

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P. O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

July 14, 2006

What's Inside:
Requirements for
Relative Providers
wishing to adopt
Division children

MEMORANDUM

TO: REGIONAL EXECUTIVE STAFF, CIRCUIT MANAGERS, AND
CHILDREN'S DIVISION STAFF

FROM: PAULA NEESE, INTERIM DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF DIVISION CHILDREN BY RELATIVE
PROVIDERS

REFERENCE: CHILDREN'S DIVISION

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide policy clarification regarding the requirements of relative care providers seeking to adopt children in Division custody. The policy change is included in the Child Welfare Manual, Section 6, Chapter 2, Attachment B, Pre-Service and In-Service Training; STARS Competencies.

Current policy states that those wanting to adopt must complete the 12 hours of "STARS, Making the Commitment to Adoption" Pre-Service training, also known as Spaulding. Effective with the date of this memorandum, relative care providers are no longer required to complete Spaulding training in order to adopt the relative child placed in their home. Foster and kinship care providers are still required to complete this training prior to adoption. The Children's Division strongly recommends that relatives complete the training as it provides prospective adoptive parents with tools and knowledge to assist in helping the child transition from alternative care to adoption as well as with information on some of the challenges to adopting a child in Division custody. However, due to the family bond and prior relationship between the provider and foster child, it is no longer mandatory for relative providers to attend this training. Relative providers are still required to complete the "STARS for the Caregiver Who Knows the Child" training.

As discussed in memorandum [CD06-37](#) relating to Resource Provider Training, the 27 hours of STARS pre-service training can not be counted toward a provider's required in-service training hours. However, Spaulding training may be counted toward those hours as not all providers complete this training prior to licensure and it is not required for licensure as a foster, relative or kinship care provider.

NECESSARY ACTION:

1. Review this memorandum with all Children’s Division staff.
2. Review revised Child Welfare Manual chapters as indicated below.
3. Review this memorandum with all necessary relative care providers.
4. All questions should be cleared through normal supervisory channels and directed to:

PDS CONTACT:

Stefanie Wickers
573-751-1354
Stefanie.D.Wickers@dss.mo.gov

PROGRAM MANAGER:

Cindy Wilkinson
573-751-3171
Cindy.R.Wilkinson@dss.mo.gov

CHILD WELFARE MANUAL REVISIONS:

[Section 6 Chapter 2 Attachment B](#)

FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS:

N/A

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS and RESOURCES:

N/A

RELATED STATUTE:

N/A

ADMINISTRATIVE RULE:

N/A

COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION (COA) STANDARDS:

N/A

PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT PLAN (PIP):

N/A

SACWIS REQUIREMENTS:

N/A