Adoptions Power Point Slides

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ADOPTIONS

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Module 1: Adoption Requirements

Identify:
• Professional standards & values
• Adoption program’s legal base.
• Florida adoption guidelines.
• Legal steps: goal change to finalization.

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Legal Definition of Adoption 39.01(6)

• The act of creating the legal relationship between parent and child where it did not exist, thereby declaring the child to be legally the child of the adoptive parents and their heir at law, and entitled to all the rights and privileges and subject to all the obligation of a child born to the adoptive parents in lawful wedlock.
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**Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) Values**

- Rights of the child
- Importance of family life
- Preservation of the biological family
- Social responsibility for children

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**CWLA Standards**

- Respect & preserve the birth family.
- Family life is necessary for child’s growth.
- Public’s responsibility to provide healthy family life when a child’s birth family cannot be preserved.

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**ASFA (Adoption and Safe Families Act)**

- Permanency
- Well-being
- Safety
- Timeliness

**INTENT**
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Adoption Program Entrance

- Out of Home Referral
- Protective Investigation Referral
- Voluntary Relinquishment

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F.S. 63.022

Basic Safeguards:

- Minor is legally free for adoption; all adoptions are handled under law
- Required persons consent to the adoption or parental rights are terminated by the court
- Required social study reports are completed and considered by the Court

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F.S. 63.022

- Sufficient time has past since the child has lived in the proposed adoptive home under the adoption entity’s guidance.
- All expenditures are reported to the court (adoption entities or adoptive).
- The child’s and parents social and medical information is provided.
- A new birth certificate is issued after entry of the adoption judgment.
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**F.S. 63.022**

The court may order temporary substitute care if it decides that the child is in an unsuitable home.

Records of all proceedings concerning custody and adoption are confidential.

Parties receive the necessary guidance, counseling and supervision.

The child’s best interests must be promoted and protected.

Continued post adoption communication/contact among siblings may be ordered by the court if in the best interests of the children.

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**Access to Reports and Records of Child Abuse (excluding reporter information)** F.S. 39.202(r)

- Foster parents with approved home study (if being considered for placement)
- Designee of a licensed residential group home
- Approved relative or non-relative with whom the child is placed
- Pre-adoptive parents with favorable preliminary adoptive home study and adoption entity acting on their behalf
- Adoptive parents
- An adoption entity acting on behalf or pre-adoptive or adoptive parents

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**Legal Steps: Adoption**

Filing the TPR petition → Process and service → Advisory hearing/pretrial status conference → Adjudicatory hearing → Adoption

Adoption finalization
Objectives

• Summarize the adoption process.
• Examine the components of a child study & an adoptive home study.
• Identify confidentiality requirements for adoption records.