

## Helpful Terms and Descriptions

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- 1. Adoption**—is the method approved by law to establish the legal relationship of a parent and child who are not so related by birth, with the same natural rights and obligations that exist between children and their birth parent(s).
- 2. Adoption Approval**—the recommendation by Children and Family Services resulting from the home study assessment process including, but not limited to: collected information, conducted interviews and the completed home inspection.
- 3. Home Study Resource Managers**—are certified adoption assessors and social workers who assess families who wish to foster/adopt, by visiting the home and talking to family members to complete the home study process.
- 4. Adoption Workers**—social workers/certified adoption assessors who are responsible for the needs and well-being of the child(ren) in permanent custody including regular visits with the child(ren).
- 5. Adoption Subsidy**—financial assistance for families who adopt children with special needs or circumstances. Also referred to as subsidized adoption.
- 6. Case Plan**—a goal-oriented, time-limited, individual plan of action for a child and the family which identifies problems to be resolved. The plan also details steps of resolution with the aid of supportive services within the family's community.
- 7. Cluster**—a network of foster/adoptive parent support groups for and facilitated by foster and adoptive parents with the intention of fellowship, mentorship, family fun activities and an education/training piece for peer problem solving and decision-making skills.
- 8. Custody**—when Juvenile Court removes a child from his/her legal guardian and gives certain rights and responsibilities to an individual or an agency. There are different forms of custody including: emergency, temporary, permanent and legal.
- 9. Family Assessment**—is the social review, study and preparation of a family who wishes to become adoptive/foster parents.
- 10. Family Service Worker**—the FSW is the social worker assigned to the family case managing the case plan, safety/risk assessments, services and supports for the family and children involved.

## **Helpful Terms and Descriptions** *(Continued)*

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- 11. Fingerprints**—a requirement for the purpose of all child placements including foster/adoptive families, related caregivers and interested individuals. Fingerprints are run through the BCI/FBI. Valid state ID is required.
- 12. Foster Care**—a safe, stable, loving and nurturing placement for a child until he/she can return home to his/her biological parent(s).
- 13. Foster Care License**—at the successful conclusion of your foster home study, your family is licensed by the State of Ohio as a substitute care provider.
- 14. Resource Manager (FHRM)**—an experienced social worker/adoption assessor who manages licensed foster/approved adoptive homes. They may act as a mentor, advocate, educator, coach and supporter.
- 15. Interested Individual**—a court-ordered placement of a child with a non-blood relative where a relationship may have been established.
- 16. Legal Risk**—a situation where an adoptive family cares for a child as a foster family because a motion for permanent custody has been filed which may make the child(ren) available for adoption. The adoptive family has an understanding that there is a risk that the permanent custody may not be granted.
- 17. Legal Custody**—court-awarded custody to an individual, however, this is not the same as permanent custody.
- 18. Neighborhood Family to Family Site**—community sites which partner with CCDCFS to work with birth families and to support foster families in area neighborhoods. In Cuyahoga County, they are referred to as Neighborhood Collaborative Partners.
- 19. ODJHS**—Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.
- 20. On-going Training**—is required in order to keep a foster home licensed and in good standing. 20 hours of training is required each year. The home is recertified every 2 years.