

## INTRODUCTION

The authority to grant consent to adoption for state wards rests with the Michigan Children's Institute (MCI) superintendent, or his or her designee. State wards include children who have been committed to the state through involuntary termination of parental rights in the Family Division of Circuit Court (1935 PA 220), or through release of parental rights by the legal parent(s) or contracted adoption agency to whom the child has been previously released (1974 PA 296).

The request for consent from the placing agency is a recommendation that a specified family be granted consent by the MCI superintendent, or his or her designee. In requesting consent for the adoption of a child, PCA 309, Consent to Adoption by Agency/Court, and DHS-3217, Adoption Consent Request, must be completed and sent with required documentation to the MCI superintendent in the Department of Human Services (DHS) central office. The MCI superintendent must review and approve or deny the recommendation for adoption of any MCI ward.

**Note:** 2011 PA 30 amended the MCI Law to allow the MCI superintendent to designate his or her authority for consent to adoption, guardianship, marriage, or emancipation of a child who is an MCI ward.

County directors who have received written delegation from the MCI superintendent may consent to adoption when the case meets the criteria in; ADM 0850, Expedited Consent. Consent packets meeting this criteria should be sent to the respective county child welfare director or county director for the county which had jurisdiction of the child in the child abuse and neglect proceeding.

### Best Interest of the Child

The following best interest factors [MCL 710.22(g)] may be considered by the MCI superintendent or his or her designee (or the court for a permanent court ward) when granting or denying consent to an adoption:

- The love, affection and other emotional ties existing between the adopting individual(s) and the adoptee.
- The capacity and disposition of the adopting individual(s) to educate and create an environment that fosters the religion, racial identity and culture of the adoptee.

- The capacity and disposition of the adopting individual(s) to provide the adoptee with food, clothing, education, medical care (or other remedial care recognized and permitted under Michigan laws in place of medical care), and other material needs.
- The length of time the adoptee has lived in a stable, satisfactory environment and the desirability of maintaining continuity.
- The permanence as a family unit of the proposed adoptive home.
- The moral fitness of the adopting individual(s).
- The mental and physical health of the adopting individual(s).
- The home, school and community record of the adoptee.
- The reasonable preference of the adoptee, if the adoptee is 14 years of age or older.
- The ability and willingness of the adopting individual(s) to adopt the adoptee's siblings.
- Any other factor considered to be relevant to a particular adoption proceeding.

**MEPA/IEPA**

The provisions in ADM 0620 regarding the Multiethnic Placement Act and Interethnic Placement Act must be followed in making adoptive placement decisions.

**American Indian  
Children**

The provisions regarding the placement of Indian children in the Native American Affairs (NAA) manual items NAA 200 and 400 must be followed in making adoptive placement decisions for Indian children.

**CONSENT PROCESS  
DETAILS**

Detailed policies regarding MCI consent are found in ADM 0830 - 0880.