

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES**

TO: Interested Parties

DATE: August 14, 2014

SUBJECT: Proposed Amended DCYF Rule

In accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, the Department is advertising for promulgation the following amended DCYF rule:

Adoption

This rule is amended to reflect actual Department practice, changes in terminology used as well as to incorporate national adoption best practices. Following is a concise explanatory statement of the proposed changes to this rule, as required by RIGL 42-35-2.3.

- Rhode Island General Law's references consolidated.
- Detailed descriptions regarding the relevant enacting federal laws removed.
- Language strengthened around the placement of siblings together.
- Language regarding the child's medical records (copies, confidentiality) added.
- Criminal records checks, clearance of agency activity and Adam Walsh clearance requirements clarified with references to relevant policy added.
- Clarification as to responsibility regarding the filing of the Termination of Parental Rights in Family Court, identifying the permanent family and registering the child with the Permanency Services Unit.
- Clarification of the term "Adoption Disruption".
- Language regarding the pre-adoptive parent filing an adoption petition in Family Court clarified.
- Entire section "Guidelines for Adoption by Foster or Kinship Care Provider" deleted.

In the amendment of this rule, consideration was given to: (1) alternative approaches and (2) overlap or duplication with other statutory and regulatory provisions. No alternative approach or duplication or overlap was identified based upon available information.

This amended rule is accessible on the DCYF website (<http://www.dcyf.ri.gov>) or the R.I. Secretary of State's website (<http://www.sec.state.ri.us/ProposedRules/>). Interested persons may submit written comments by September 19, 2014 to Sarah St. Jacques, Department of Children, Youth and Families, 101 Friendship Street, Providence, RI 02903 (sarah.stjacques@dcyf.ri.gov).

In accordance with RIGL 42-35-3, an oral hearing will be granted if requested by twenty-five (25) persons, or by an agency or an association having at least twenty-five (25) members. A request for an oral hearing must be made within thirty (30) days of this notice.

Posted on: August 14, 2014