

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Department of Public Welfare

Special Transmittal

SUBJECT: Revisions to the Children, Youth and Families Bulletin #3350-03-01
Statewide Adoption Network (SWAN) Policies and Procedures
(Replacement pages are attached)

TO: County Commissioners and Executives
County Children and Youth Administrators, Inc.
County Children and Youth Advisory Committees
Pennsylvania Children and Youth Administrators Association
Private Children and Youth Agencies
County Mental Health and Mental Retardation Offices
Juvenile Court Judges
Juvenile Court Judges' Commission
Orphans' Court Judges
Statewide Adoption Network Advisory Committee
Pennsylvania State Foster Parent Association
One Church One Child of Pennsylvania, Inc.
Juvenile Law Center
Pennsylvania Council of Children, Youth and Family Services

FROM: Chuck Tyrrell, Acting Director
Bureau of County Children and Youth Programs
Office of Children, Youth and Families

PURPOSE:

Four points in the SWAN Bulletin will be modified through this special transmittal:

1. the release of SWAN-paid family profiles to other states for the adoption of foster children,
2. the number of contacts required for completion of the child preparation unit of service,
3. the permanency options that an eligible family can provide, and
4. the child population that SWAN serves.

BACKGROUND:

Family Profile

Pennsylvania intends to further promote and support cross jurisdictional permanency for children in the United States and is revising the policy on the release of family profiles completed and paid by the SWAN prime contractor to other states.

Child Preparation

The revised SWAN bulletin issued on January 1, 2003 contained a typographical error that needs to be corrected.

Eligible Families

The revised SWAN bulletin issued on January 1, 2003 did not include all permanency options that an eligible family could provide to a child.

Child Population Served

The revised SWAN bulletin issued on January 1, 2003 contained a typographical error that needs to be corrected.

DISCUSSION:

Family Profile

Currently the bulletin requires families to purchase the SWAN-paid family profile at a cost of \$2,500 if they choose to adopt a child other than a child in the Pennsylvania foster care system.

Pennsylvania is now revising Attachment F-1 to allow the release of family profiles in cases where families request that their SWAN-paid approved family profile be forwarded to another state for the purpose of adopting a child from that state's foster care system. The repayment plan for this family profile is described in the special transmittal on page 2 of Attachment F-1.

Please replace Attachment F-1 in the current bulletin with the revised Attachment F-1.

Child Preparation

Currently, in the Child Preparation Enhancements on page 19, the bulletin states, "It is expected that the assigned professional will meet with the child for a *maximum* of 10 meetings over a 6-month period."

That statement should read, "It is expected that the assigned professional will meet with the child for a *minimum* of 10 meetings over a 6-month period."

Please replace page 19 in the current bulletin with the enclosed revised page.

Eligible Families

Currently, the definition of an Eligible Family on page 6 of the bulletin states, "Permanency includes adoption, kinship care and Permanent Legal Custodianship."

This statement now includes all the permanency options a family can provide. It should read, "Permanency includes adoption, permanent legal custodianship, or placement with a fit and willing relative (formal kinship care)."

Please replace page 6 in the current bulletin with the enclosed revised page.

Child Population Served

Currently, the definition of Child Population Served on page 6 of the bulletin states, “SWAN serves children who are in the legal custody of county agencies and/or have a court-ordered goal of adoption.”

The statement should read, “SWAN serves children who are in the legal custody of county agencies whether or not they have a court-ordered goal of adoption.”

The following statement should be added to child population served, “These children may have any permanency goal.”

Please replace page 6 in the current bulletin with the enclosed revised page.

Attachments