
REQUIREMENTS

Persons seeking approval as adoptive parents must participate in a minimum of 12 hours of training prior to the legal adoptive placement of a child. Training must, at a minimum, reflect the following requirements set forth by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

The Parent Resources for Information, Development and Education (PRIDE) curriculum must be used for adoptive parent training. The material in the following designated PRIDE sessions must be covered:

- Session 1 (Connecting with PRIDE).
- Session 2 (Teamwork Toward Permanence).
- Session 3 (Meeting Developmental Needs: Attachment).
- Session 4 (Meeting Developmental Needs: Loss).
- Session 6 (Meeting Developmental Needs: Discipline).

For training sessions with only prospective adoptive parents in attendance, the above material may be expanded with specific information on adoption issues.

In addition to the PRIDE sessions, a separate, mandatory orientation session and the following training are required for all prospective adoptive parents (see ADM 0410):

- Child development, including safe sleep practices for children under one year of age.
- Behavioral and emotional needs of adoptive children.
- Impact of adoption on the family.
- Post adoption services availability.

Completion of the above PRIDE sessions is the requirement for approval of all prospective adoptive parents, including relatives. If there are two adoptive parents, they must both complete the training sessions. In the case of competing parties, if a family assessment is completed, training is mandatory for approval to adopt.

Foster parents who have completed the PRIDE sessions and have a current foster care license are not required to repeat the PRIDE sessions, but are required to attend the previously indicated additional training sessions. They are also required to attend additional training sessions, based on the adoption workers'

assessment of the families' training needs and the needs of the child.

Adoptive parents who have completed the required PRIDE sessions above within the last two years, are not required to repeat the PRIDE sessions, but are required to attend the previously indicated additional training sessions. The adoptive parent(s) are also required to attend additional training sessions, based on the adoption workers' assessment of the families' training needs and the needs of the child.

The agency must provide adoption applicants with training requirements in writing upon receipt of an adoption application and document the completion of training sessions in the adoptive family's case record.