
**EXPEDITED
CONSENT CRITERIA**

Expedited adoption consent requests allow for expedient processing of approvals to avoid delays in achieving permanency. A request of the Michigan Children's Institute (MCI) superintendent or his or her designee for expedited consent may be granted when the request meets certain criteria and there are no extenuating circumstances involved. 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 certain criteria. 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. County directors must process expedited consents within 14 business days of receiving a complete consent packet. If the county director is unable to process the consent packet within 14 business days, he/she should forward the packet to the MCI office.

All requests for expedited adoption consent must have supervisory approval that verifies **all** of the criteria/requirements below are met:

- The recommended family is the only family requesting to adopt the child. There are no competing families for adoption and the child has been placed in the prospective adoptive home for at least six consecutive months.
- The prospective adoptive home did not require a waiver to be signed due to the number of children in the home.
- The prospective adoptive parent is not a married individual adopting without his/her spouse.
- The child is residing in the adoptive home and all of his/her physical and emotional needs are being satisfactorily met.
- This is the only child available for adoption or all available siblings (such as permanent court wards or MCI wards) are being adopted together.

- Record checks and clearances for all adults residing in the home are current; see ADM 0520, Background Checks, Clearances, Criminal History Checks, and Fingerprinting.
- There is no history of criminal convictions.
- The family has no foster home licensing investigations with a finding of rule noncompliance involving **the care of a child** or CPS investigations resulting in a finding of a preponderance of evidence of abuse or neglect.

Note: When the family has unsubstantiated CPS investigations or licensing complaints involving **the care of a child**, the consent request should **not** be treated as expedited.

- Three references recommending the family for adoption of the children have been received.
- There are no circumstances requiring additional documentation as defined by Adoption Family Assessment policy; see ADM 0510, Circumstances Requiring Additional Documentation/Review.
- Marriage and divorce verifications and medical evaluations of the adopting parent(s) are in the case record.

Note: Consent requests that involve an adoptive placement in another state must not be treated as an expedited consent. These requests must be sent to the Michigan Children's Institute (MCI) superintendent's office for review. This includes consent requests when the child is already placed with the recommended family.