

DHS-Child Welfare Programs-A SPECIAL NEEDS Adoption Agency

As one of Oregon's licenced adoption agencies, Child Welfare is looking for families for children who need special care. Most of the children waiting for adoptive homes were removed from their biological families because of abuse or neglect. They have lived in one or more foster homes and present challenges to the families who adopt them.

Babies and young children (ages zero to four years) are sometimes available but the majority had mothers who used drugs and alcohol during their pregnancies. These children often have developmental delays which require extra care and families need to work closely with doctors, physical therapists, and other professionals. Many of the young children are part of a sibling group which may include brothers or sisters of are school age and the children need to be placed together. Child Welfare believes it is important to minimize the number of losses children experience. When appropriate, we may ask adoptive parents to continue contact with the birth family or other significant people in the child's life after adoption.

Older Children (ages 5-12) are available through Child Welfare Programs. Most of these children have experienced abuse which was serious enough to cause them to be permanently separated from birth parents. Many of these children were also affected by their mother's abuse of alcohol and drugs during pregnancy. In addition to needing many of the same services as the younger children, they are often involved in counseling which needs to continue after they are adopted. Many of these children have emotional and behavioral difficulties. They need adoptive parents who are ready to deal with challenges.

Frequently Asked Questions

If I am willing to wait a while, won't I be able to get a healthy baby? No, the length of time is not a factor. Oregon's private adoption agencies (see an attached list) work with birth parents who want to make an adoptive plan for their infant. Child Welfare Programs works with children who are abused or neglected. We do not have healthy infants for placement.

Don't private adoption agencies charge a lot of money? Unlike Child Welfare Programs, the private agencies do not receive tax dollars. They must pay their staff, their rent and utilities, medical expenses of birth parents and children, legal expenses, etc. Their fees usually amount to several thousand dollars but they are all nonprofit agencies.

What if I don't have the money? Each agency has its own payment plans. People take out loans for cars, appliances, boats, and homes every day. Families who want the experience of parenting a healthy infant often secure loans to pay the agency expenses.

But I know some foster parents who have a healthy, cute baby in their care. How come?

Many of the children in foster care eventually go home or to live with grandparents, aunts, uncles, or other extended family members. Also, drug effected children have been hurt in ways that are "invisible" to the casual observer. Foster parents are bound by confidentiality and cannot talk with people in the community about a child's special problems.

Can't I apply to Child Welfare just in case a healthy baby or toddler should happen to come along? We understand the strong desire to parent and how upsetting it can be to hear there are no problem free infants and young children available through our agency. We believe it is unethical to ask families to commit to weeks of pre-service training, the paperwork involved in applying, and the time it takes to get a family study when Child Welfare does not have the kind of child they want to adopt.

Therefore, the Marion Child Welfare office is currently not accepting applicants from families seeking one healthy infant or toddler. We strongly suggest you contact one of the licenced adoption agencies on the attached list. They will be better able to meet your needs and provide you with the kind of adoption experience you seek.

We wish you success on your adoption journey.

Licensed Oregon Adoption Agencies
Contracted to Complete Independent Homestudies
and Placement Reports

AGENCY	ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER
Adoption of Southern Oregon	409 Pine Street Ste. 309 Klamath Falls, OR 97601	541-273-9326
Bethany Christian Services	19936 Ballinger Way N.E. Seattle, WA 98155-1223	206-367-4604
Boys & Girls Aid Society	18 S.W. Boundary Court Portland, OR 97201	503-222-9661 (800) 342-6688
Catholic Charities	447 N.E. 47 th Street.,Ste 100 Portland, OR 97213	503-238-5169
Columbia Adoption Services	1445 Rosemont Road West Linn, OR 97068	503-655-9470
Holt International Children's Services	9320 S.W. Barbur Blvd., Ste 220 Portland, OR 97219	203-244-2440
Northwest Adoption and Family Services	2695 Spring Valley Lane Salem, OR 97304	503-581-6652
Plan Loving Adoptions NOW	P.O. Box 667 McMinnville, OR 97128	503-472-8452
Tree of Life Adoption Center	9498 S.W. Barbur Blvd Ste 304 Portland, OR 97219	503-244-7374