



STATE OF GEORGIA
Division of Family and Children Services

Nathan Deal
Governor

Bobby D. Cagle
Director

MEMORANDUM FOR DFCS PLACEMENT PROVIDERS REGARDING ADOPTION ASSISTANCE

To: DFCS Approved Placement Providers
From: Social Services Administration Unit (SSAU)
RE: Adoption Assistance for Children Placed Outside of the Adoptive Home
Date: January 4, 2017

The Social Services Administration Unit (SSAU) of the Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) administers the state adoption assistance program. The SSAU has received questions and concerns about adoptive parents continuing to receive adoption assistance funds even after their child is placed into foster care and/or a placement facility or foster home. In accordance with state and federal policy/law, the SSAU follows procedures to address circumstances in which a child receiving adoption assistance is placed outside of the adoptive home.

Placement providers are encouraged to check with the child's county DFCS worker and SSAU staff when they are aware that a "currently" adopted child has been placed into their facility/home. If they have not already done so, DFCS/SSAU staff will determine whether the child's parents are currently receiving adoption assistance funds and whether the adoption assistance funds should be continued or terminated. Some of the factors taken into consideration by DFCS include whether the adoptive parents continue to have parental rights intact, whether the adoptive parents are willing to work on a reunification plan, and whether the adoptive parents are willing to be supportive of the child through contact and other forms of support.

Related state policy regarding adoption assistance can be found in Chapter 12.9 of the State of Georgia Child Welfare Policy Manual - <http://odis.dhs.ga.gov/ChooseCategory.aspx?cid=813> and in the Federal Social Security Act - Section 473 [42 U.S.C. 673] (a)(4)(A)(iii).

Should placement providers be unable to contact a specific DFCS county worker or adoption assistance worker, the SSAU Unit may be contacted at 404-657-3550. Thank you for your partnership in addressing this issue.