



STATE OF GEORGIA
Division of Family and Children Services

Nathan Deal
Governor

Bobby D. Cagle
Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Child Placing Agencies with Adoption License

FROM: Deborah Burrus, Permanency Director 

DATE: July 29, 2016

RE: Change in Adoption Consideration Evaluation Policy for Room Board Watchful Oversight (RBWO) Providers with an Adoption License

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to communicate the change in adoption policy as it relates to the completion of adoption consideration evaluations by Room Board Watchful Oversight providers that have a current adoption license and payment for those services. Effective July 1, 2016, RBWO providers with a **current adoption license** who choose to participate in the adoption incentive program will have the responsibility of completing the adoption consideration evaluation and jointly supervising the adoptive placement when a child, in the Department's permanent custody, is to be adopted by the providers' foster parent(s). Providers will be paid \$2,500 when a special needs child is placed on adoption status (signing of forms 33/37) and another \$2,500 when the adoption finalizes. Invoices must be sent to Deborah Burrus for processing of the payments.

Discussion

Foster parent adoptions account for the largest percentage of adoptions finalized in the State. With the increasing number of children waiting to be adopted by their foster parents, the Department has decided to partner with our private providers for the completion of adoption consideration evaluations. The case workers of RBWO foster parents' will complete adoption consideration evaluations and submit to the Department for approval. Once a child(ren) is placed on adoptive status, the RBWO case worker will have the responsibility of joint supervision of the adoptive placement until the adoption is finalized. The DFCS SSCM will continue to make 'Every Child Every Month' visits.

Policy Updates

The attached policy will be amended in the Online Directives Information System (ODIS) based on the aforementioned changes:

11.6 - Foster Parent Adoption Consideration Evaluation

Implementation

The change regarding the adoption consideration evaluations is effective July 1, 2016 or upon execution of applicable FY17 RBWO contracts. Regional and county leadership shall ensure their staff are made aware of this policy change. For clarification or questions regarding this process, please contact me directly at Deborah.Burrus@dhs.ga.gov.