



Adoption Journeys

Providing vital post-adoption support to families

Adoption Journeys in Massachusetts is a statewide post adoption support program of Child and Family Services, funded and supported by the Massachusetts Department of Children & Families. Our staff includes licensed social workers, counselors, child welfare and human services workers, and adoptive parents.

All services are provided using a strengths-based, family-centered model empowering families to advocate for themselves and access community-based services on their own behalf. Our services are voluntary and accessed through self-referral only. MA residents are eligible for services if the family has a legalized adoption. They are additionally eligible if they have a permanent legal guardianship sponsored by DCF.

5 Offices Statewide

- Fall River (Lead Agency)
- Somerville
- Lawrence
- Worcester
- Northampton

Services Offered:

- Information & Referral - 24-hour toll-free phone line
- Regional Response Team
- Parent and Youth Support Groups
- Parent and Young Adult Liaisons
- Adoption Competency Training
- Respite Services

14 Years of Service in MA

Over the past 14 years 7,752 families and professionals have reached out for guidance and support. Children served statewide represent 2,932 domestic public adoptions and 708 private adoptions. Of the 708 private adoptions, 523 children were adopted internationally. Staff have provided short-term clinical response to over 2,000 families. Additionally we have provided childcare respite services to 1,657 families, and our respite activities have served 2,407 families.

Goals of our Program:

- Improve permanency and reduce risk of dissolution
- Connect families to community-based support
- Identify and reframe misconceptions about adoption for parents, children and community members
- Increase adoption competency among helping professionals
- Decrease isolation of adoptive parents and children
- Transform despair to hope with new skills and resources
- Create realistic expectations for emotional and behavioral development

**For more information
or to access any of our services
call our 24-hour toll-free line
1-800-97-CARE-4
or Email: adoptionjourneys@cfsservices.org**

What we have learned from families seeking our post-adoption services:

Families who self-identify as needing post-adoption support reach out to Adoption Journeys for services. Basic demographic data and the primary reasons for contact are collected from this self-selected group of families.

The following reflects statewide data collected from January 2009 to December 2009.

**Length of time before a family seeks support:
73% of our families seek services beginning 5 or more years after an adoption has been finalized.**

2% Seek services within the first 12 months of adoption finalization.
25% Seek services between 2-4 years post adoption finalization.
40% Seek services between 5-9 years post adoption finalization.
33% seek services 10 or more years post adoption finalization.

**Most common presenting concerns:
Among families actively involved in Response Team Clinical Services, the most common concern reported was behavioral problems with their children.**

Most Common Concerns Identified:*

37% - Behavioral/Acting Out *(Many families identify multiple concerns.)
25% - Adjustment/Relationship
25% - Physical Health Issues
21% - Mental Health Concerns
19% - Attachment Concerns
16% - Academic Problems
22% - Other Concerns (1%-8% each) including developmental disability, financial assistance, adoption at-risk, and domestic violence.