

Adoption

Adoption is a very special gift to you and to the child that you are adopting or have adopted. With that in mind, we want to offer the support you may need to make this a successful transition. Sometimes children may need help in the process of transitioning into their new family, whether it be two weeks or years after adoption. We are here to help.

Preservation

The Department of Social Services Adoption Preservation Program

congratulates you on your choice to adopt one or more of South Carolina's children. We are grateful for families who are committed to providing a permanent place called "home" to a waiting child.

Services

The Adoption Preservation Specialist is here to assist you with all your post-adoption needs. There is no question too small to ask. We want to strengthen and support our families in every way possible. If we may be of service to you now or in the future, please contact us.



Serving Children and Families

For additional information, please contact the South Carolina Department of Social Services Regional Adoption Office for your county of residence listed below.

Region I

1-800-868-6595 or (864) 282-4730

Abbeville, Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Greenwood, Laurens, Newberry, Oconee, Pickens and Spartanburg.

Region II

1-888-711-7095 or (803) 898-8980

Aiken, Bamberg, Barnwell, Edgefield, Kershaw, Lexington, McCormick, Richland and Saluda.

Region II (Rock Hill)

1-800-922-1537 or (803) 329-9626

Chester, Fairfield, Lancaster, Union and York.

Region III

1-800-922-1518 or (843) 953-9750

Allendale, Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Jasper and Hampton.

Region III (Orangeburg)

(803) 515-1852

Calhoun, Dorchester and Orangeburg.

Region IV

1-800-763-6637 or (843) 661-2495

Clarendon, Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Lee, Marion, Marlboro, Sumter and Williamsburg.

ADOPTION PRESERVATION

The Department of Social Services
Adoption Preservation Program

adoption preservation

The Department of Social Services Adoption Preservation Program understands that adoption affects families in many different ways. Sometimes families experience difficulties even after the adoption has finalized. We are aware that you may need support and services.

Available Services

- **Information and Referral** – Families often need information regarding adoption issues, child development, medical problems, community resources and financial issues. Families may request, or the Adoption Preservation Specialist may suggest, referrals to other agencies or professionals for further assistance.
- **Case Management** – Families may want regular contact with an Adoption Preservation Specialist to help them through a difficult time. The family and the specialist determine what ongoing services may be needed, and a plan is developed.
- **Advocacy** – Children and families sometimes need help in explaining to others the issues affecting their family. Adoption Preservation Specialists may be available to attend meetings or staffings or simply make a telephone call with you or for you.
- **Education** – Adoption Preservation Specialists are aware of issues in the educational system affecting children identified with special needs. Parents are connected with agencies that provide training, information and other related parent support services. An Adoption Preservation Specialist may be included in an Individualized Education Program (IEP) staffing.

- **Therapy** – The Adoption Preservation Specialist will assist you in finding local therapeutic resources that have experience with adoption issues.
- **Respite** – Respite is a short break from the hard work of family building. Respite can range from a few hours to a few days depending on the need. The agency may be able to help with the cost. Contact your Adoption Preservation Specialist.
- **Parent Mentoring** – Parents can be connected with other parents who have been through similar situations and circumstances to offer support to one another.
- **Support Groups** – A support group is composed of adoptive families. For some families, this is their only way to share with other people who have the same problems. Contact your Adoption Preservation Specialist to assist you with more information regarding support groups offered through The Department of Social Services and other agencies.
- **Crisis Intervention** – Parents may contact the agency when they are in crisis and need immediate support to get through a bad time or need help while making a difficult decision.
- **Family Retreats** – Family camps, retreats and weekend excursions are offered throughout the year by various agencies. Contact your Adoption Preservation Specialist for more information.



Adoption is a lifelong journey for your child and for your family. We wish you continued growth in your knowledge, understanding and experience.

Other Agencies That May Be of Assistance to You

- **Pro-Parents**
Parents Reaching Out to Parents of South Carolina is a private, nonprofit organization that provides information and training to assist parents in making decisions about their child's education. The focus is on children with disabilities that impact learning. To contact Pro-Parents, call (803) 772-5688 in Columbia or 1-800-759-4776 statewide.
- **Family Connection**
Family Connection is a support network for families who have children of all ages with special needs. They offer support groups, family social events, workshops, a newsletter and information. To contact Family Connection, call (803) 252-0914 in Columbia or 1-800-578-8750 statewide.
- **South Carolina Council on Adoptable Children (COAC)**
COAC offers local adoptive parent support groups, a buddy system and a quarterly publication providing information about various adoption activities. They also offer adoption information seminars. To contact COAC, call (803) 256-2622 in Columbia or 1-888-515-2622 statewide.
- **Children Unlimited**
Children Unlimited offers clinical support, family support and resources to help maintain, support and strengthen a family unit created through adoption. To contact Children Unlimited, call (803) 929-6654 in Columbia or 1-800-922-5651 statewide.