

PRE-FINALIZATION ADOPTION SERVICES

Assessor Tasks for Pre-Finalization Visits

Phase of Placement	Observations to make	Info to share with family	Info to gather from family	Services family may need at this point
At Placement (0-60 Days)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Home safety for specific child •Parent/child interactions •Interaction of new child with other family members •Comfort level of family with caregiving •Integration of child into family •Child or family needs additional preparation work? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Child-specific info •Training available to meet child’s needs •Services available to meet child’s needs •School/IEP info •Child’s Prediction Path 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •How is this child “fitting” into the family? •What needs do parents or child have? •What info do parents need? •How has caregiving impacted the family? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Training •Contact with other FP/AP/KP •Policy/Procedural information •Additional home visits •Medical/dental resources
Early Placement (60-120 days)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Discipline & limit-setting •Safety compliance (inside and outside home) •Household routine •Parent/child interactions •Interaction of children with each other •Impact of adoption on marital relationship •Parental expectations •Stress level of household •Are <u>all</u> children’s needs being met? •Comfort level of child •Grief manifestations of parents or child •Expectations of adoptive parents—realistic/appropriate? •Child experiencing reunion fantasies? •Divided loyalties? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Update on case plan •Visitation plan •Update on child’s service provision •Any new info about child or birth family •Training opportunities •Services available to meet child’s needs •Any agency policy changes •Foster/Adoptive Parent Assoc. info. •Special events at agency/in community for adoptive families •Info on ambivalence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Any concerns about the children in placement? •How are the children performing in school? •What difficulties are parents experiencing? •Share a success parents had! •Has child or parents had contact with the child (ren)’s previous caregivers? •Have there been any changes to family’s circumstances? •Are services meeting the child(ren)’s needs? •Any payment issues? •Respite needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Training •Contact with other adoptive families •Policy/Procedural information •Child-specific info •Respite care •Services to meet child(ren)’s needs •Facilitate BP/FP contact •Lifebook information and supplies •Referral to “buddy family”

Phase of Placement	Observations to make	Info to share with family	Info to gather from family	Services family may need at this point
Mid Placement (120 days-finalization)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Stress of family members •Level of attachment demonstrated by child and family •Level of integration of child into family •Discipline & limit-setting •Expectations of child •Expectations of parents •Safety compliance •Parent/child interaction •Interaction of child and other family members •Family routines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Importance of Lifebook, transition letter, pictures to child •Books/materials about adoption •Planned date for finalization hearing •How to talk with child about his history 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •What are family's needs? •Do parents need a break? •How the child is doing •Has subsidy been worked out? •Youth's progress in school •Youth's social life •House rules and compliance •Issues or concerns •Extended family's feelings and acceptance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Contact with other adoptive families •Training on grief and separation •Lifebook training and supplies •Family counseling •Info about adoptive parent support groups •Training on adoption issues/ attachment •Attachment therapy •Referral for services to address specific needs
At Finalization (Last visits prior to finalization through case closure)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Emotional status of all family members •Interaction of family members •Level of attachment among family members •Readiness for finalization •Boundaries/limits set by parents •Quality of relationships among family members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Court process •Change of status as caregiver if FP •Info on post-finalization services •Any additional info about the child •Suggestions for rites of passage or adoption ceremonies •Case closure process •Role of agency after case closure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •What are parents doing to prepare the child for finalization? •Is there anything else agency can do to support family? •Has family planned a rite of passage? •What have parents done to prepare selves and other family members for the finalization? •Name change for child 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Info about parent support groups •Info on community resources family may need in the future. •Resources for rites of passage/adoption ceremonies •Agency's or community's post-finalization services