

## DSS Mission

To partner with individuals, families, and communities to strengthen their efforts toward Independence, Permanence, and Safety.

## Children Services Mission

To protect and provide permanence to children by preserving and strengthening families through family-centered, child-focused, community-based services.

Visit our website at:

[www.buncombecounty.org/governing/depts/dss/children](http://www.buncombecounty.org/governing/depts/dss/children)

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*Interpreter services are available at  
no cost*

Any problems getting interpreter help or getting services through an interpreter, please call Lisa Eby, Title VI Compliance Officer at 250-5610

## What Is The Recruitment Process

- Family participates in Model Approach to Partnership in Parenting (MAPP) classes.
- Family and social worker meet to complete Pre-placement Assessment.
- Pre-placement Assessment is presented to Adoption Committee for approval after criminal records checks are received.
- Family is registered on the North Carolina Adoption Resource Exchange in order to seek a match with a child who is legally cleared for adoption.

## What Is The Legal Process For Adoption?

- Family files their Petition For Adoption with the Clerk of Superior Court.
- Clerk of Court orders the Department to conduct home assessment within 60 days (Order of Reference).
- DSS sends report to Clerk, and requests issuance of new birth certificate.
- In agency adoptions, the Adoption Assistance case is now opened.

Our work is guided by professional ethics and values that are designed to safeguard your privacy and confidentiality. If you have any concerns about how you have been treated, contact your worker's supervisor. If you are unsure who to contact, please call the Director's office at (828 250-5587)

## Children Services Division

### Adoption Services



## Buncombe County Health and Human Services

35 Woodfin St.  
P.O. Box 7408  
Asheville, NC 28802

**Hours of Operation**  
**Monday-Friday**  
**8:00 am – 5:00 pm**

**Phone: (828) 250-5500**  
**Fax: (828) 250-5779**

## Adoption = Building Families

Adoption is the legal process by which a child becomes a member of a family.

## Who Can Adopt?

Any married couple or single adult who is committed to providing a permanent home for a child.

## What Are The Different Types of Adoptions?

- Relative and Step-Parent Adoptions
- Independent Adoptions
- Agency Adoptions



## What Are Relative And Independent Adoptions

- Both **Relative and Independent Adoptions** are adoptions in which a birth parent places his/her child with another person, without an agency having custody of that child.
- In **Relative Adoptions**, the adoptive parents are related to the child in one of the following ways: grandparent, great-grandparent, aunt, or uncle, great aunt or uncle, adult sibling, half sibling, stepparent or first cousin.
- **Relative Adoptions** do not require the completion of a Pre-placement Assessment (PPA) on the prospective adoptive family.
- When there is an **Independent Adoption**, the prospective adoptive family must obtain a Pre-placement Assessment prior to the child's placement in their home.
- Any licensed adoption agency may conduct the assessment and most charge a fee for this service. However, persons wishing to adopt a child in the North Carolina foster care system can obtain a Pre-placement Assessment at no cost.
- All **Independent Adoptions** of children in the custody of another state must follow guidelines of the Interstate Compact On The Placement Of Children (ICPC). A coordinator is based in each state. The NCICPC coordinator can be reached at (919) 733-3801.

## What Are Agency Adoptions?

- Agency Adoptions are ones in which a child is in custody of an agency, either private or public, and that agency has been given the authority to place the child in an adoptive home.
- A family interested in agency adoptions must be willing to participate in a required 30 hour training session which will help them discern whether adoption is the best avenue for their family.
- The family will also be required to obtain a Pre-placement Assessment. The Assessment includes interviews with all family members, fingerprinting for criminal records checks, medical exams, and reference checks.



For Further Information On  
Services Call  
(828) 250-5500