

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P. O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

April 24, 2019

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: CHILDREN'S DIVISION AND CONTRACTED STAFF
FROM: DAVID B. KURT, DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: Assessment and Evaluation of Children Prior to Placement with Pre-Adoptive Parent(s)

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this memorandum is to notify staff effective immediately policy is being changed to no longer automatically require a psychological examination/evaluation for children at least 5 years of age prior to placing the child with their pre-adoptive parents. Each child should be considered for evaluation regardless of age.

A mental health examination/evaluation is warranted if background information indicates prior emotional challenges, mental health history, family history, or developmental concerns warrant such an examination/evaluation. However, if the child has had an evaluation conducted in the last 3 years, a summary of the available evaluation reports from psychosocial, neuropsychological, psychological and summary information regarding any current treatment or counseling may take the place of the a new examination/evaluation.

NECESSARY ACTION

1. Review this memorandum with all Children's Division staff.
2. Review revised Child Welfare Manual chapters as indicated below.
3. All questions should be cleared through normal supervisory channels and directed to:

PDS CONTACT

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MANAGER CONTACT

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CHILD WELFARE MANUAL REVISIONS

Permanency Through Adoption, Section 4 Chapter 27 Subsection 5 (27.5)

FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS

N/A

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS AND RESOURCES

N/A

RELATED STATUTE

N/A