



PA19-AD-03

Practice Alert

RESPONDING TO ADOPTIVE PARENT INQUIRIES

Successful adoption begins with responding to prospective adoptive family inquiries promptly. This intentional valuing of potential resources increases the child's chances of being placed in their forever home as quickly as possible.

Making sure the caseworker information is updated with the adoption sites (The Adoption Exchange, MO Heart Gallery) along with the CD internet will enhance timely connections made with potential pre-adoptive families. This can be done by sending an email directly to Sara Bennett at sbennett@adoptex.org or Vickie Stoneberger at Vickie.Stoneberger@dss.mo.gov.

When a family inquires about a child for whom you are seeking a family, please ensure a timely response to the family so a determination can be made regarding the suitability of the family for the child/ren. For children in foster care awaiting adoption, every delay in response decreases the chance of a successful adoption. Even if the child/ren they are inquiring about already have a prospective adoptive family, the family should not be discounted as a potential family for another child. Not responding to them, might be a missed opportunity for other child/ren.

Think about a missed opportunity in your life and the disappointment you felt. That missed opportunity was likely not as important as a child having a family. The children who wait are counting on you, please don't let them down by not responding to their potential forever family as quickly as possible.

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