest. Where the size of the sibling group prevents placement together, the agency's goal is to assure the continuation of these relationships after the children are adopted by openness agreements between the adoptive parents and /or other caregivers.

#### 532.10 **Aboriginal children**

Indian Affairs and Northern Affairs Canada is notified of a Treaty Indian child's adoption placement. The information given includes birth parent name and band number, and particulars on the child.

Indian Affairs must also be notified of the granting of the adoption order for every Treaty Indian child and a copy of the order is sent to Ottawa.

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## PROCEDURES

### Central Adoption Registry

The Act provides for an adoption registry to ensure each child awaiting adoption placement is afforded the fullest possible range of available adoptive homes and all approved adoptive applicants in Manitoba have fair opportunity and consideration for the placement of children.

The registry system records each approved adoption application (regardless of the age of the child they wish to adopt) and registers each child available for adoption. The registry refers suitable approved adoption homes for each child registered with due regard to the needs of the child, the suitability of the adoptive applicants and fairness in terms of the date of application.

Placement of newborn infants directly from hospital into adoptive homes requires critical coordination and cooperation between the central adoption registry and the agencies involved.

### Registration of children

#### 1. **Child's registration form**

##### a) Preparation of registration form

The child's agency completes the registration form as soon as a child may become available for adoption and sends the form to the Central Adoption Registry. The agency may state a preference of suitable parents, their names, and date of application. These are considered if all other Central Adoption Registry policies are met.

##### b) Medicals

Medicals for the child are current and copies are included with the registration form.

#### 2. **Withdrawal from registry**

The agency notifies the Central Adoption Registrar of the withdrawal of a child on the appropriate form.