

<h1 style="margin: 0;">ACF</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">Administration for Children and Families</p>	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES Administration on Children, Youth and Families	
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	3. Originating Office: Children's Bureau	
	4. Key Words: Title IV-E State Plan Pre-Print	

PROGRAM INSTRUCTION

TO:

State and Territorial Agencies Administering or Supervising the Administration of Title IV-E Programs under the Social Security Act.

SUBJECT:

Title IV-E State Plan Pre-Print.

LEGAL AND RELATED REFERENCES:

Sections 470, 471, 472, 473 and 475 of the Social Security Act (the Act); the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1989, Public Law (P.L.) 101-239; the Social Security Act Amendments of 1994, Public Law (P.L.) 103-432; the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA), Public Law (P.L.) 104-193; the Small Business Job Protection Act, P.L. 104-188; the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997, Public Law 105-89; the Child Support Performance and Incentive Act of 1998, Public Law 105-200; The Foster Care Independence Act of 1999, Public Law 106-169; ACYF-PI-88-07, "Title IV-E State Plan Revision;" ACYF-PI-97-04, "Title IV-E State Plan Amendments;" ACYF-PI-97-05, "Amendments to Title IV-E of the Social Security Act and Related Policy Issuances;" ACYF-PI-98-13, "Title IV-E State Plan Amendments;" ACYF-CB-PA-01-01, "Title IV-E Adoption Assistance (Eligibility and Ancillary Polices);" and ACYF-CB-PI-01-02, "June 30, 2001 Submission of the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program State Plan for Fiscal Years 2001-2004."

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Program Instruction (PI) is to transmit to States a comprehensive title IV-E State Plan Pre-Print. This document incorporates changes to title IV-E which have

occurred since the Pre-Print was last amended, combines the State Plan Pre-Print issued in 1988 with subsequent amendments, changes and deletions, and adds an optional State Plan requirement for States that choose to administer the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program. In addition, it adds a certification that the State provides health insurance coverage for special needs children covered by an adoption assistance agreement. Failure to so certify would result in the State's being ineligible to receive adoption incentive funds.

INSTRUCTION:

Each State must submit to ACF a revised title IV-E State Plan Pre-Print that reflects title IV-E statutory and legislative requirements. In completing the Pre-Print, States must record the applicable State statutory, regulatory, policy references and citation(s) for each Federal requirement. Any optional provisions have been noted.

We have included a copy of the most recent prior version of the State Plan Pre-Print (Attachment B), showing how it has been revised and edited to produce the latest version. We believe that this will aid States in developing their new State Plan Pre-Print. The revised Pre-Print can be found on the Children's Bureau web page at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb>. This document has been specifically formatted for ease of preparation.

States may submit their title IV-E State Plans using the attached pages (Attachment A), or may use the electronic version found at the Children's Bureau web page at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb>. States may use a different format, provided that the format used includes all of the title IV-E State plan requirements of the Act as set forth in the law. If a State chooses to use its own format, it must include all applicable State statutory, regulatory or policy references and citations for each requirement.

States must submit the completed State Plan Pre-Print to the appropriate ACF Regional Administrator for approval 120 days from the date of this issuance. State compliance with all statutory and regulatory provisions has been, and continues to be, mandatory, regardless of the approval status of the State Plan. Please note that the State Plan must be submitted in hard copy with original signatures. In addition, States must submit copies of referenced material for any cited statute, policy, and procedure, including those either not previously submitted or which have been revised since the previous submission.

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT:

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-13), an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. The OMB Control Number of the title IV-E State Plan is 0980-0141, and the Expiration Date is 9/30/02.

INQUIRIES TO: ACF Regional Offices.

/s/ Gail E. Collins, for
James A. Harrell
Acting Commissioner
Administration on Children, Youth,
and Families

Attachments

ATTACHMENT A

OMB Approval No. 0980-0141
Expiration Date: 9/30/02

**STATE PLAN FOR TITLE IV-E OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT
FOSTER CARE, INDEPENDENT LIVING AND ADOPTION ASSISTANCE**

STATE OF _____

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
CHILDREN'S BUREAU
April 2001

**STATE PLAN FOR TITLE IV-E OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT
FOSTER CARE, INDEPENDENT LIVING AND ADOPTION ASSISTANCE
STATE OF _____**

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STATE AGENCY CERTIFICATION **ATTACHMENT A**

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STATE PLAN FOR TITLE IV-E OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

FEDERAL PAYMENTS FOR FOSTER CARE, INDEPENDENT LIVING AND ADOPTION ASSISTANCE

STATE OF _____

As a condition of the receipt of Federal funds under title IV-E of the Social Security Act (hereinafter, the Act), the

(Name of State Agency)

(hereinafter "the State Agency") submits herewith a State plan for the program to provide, in appropriate cases, foster care, independent living (at State option) and adoption assistance under title IV-E of the Act and hereby agrees to administer the program in accordance with the provisions of this State plan, title IV-E of the Act, and all applicable Federal regulations and other official issuances of the Department.

The official text of said laws, regulations and official issuances governs, and the State Agency acknowledges its responsibility to adhere to them regardless of the fact that, for purposes of simplicity, the specific provisions printed herein are sometimes paraphrases of, or excerpts and incomplete quotations from, the full text. Statutory citations refer to provisions in title IV-E of the Social Security Act. Regulatory citations refer to provisions in 45 CFR Parts 1355 and 1356.

The State Agency understands that if and when title IV-E is amended or regulations are revised, a new or amended State plan for title IV-E that conforms to the revisions must be submitted.

The State Agency certifies the following:

TITLE IV-E STATE PLAN - STATE OF _____

Regulatory Reference/ Federal Statute	Requirement	State Statutory/Regulatory Policy References and Citation(s) for Each
	SECTION 1. ORGANIZATION	
471(a)(2)	<p><u>A. DESIGNATION AND AUTHORITY OF STATE AGENCY</u></p> <p>The State agency has been designated to administer or supervise the administration of the program under this plan. (See Attachment A.) It is also the agency that administers or supervises the administration of the State Child Welfare Services Plan under subpart 1 of title IV-B of the Act.</p>	
	<p><u>B. STATE AGENCY STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION</u></p> <p>The State agency has available upon request an organizational chart of the State agency and a description of the functions of each of its organizational units as they relate to the administration or supervising the administration of the title IV-E foster care maintenance, independent living (at State option) and adoption assistance payments program.</p>	
471(a)(3)	<p><u>C. STATEWIDE OPERATIONS</u></p> <p>The title IV-E plan for foster care, independent living (at State option) and adoption assistance payments is in effect in all political subdivisions of the State and is mandatory upon those political subdivisions administering it.</p>	
471(a)(4)	<p><u>D. COORDINATION WITH TITLES IV-A AND IV-B PROGRAMS</u></p> <p>The title IV-E program is coordinated at the local level with the programs at the State or local level assisted under titles IV-A, IV-B and XX of the Act and under all appropriate provisions of Federal law.</p>	

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Regulatory Reference/ Federal Statute	Requirement	State Statutory/Regulatory Policy References and Citation(s) for Each
471(a)(17)	<p><u>E. CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT FOR CERTAIN CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE</u></p> <p>The State agency takes all appropriate steps, including cooperative efforts with the State agencies administering the plans approved under titles IV-A and -D, to secure an assignment to the State of any rights to support on behalf of each child receiving foster care maintenance payments under title IV-E.</p>	

Regulatory Reference/ Federal Statute	Requirement	State Statutory/Regulatory Policy References and Citation(s) for Each
	SECTION 2. FOSTER CARE MAINTENANCE PAYMENTS	
471(a)(1)	<u>A. ELIGIBILITY</u> 1. Payments are provided for each child:	
472(a) 1356.21(c) 472(a)(1)	a. who meets the requirements of 406(a) or 407 of the Act (as in effect 7/16/96) but for his removal from the home of a relative specified in 406(a), if the removal from the home was the result of a judicial determination (unless the child was removed pursuant to a voluntary placement agreement) to the effect that: (1) continuation of residence in the home would be contrary to the welfare, or that the placement would be in the best interest, of the child. The contrary to the welfare determination will be made in the first court ruling that sanctions (even temporarily) the removal of a child from home. If the determination regarding contrary to the welfare is not made in the first court ruling pertaining to removal from the home, the child will not be eligible for title IV-E foster care maintenance payments for the duration of that stay in foster care; and (2) reasonable efforts of the type described in 471(a)(15) for a child have been made.	
472(a)(2) 472(a)(2)(A) 472(a)(2)(B)	b. whose placement and care in a foster family home or child care institution (as defined in 472(c) of the Act) is the responsibility of either: (1) the State agency administering the approved State title IV-E plan, or (2) any other public agency with whom the State agency administering or supervising the administration of the approved State title IV-E plan has made an agreement which is still in effect, and	

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Regulatory Reference/ Federal Statute	Requirement	State Statutory/Regulatory Policy References and Citation(s) for Each
<p>472(a)(4)(A)</p> <p>472(a)(4)(B)(i)</p> <p>472(a)(4)(B)(ii)</p>	<p>c. who:</p> <p>(1) received aid under the State plan approved under 402 of the Act (as in effect 7/16/96) in or for the month in which either a voluntary placement agreement was entered into or court proceedings leading to the removal of the child from the home were initiated, or</p> <p>(2) would have received aid in or for such month if application for such aid had been made, or</p> <p>(3) had been living with a relative specified in 406(a) of the Act (as in effect 7/16/96) within six months prior to the month in which a voluntary placement agreement was entered into or court proceedings were initiated, and would have received aid in or for such month if he/she had been living with such relative and an application had been made for aid under title IV-A of the Act.</p>	
<p>472(a)</p>	<p>2. In any case where the child is an alien disqualified by the Immigration and Nationality Act from receiving aid in or for the month in which a voluntary placement agreement was entered into or court proceedings leading to the removal of the child from the home were instituted, such child shall be considered to satisfy the requirements of section "c". above (and 473(a)(1)(B)), with respect to that month, if he or she would have satisfied such requirements but for such disqualification.</p>	
<p>1356.21(k)</p>	<p>3. Removal.</p> <p>a. For the purposes of meeting the requirements of section 472(a)(1) of the Act, a removal from the home must occur pursuant to:</p> <p>(1) a voluntary placement agreement entered into by a parent or relative which leads to a physical or constructive removal (i.e., a non-physical or paper removal of custody) of the child from the home; or</p> <p>(2) a judicial order for a physical or constructive removal of the child from a parent or specified relative.</p>	

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Regulatory Reference/ Federal Statute	Requirement	State Statutory/Regulatory Policy References and Citation(s) for Each
1356.21(k)	b. A removal has not occurred in situations where legal custody is removed from the parent or relative and the child remains with the same relative in that home under supervision by the State agency.	
1356.21(k)	c. A child is considered constructively removed on the date of the first judicial order removing custody, even temporarily, from the appropriate specified relative or the date that the voluntary placement agreement is signed by all relevant parties.	
1356.21(l)	4. Living with a specified relative. For purposes of meeting the requirements for living with a specified relative prior to removal from the home under section 472(a)(1) of the Act and all of the conditions under section 472(a)(4), one of the two following situations will apply:	
1356.21(l)	a. the child was living with the parent or specified relative, and was AFDC eligible in that home in the month of the voluntary placement agreement or initiation of court proceedings; or	
1356.21(l)	b. the child had been living with the parent or specified relative within six months of the month of the voluntary placement agreement or the initiation of court proceedings, and the child would have been AFDC eligible in that month if s/he had still been living in that home.	
472(f)	<p><u>B. VOLUNTARY PLACEMENTS (State Option)</u></p> <p>1. Foster care maintenance payments are made in the voluntary placement of a minor child out of the home by or with the participation of the State agency only if:</p>	
1356.22(a) 472(d)	a. the State has fulfilled all of the requirements of Section 472 of the Act, as amended; Sections 422(b)(10) and 475(5) of the Act; and 45 CFR 1356.21(f),(g),(h) and (i) of the Act, and	

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Regulatory Reference/ Federal Statute	Requirement	State Statutory/Regulatory Policy References and Citation(s) for Each
472(f)(1)	b. the assistance of the State agency has been requested by the child's parent(s) or legal guardian(s), and	
472(f)(2)	c. there is a written voluntary placement agreement, binding on all parties to the agreement, which specifies at a minimum the legal status of the child and the rights and obligations of the parents or guardians, the child and the State agency while the child is in placement.	
1356.22(b) 472(e)	2. Federal financial participation is claimed only for voluntary foster care maintenance expenditures made within the first 180 days of the child's placement in foster care unless there has been a judicial determination by a court of competent jurisdiction, within the first 180 days of the date of such placement, to the effect that the continued voluntary placement is in the best interests of the child.	
1356.22(c) 472(g)(1)&(2)	3. The State agency has established a uniform procedure or system, consistent with State law, for revocation by the parent(s) of a voluntary placement agreement and return of the child.	
1355.20(a) 475(4)(A)	<p><u>C. PAYMENTS</u></p> <p>1. Foster care maintenance payments for a child in foster care may cover the cost of (and the cost of providing) food, clothing, shelter, daily supervision, school supplies, a child's personal incidentals, liability insurance with respect to the child, and reasonable travel to the child's home for visitation <u>with family, or other caretakers</u>. Local travel associated with providing the items listed above is also an allowable expense. In the case of child care institutions, such term must include the reasonable costs of administration and operation of such institutions as are necessarily required to provide the items described in the preceding sentences.</p>	

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Regulatory Reference/ Federal Statute	Requirement	State Statutory/Regulatory Policy References and Citation(s) for Each
472(b)(1)&(2)	<p>2. Foster care maintenance payments are made only on behalf of an eligible child who is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. in the foster family home of an individual, whether the payments are made to such individual or to a public or nonprofit private child placement or child care agency, or b. in a child care institution, whether the payments are made to such institution or to a public or nonprofit private child placement or child-care agency. Such payments are limited to include only those items that are included in the term "foster care maintenance payments" (defined in 475(4) of the Act). 	
1355.20(a) 472(c)(1)	<p>3. Foster family home means, for the purpose of title IV-E eligibility, the home of an individual or family licensed or approved as meeting the standards established by the State licensing or approval authority(ies) (or with respect to foster family homes on or near Indian reservations, by the tribal licensing or approval authority(ies)), that provides 24-hour out-of-home care for children. The term may include group homes, agency-operated boarding homes or other facilities licensed or approved for the purpose of providing foster care by the State agency responsible for approval or licensing of such facilities. Foster family homes that are approved must be held to the same standards as foster family homes that are licensed. Anything less than full licensure or approval is insufficient for meeting title IV-E eligibility requirements.</p>	

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Regulatory Reference/ Federal Statute	Requirement	State Statutory/Regulatory Policy References and Citation(s) for Each
1355.20(a) 472(c)(2)	4. Child care institution means a private child care institution, or a public child care institution which accommodates no more than 25 children, and is licensed by the State in which it is situated or has been approved by the agency of such State or tribal licensing authority (with respect to child care institutions on or near Indian reservations) responsible for licensing or approval of institutions of this type as meeting the standards established for such licensing. This definition must not include detention facilities, forestry camps, training schools, or any other facility operated primarily for the detention of children who are determined to be delinquent.	
1356.21(j) 475(4)(B)	5. Child of a minor parent in foster care. Foster care maintenance payments made on behalf of a child placed in a foster family home or child care institution, who is the parent of a son or daughter in the same home or institution, must include amounts which are necessary to cover costs incurred on behalf of the child's son or daughter. Said costs must be limited to funds expended on those items described in the definition of foster care maintenance payments.	
1356.21(g)	<p><u>D. CASE REVIEW SYSTEM</u></p> <p>1. Case Plan To meet the case plan requirement of 471(a)(16), 475(1) and 475(5)(A) and (D) of the Act, the State agency has promulgated policy materials and instructions for use by State and local staff to determine the appropriateness of and necessity for the foster care placement of the child. The case plan for each child:</p>	
1356.21(g)(1)	a. is a written document which is a discrete part of the case record, in a format determined by the State, which is developed jointly with the parent(s) or guardian(s) of the child in foster care; and	

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1356.21(g)(2)	b. is developed within a reasonable period, to be established by the State, but in no event later than 60 days from the child's removal from the home; and	
1356.21(g)(4)	c. includes a description of the services offered and provided to prevent removal of the child from the home and to reunify the family; and	
475(1)(A)	d. includes a description of the type of home or institution in which the child is placed; and	
475(1)(A)	e. includes a discussion of the safety and appropriateness of the placement and how the responsible agency plans to carry out the judicial determination made with respect to the child in accordance with 472(a)(1) of the Act; and	
475(1)(B)	f. includes a plan for assuring that the child receives safe and proper care, and services are provided to the parent(s) in order to improve the conditions in the parent's (parents') home to facilitate the child's return to his/her own safe home or the permanent placement of the child; and	
475(1)(B)	g. includes a plan for assuring that services are provided to the child and foster parents in order to address the needs of the child while in foster care; and	
475(1)(B)	h. includes a discussion of the appropriateness of the services that have been provided to the child under the plan; and	
475(1)(D)	i. where appropriate for a child 16 or over, includes a written description of the programs and services which will help such child prepare for the transition from foster care to independent living; and	

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Regulatory Reference/ Federal Statute	Requirement	State Statutory/Regulatory Policy References and Citation(s) for Each
1356.21(g)(5) 475(1)(E)	j. documents the steps to finalize a placement when the case plan goal is or becomes adoption or placement in another permanent home in accordance with sections 475(1)(E) and (5)(E) of the Act. When the case plan goal is adoption, at a minimum such documentation shall include child-specific recruitment efforts such as the use of State, regional, and national adoption exchanges including electronic exchange systems; and	
1356.21(g)(3) 475(5)(A)	k. includes a discussion of how the case plan is designed to achieve a safe placement for the child in the least restrictive (most family-like) setting available and in close proximity to the home of the parent(s) when the case plan goal is reunification and a discussion of how the placement is consistent with the best interests and special needs of the child; and	
475(5)(A)(i)	l. if the child has been placed in a foster family home or child-care institution a substantial distance from the home of the parent(s), or in a different State, sets forth the reasons why such a placement is in the best interests of the child; and	
475(5)(A)(ii)	m. if the child has been placed in foster care in a State outside the State in which the child's parent(s) are located, assures that an agency caseworker, of either State, visits the foster home or institution no less frequently than every 12 months and submits a report on the visit to the State agency of the State where the home of the child's parent(s) is located; and	
475(1)(C)	n. incorporates the health and education records of the child, to the extent available and accessible, including: (1) the names and addresses of the child's health and educational providers; (2) the child's grade level performance; (3) the child's school record; (4) assurances that the child's placement in foster care takes into	

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Regulatory Reference/ Federal Statute	Requirement	State Statutory/Regulatory Policy References and Citation(s) for Each
	<p>account the proximity to the school in which the child is enrolled at the time of placement;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (5) a record of the child's immunizations; (6) the child's known medical problems; (7) the child's medications; and (8) any other relevant health and education information concerning the child determined to be appropriate by the State agency. 	
1356.21(f)	<p>2. Case Review The State Agency has a case review system which meets the requirements of 475(5) and 475(6) of the Act and assures that:</p>	
475(5)(B)	<p>a. a review of each child's status is made no less frequently than once every six months either by a court or by an administrative review to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) determine the safety of the child, the continuing need for and appropriateness of the placement, (2) determine the extent of compliance with the case plan, (3) determine the extent of progress made toward alleviating or mitigating the causes necessitating the placement, and (4) project a likely date by which the child may be returned and safely maintained at home or placed for adoption or legal guardianship. 	
475(6)	<p>b. if an administrative review is conducted, the following requirements will be met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) the review will be open to the participation of the parents of the child, and (2) the review will be conducted by a panel of appropriate persons, at least one of whom is not responsible for the case management of, or delivery of services to either the child or the parents who are the subject of the review. 	

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1356.21(h) 475(5)(C)	<p>3. Permanency Hearing</p> <p>a. To meet the requirements of the permanency hearing, the State holds permanency hearings for all children under the responsibility for placement and care of the title IV-E/IV-B State Agency, including children for whom the State claims Federal reimbursement for the costs of voluntary foster care maintenance payments.</p>	
1356.21(h) 475(5)(C)	<p>b. The permanency hearing takes place within 12 months of the date the child is considered to have entered foster care (as defined within the meaning of 475(5)(F)) and not less frequently than every 12 months thereafter during the continuation of foster care.</p>	
1356.21(h)(2) 471(a)(15)(E)(i)	<p>c. When a court determines that reasonable efforts to return the child home are not required, a permanency hearing is held within 30 days of that determination, unless the requirements of the permanency hearing are fulfilled at the hearing in which the court determines that reasonable efforts to reunify the child and family are not required.</p>	

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Regulatory Reference/ Federal Statute	Requirement	State Statutory/Regulatory Policy References and Citation(s) for Each
1356.21(b)(3) 475(5)(C)	<p>d. For the purposes of this requirement, a permanency hearing will determine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) the permanency plan for the child that includes whether, and if applicable when, the child will be returned to the parent, or placed for adoption and the State will file a petition for termination of parental rights, or referred to legal guardianship, or (in cases where the State agency has documented to the State court a compelling reason for determining that it would not be in the best interest of the child to return home, be referred for termination of parental rights, or be placed for adoption, with a fit and willing relative, or with a legal guardian) placed in another planned permanent living arrangement; (2) in the case of a child placed out of the State in which the home of the parent(s) of the child is located, whether the out-of State placement continues to be appropriate and in the best interests of the child, and, (3) in the case of a child who has attained age 16, the services needed to assist the child to make the transition from foster care to independent living. 	
475(5)(C)	<p>e. Procedural safeguards are also to be applied with respect to parental rights pertaining to the removal of the child from the home of his/her parents, to a change in the child's placement, and to any determination affecting visitation privileges of parents.</p>	
1356.21(h)(3)	<p>f. If the State concludes, after considering reunification, adoption, legal guardianship, or permanent placement with a fit and willing relative, that the most appropriate permanency plan for a child is placement in another planned permanent living arrangement, the State will document to the court the compelling reason for the alternate plan.</p>	

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Regulatory Reference/ Federal Statute	Requirement	State Statutory/Regulatory Policy References and Citation(s) for Each
1356.21(h)(4)	g. When an administrative body, appointed or approved by the court, conducts the permanency hearing, the procedural safeguards set forth in the definition of permanency hearing will be extended by the administrative body.	
475(5)(D)	<p>4. Health and Education Records A child's health and education records are reviewed and updated, and supplied to the foster parent or foster care provider with whom the child is placed, at the time of each placement of the child in foster care.</p>	
1356.21(o) 475(5)(G)	<p>5. Notice The State provides the foster parent(s) of a child and any pre-adoptive parent or relative providing care for the child with timely notice of and an opportunity to be heard in permanency hearings and six-month periodic reviews held with respect to the child during the time the child is in the care of such foster parent, pre-adoptive parent, or relative caregiver. Notice of and an opportunity to be heard does not include the right to standing as a party to the case.</p>	
472(h)(1) 473(b)(1)(B)(2)	<p><u>E. MEDICAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES</u> For purposes of titles XIX and XX, any child with respect to whom foster care maintenance payments are made under this section will be deemed a dependent child as defined in Section 406 of the Act (as so in effect 7/16/1996) and shall be deemed to be a recipient of aid to families with dependent children under Part A of this title (as so in effect 7/16/1996). Titles XIX and XX services will be available to such child in the State in which the child resides.</p>	

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1356.21(h) 471(a)(14)	<p><u>F. SPECIFIC GOALS IN STATE LAW</u></p> <p>1. The State agency formulates for each fiscal year, commencing with the fiscal year which begins October 1, 1983, a specific goal as to the maximum number of children (in absolute numbers or as a percentage of all children in foster care receiving assistance under a State title IV-E program) who at any given time during the fiscal year will have been in foster care for over 24 months. The specific foster care goals required under section 471(a)(14) of the Act are incorporated into State law by statute or administrative regulation with the force of law.</p>	
	<p>2. The State agency will describe the steps that will be taken to achieve the specific goal established.</p>	
	<p>3. The specific goal for the first fiscal year will be established by the State in law on or before October 1, 1982.</p>	
1356.21(b) 471(a)(15)(A)&(B)	<p><u>G. PREVENTIVE AND REUNIFICATION SERVICES</u></p> <p>1. Reasonable efforts. The State makes reasonable efforts to maintain the family unit and prevent the unnecessary removal of a child from his/her home, as long as the child's safety is assured; to effect the safe reunification of the child and family (if temporary out-of-home placement is necessary to ensure the immediate safety of the child); and to make and finalize alternate permanency plans in a timely manner when reunification is not appropriate or possible. In determining reasonable efforts to be made with respect to a child and in making such reasonable efforts, the child's health and safety is the State's paramount concern.</p>	

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471(a)(15)(C)	2. If continuation of reasonable efforts as described in section 471(a)(15)(B) of the Act is determined to be inconsistent with the permanency plan for the child, reasonable efforts are made to place the child in a timely manner in accordance with the permanency plan, and to complete whatever steps are necessary to finalize the permanent placement of the child.	
1356.21(b)(1)(l)& (ii)	3. Judicial determination of reasonable efforts to prevent a child's removal from the home. a. When a child is removed from his/her home, the judicial determination, as to whether reasonable efforts were made or were not required to prevent the removal, is made no later than 60 days from the date the child is removed from the home. b. If the determination concerning reasonable efforts to prevent the removal is not made as specified above, the child is not eligible under the title IV-E foster care maintenance payments program for the duration of that stay in foster care.	
1356.21(b)(2)(i)	4. Judicial determination of reasonable efforts to finalize a permanency plan. a. The State agency obtains a judicial determination that it has made reasonable efforts to finalize the permanency plan that is in effect (whether the plan is reunification, adoption, legal guardianship, placement with a fit and willing relative, or placement in another planned permanent living arrangement) within 12 months of the date the child is considered to have entered foster care in accordance with the definition at Sec. 1355.20 of the regulations, and at least once every 12 months thereafter while the child is in foster care.	

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1356.21(b)(2)(ii)	<p>b. If such a judicial determination regarding reasonable efforts to finalize a permanency plan is not made, the child becomes ineligible under title IV-E from the end of the 12th month following the date the child is considered to have entered foster care or the end of the <u>12th month following the month</u> in which the most recent judicial determination of reasonable efforts to finalize a permanency plan was made, and remains ineligible until such a judicial determination is made.</p>	
1356.21(b)(3) 471(a)(15)(D)	<p>5. Circumstances in which reasonable efforts are not required to prevent a child's removal from home or to reunify the child and family. Reasonable efforts to prevent a child's removal from home or to reunify the child and family are not required if the State agency obtains a judicial determination that such efforts are not required because:</p>	
1356.21(b)(3)(l) 471(a)(15)(D)	<p>a. A court of competent jurisdiction has determined that the parent has subjected the child to aggravated circumstances (as defined in State law, which definition may include but need not be limited to abandonment, torture, chronic abuse, and sexual abuse);</p>	

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1356.21(b)(3)(ii) 471(a)(15)(D)	<p>b. A court of competent jurisdiction has determined that the parent has been convicted of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) murder (which would have been an offense under section 1111(a) of title 18, United States Code, if the offense had occurred in the special maritime or territorial jurisdiction of the United States) of another child of the parent; (2) voluntary manslaughter (which would have been an offense under section 1112(a) of title 18, United States Code, if the offense had occurred in the special maritime or territorial jurisdiction of the United States) of another child of the parent; (3) aiding or abetting, attempting, conspiring, or soliciting to commit such a murder or such a voluntary manslaughter; or (4) a felony assault that results in serious bodily injury to the child or another child of the parent; or, 	
1356.21(b)(3)(iii) 471(a)(15)(D)	<p>c. The parental rights of the parent with respect to a sibling have been terminated involuntarily.</p>	
1356.21(b)(4) 471(a)(15)(F)	<p>6. Concurrent planning. Reasonable efforts to finalize an alternate permanency plan may be made concurrently with reasonable efforts to reunify the child and family.</p>	
1356.21(b)(5)	<p>7. Use of the Federal Parent Locator Service. The State agency may seek the services of the Federal Parent Locator Service to search for absent parents at any point in order to facilitate a permanency plan.</p>	
1356.21(i)(1)	<p><u>H. TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS</u></p> <p>1. The State will file a petition (or, if such a petition has been filed by another party, seek to be joined as a party to the petition) to terminate the parental rights of a parent(s):</p>	

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1356.21(i)(1)(i) 475(5)(F)	<p>a. whose child has been in foster care under the responsibility of the State for 15 of the most recent 22 months. The petition must be filed by the end of the child's 15th month in foster care. In calculating when to file a petition for termination of parental rights, the State:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) will calculate the 15 out of the most recent 22 month period from the date the child entered foster care as defined at section 475(5)(F) of the Act; (2) will use a cumulative method of calculation when a child experiences multiple exits from and entries into foster care during the 22 month period; (3) will not include trial home visits or runaway episodes in calculating 15 months in foster care; and, (4) only applies section 475(5)(E) of the Act to a child once if the State does not file a petition because one of the exceptions applies; 	
1356.21(i)(1)(ii)	<p>b. whose child has been determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to be an abandoned infant (as defined under State law). The petition to terminate parental rights is made within 60 days of the judicial determination that the child is an abandoned infant; or,</p>	
1356.21(i)(1)(iii)	<p>c. who has been convicted of one of the felonies listed above. Under such circumstances, the petition to terminate parental rights is to be made within 60 days of a judicial determination that reasonable efforts to reunify the child and parent are not required.</p>	

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1356.21(i)(2)	<p>2. The State may elect not to file or join a petition to terminate the parental rights of a parent of this section if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. at the option of the State, the child is being cared for by a relative; b. the State agency has documented in the case plan (which must be available for court review) a compelling reason for determining that filing such a petition would not be in the best interests of the individual child; c. the State agency has not provided to the family, consistent with the time period in the case plan, services that the State deems necessary for the safe return of the child to the home, when reasonable efforts to reunify the family are required. 	
1356.21(i)(3)	<p>3. When the State files or joins a petition to terminate parental rights, it concurrently begins to identify, recruit, process, and approve a qualified adoptive family for the child.</p>	
1355.20(a) 475(5)(F)	<p><u>I. DATE CHILD CONSIDERED TO HAVE ENTERED FOSTER CARE</u></p> <p>A child will be considered to have entered foster care on the earlier of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the date of the first judicial finding that the child has been subjected to child abuse or neglect; or 2. the date that is 60 days after the date on which the child is removed from the home. 	
1356.21(d)	<p><u>J. DOCUMENTATION OF JUDICIAL DETERMINATIONS.</u></p> <p>The judicial determinations regarding contrary to the welfare, reasonable efforts to prevent removal, and reasonable efforts to finalize the permanency plan in effect, including judicial determinations that reasonable efforts are not required, are explicitly documented and made on a case-by-case basis and so stated in the court order.</p>	

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	1. If the reasonable efforts and contrary to the welfare judicial determinations are not included as required in the court orders, a transcript of the court proceedings is the only other documentation accepted to verify that these required determinations have been made.	
	2. Neither affidavits nor nunc pro tunc orders will be accepted as verification documentation in support of reasonable efforts and contrary to the welfare judicial determinations.	
	3. Court orders that reference State law to substantiate judicial determinations are not acceptable, even if State law provides that a removal must be based on a judicial determination that remaining in the home would be contrary to the child's welfare or that removal can only be ordered after reasonable efforts have been made	
1356.21(e)	<p><u>K. TRIAL HOME VISITS</u></p> <p>A trial home visit may not exceed six months in duration, unless a court orders a longer trial home visit. If a trial home visit extends beyond six months and has not been authorized by the court, or exceeds the time period the court has deemed appropriate, and the child is subsequently returned to foster care, that placement must then be considered a new placement and title IV-E eligibility must be newly established. Under these circumstances, the judicial determinations regarding contrary to the welfare and reasonable efforts to prevent removal are required.</p>	
471(a)(24)	<p><u>L. TRAINING</u></p> <p>Before a child in foster care is placed with prospective foster parents, the prospective foster parents are adequately prepared with the appropriate knowledge and skills to provide for the needs of the child. As necessary, such preparation is continued after placement of the child.</p>	

Regulatory Reference/ Federal Statute	Requirement	State Statutory/Regulatory Policy References and Citation(s) for Each
477	SECTION 3. CHAFEE FOSTER CARE INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM (State Option)	
477(b)(2)	<u>A. STATE PLAN</u>	
	1. The State has a plan describing how it will:	
477(b)(2)(A)	a. Design and deliver programs which meet the purposes of the Chafee Foster Care Independence Programs as stated in section 477(a).	
477(b)(2)(B)	b. Ensure that all political subdivisions are served by the program, though not necessarily in a uniform manner.	
477(b)(2)(C)	c. Ensure that the programs serve children of various ages and at various stages of achieving independence.	
477(b)(2)(D)	d. Involve the public and private sectors in helping adolescents in foster care achieve independence.	
477(b)(2)(E)	e. Use objective criteria for determining eligibility for benefits and services under the programs, and for ensuring fair and equitable treatment of benefit recipients.	
477(b)(2)(F)	f. Cooperate in national evaluations of the effects of the programs in achieving the purposes of the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program.	
477(b)(2)	2. The plan specifies which State agency or agencies will administer, supervise, or oversee the programs carried out under the plan.	

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	B. STATE CERTIFICATIONS	
477(b)(3)(A)	1. The State provides assistance and services to youth who have left foster care because they have attained 18 years of age and have not attained 21 years of age.	
477(b)(3)(B)	2. Not more than 30 percent of the amounts paid to the State from its allotment for a fiscal year is expended for room and board for youth who have left foster care because they have attained 18 years of age and have not attained 21 years of age.	
477(b)(3)(C)	3. None of the amounts paid to the State from its allotment are expended for room or board for any child who has not attained 18 years of age.	
477(b)(3)(D)	4. Training funds provided under the program of Federal payments for foster care and adoption assistance are used to provide training to help foster parents, adoptive parents, workers in group homes, and case managers understand and address the issues confronting adolescents preparing for independent living, and will, to the extent possible, coordinate such training with the independent living program conducted for adolescents.	
477(b)(3)(E)	5. The State has consulted widely with public and private organizations in developing the plan and has given all interested members of the public at least 30 days to submit comments on the plan.	
477(b)(3)(F)	6. The State has made every effort to coordinate the State programs receiving	

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477(b)(3)(G)	funds provided under this section with other Federal and State programs for youth (especially transitional living youth projects funded under part B of title III of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974), abstinence education programs, local housing programs, programs for disabled youth (especially sheltered workshops), and school-to-work programs offered by high schools or local workforce agencies.	
477(b)(3)(H)	7. Each Indian tribe in the State has been consulted about the programs to be carried out under the plan; there have been efforts to coordinate the programs with such tribes; and benefits and services under the programs are made available to Indian youth in the State on the same basis as to other youth in the State.	
477(b)(3)(I)	8. Adolescents participating in the program participate directly in designing their own program activities that prepare them for independent living and the adolescents are required to accept personal responsibility for living up to their part of the program. 9. The State has established and will enforce standards and procedures to prevent fraud and abuse in the programs carried out under the plan.	

Regulatory Reference/ Federal Statute	Requirement	State Statutory/Regulatory Policy References and Citation(s) for Each
	SECTION 4. ADOPTION ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS	
473(a)(1)(A) 473(c)	<u>A. ELIGIBILITY</u> 1. Adoption assistance payments may be made to parents who adopt a child with special needs. A child will not be considered a child with special needs unless:	
473(c)(1)	a. the State has determined the child cannot or should not be returned to the home of his or her parents;	
473(c)(2)(A)	b. the State has first determined that a specific factor or condition exists with respect to the child (such as ethnic background, age, or membership in a minority or sibling group, or the presence of factors such as medical conditions or physical, mental or emotional disabilities) because of which it is reasonable to conclude that such child cannot be placed for adoption without providing adoption assistance or medical assistance under title XIX; and	
473(c)(2)(B)	c. a reasonable, but unsuccessful, effort has been made to place the child without providing assistance except where it would be against the best interests of the child due to such factors as the existence of significant emotional ties with prospective adoptive parents while in the care of such parents as a foster child.	
473(a)(1)(B)	2. Adoption assistance payments are made to adoptive parents who have entered into an adoption assistance agreement (see subsection C of this plan) with the State agency.	
473(a)(2)(A)(i)	3. Adoption assistance payments are made with respect to an adoptive child who:	

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473(a)(2)(A)(ii)	<p>a. at the time adoption proceedings were initiated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) met the requirements of 406(a) or 407 of the Act (as effective 7/16/96), or would have met such requirements except for his or her removal from the home of a relative (specified in 406(a)) either pursuant to a voluntary placement agreement with respect to which Federal payments are provided under 474 (or 403) of the Act (as effective 7/16/96) or as a result of a judicial determination to the effect that continuation therein would be contrary to the welfare of the child; or (2) meets all the requirements of title XVI of the Act with respect to eligibility for supplemental security income benefits; and (3) is a child whose costs in a foster family home or child-care institution are covered by the foster care maintenance payments being made with respect to his or her minor parent as provided in section 475(4)(B). 	
473(a)(2)(B)(i) &(ii)(I)	<p>b. received aid under the State plan approved under 402 of the Act, or would have received aid under such plan had application been made, in or for the month a voluntary placement agreement was entered into or court proceedings were initiated leading to the removal of the child from his home; or</p>	
473(a)(2)(B)(i) &(ii)(II)	<p>c. had been living with a relative specified in 406(a) of the Act within six months prior to the month in which a voluntary placement agreement was entered into or court proceedings were initiated leading to the removal of the child from his home, and would have received such aid under the State plan approved under 402 of the Act for that month if in that month the child had been living with such a relative and application had been made; and</p>	
473(a)(2)(C)	<p>d. has been determined by the State to be a child with special needs.</p>	

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473(a)(2)(C)	<p>4. Any child who meets the following requirements will be treated as meeting the requirements to receive adoption assistance payments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. meets the requirements of 473(a)(2)(C); b. was determined eligible for adoption assistance payments with respect to a prior adoption; c. is available for adoption because the prior adoption has been dissolved and the parental rights of the adoptive parents have been terminated or because the child's adoptive parents have died; and d. fails to meet the requirements of 473(a)(2)(A) and (B) but would meet such requirements if the child were treated as if the child were in the same financial and other circumstances the child was in the last time the child was determined eligible for adoption assistance payments and the prior adoption were treated as never having occurred. 	
473(a)(1)(B)(i)	<p><u>B. PAYMENTS – AMOUNTS AND CONDITIONS</u></p> <p>1. Payments will be made for non-recurring adoption expenses incurred by or on behalf of the adoptive parents in connection with the adoption of a child with special needs, directly through the State agency or through another public or nonprofit private agency, in amounts determined through an agreement with the adoptive parents, and</p>	
473(a)(1)(B)(ii)	<p>2. In any case where the child meets the requirements of 473(a)(2) of the Act, the State may make adoption assistance payments to adoptive parents, directly through the State agency or through another public or nonprofit private agency, in amounts so determined through an adoption assistance agreement (see Section 4, item C of this plan).</p>	
473(a)(3)	<p>3. The amount of such payment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. will take into consideration the circumstances of the adopting parents and the needs of the child being adopted; 	

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	b. may be adjusted periodically with the concurrence of the adoptive parents to reflect changing circumstances; and	
	c. may not exceed the foster care maintenance payment which would have been paid during the period if the child with respect to whom the adoption assistance payment is made had been in a foster family home.	
1356. 40(d)	4. In determining eligibility for adoption assistance payments, there is no income eligibility requirement (means test) for the adoptive parents.	
473(a)(4)	5. Payments are terminated when the State determines that: a. the child has attained the age of 18 (or, where the State determines that the child has a mental or physical disability which warrants the continuation of assistance, the age of 21), or b. the parents are no longer legally responsible for the support of the child, or c. the child is no longer receiving support from the adoptive parents.	
473(a)(4)	6. The adoptive parents are required to inform the State agency of circumstances that would make them ineligible for adoption assistance payments or eligible for adoption assistance payments in a different amount.	
475(3)	<u>C. ADOPTION ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT</u> 1. An adoption assistance agreement is a written agreement, binding on all parties, between the State agency, other relevant agencies, and the prospective adoptive parents.	
1356.40(b) ACYF-CB-PA-01-01	2. The adoption assistance agreement meets the requirements of 475(3) of the Act, and ACYF-CB-PA-01-01 as stated below:	

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1356.40(b)(1)	a. is signed by the adoptive parents and a representative of the State agency and is in effect before adoption assistance payments are made under title IV-E, but no later than the finalization of the adoption;	
1356.40(b)(2) 475(3)	b. specifies the duration of the agreement;	
1356.40(b)(3)	c. specifies the amount of the adoption assistance payments (if any) and the nature and amount of any other payments, services and assistance to be provided (including non-recurring adoption expenses in agreements that became effective on or after January 1, 1987, for expenditures incurred by the parents on or after that date);	
473(b)	d. specifies the child's eligibility for title XIX and title XX;	
475(3)(B)	e. specifies, with respect to agreements entered into on or after October 1, 1983, that the agreement remains in effect regardless of the State of residence of the adoptive parents;	
475(3)	f. contains provisions for the protection of the interests of the child in case the adoptive parents and child should move to another State while the agreement is in effect; and	
1356.40(d)	g. for agreements entered into on or after October 1, 1983, if a needed service specified in the agreement is not available in the new State of residence, the State making the original adoption assistance payment remains financially responsible for providing the specified service(s).	

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473(b)(1-4)	<p><u>D. MEDICAID AND SOCIAL SERVICES</u></p> <p>1. For the purposes of titles XIX and XX, any eligible child for whom there is an adoption assistance agreement in effect under 473(a)(2) (whether or not adoption assistance payments are being made) is deemed to be a dependent child as defined in 406 of the Act and is deemed to be a recipient of AFDC under part A of title IV of the Act (as in effect 7/16/96) in the State in which such child resides. Any child of such eligible child will be eligible for such services.</p>	
471(a)(21) (A)&(B)	<p>2. The State will provide health insurance coverage (through one or more State medical assistance programs), with the same type and kind of benefits as those which would be provided for children by the State under title XIX, or a comparable State medical plan, for any child who has been determined to be a child with special needs, for whom there is in effect an adoption assistance agreement between the State and an adoptive parent or parents, and who the State has determined cannot be placed with an adoptive parent or parents without medical assistance due to special needs for medical, mental health or rehabilitative care.</p>	
471(a)(21)(C)&(D)	<p>3. In the event that the State provides such coverage through a State medical assistance program other than the program under title XIX, and the State exceeds its funding for services under such other program, any such child is deemed to be receiving aid or assistance under the State plan under this part for purposes of section 1902(a)(10)(a)(i)(1); and in determining cost-sharing requirements, the State will take into consideration the circumstances of the adopting parent or parents and the needs of the child being adopted to the extent coverage is provided through a State medical assistance program, consistent with the rules under such program.</p>	

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473A(b)	<p><u>E. ELIGIBILITY FOR ADOPTION INCENTIVE FUNDING</u></p> <p>To be eligible for adoption incentive funds in FFY 2001 and 2002, the State provides health insurance coverage to any child with special needs (as determined under section 473(c)) for whom there is in effect an adoption assistance agreement.</p>	

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	SECTION 5. GENERAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS	
471(a)(10)	<p><u>A. STANDARDS FOR FOSTER FAMILY HOMES AND CHILD CARE INSTITUTIONS</u></p> <p>The State agency has established or designated a State authority(ies) which is responsible for establishing and maintaining standards for foster family homes and child care institutions which are reasonably in accord with recommended standards of national organizations concerned with standards for such institutions or homes, including standards related to admission policies, safety, sanitation, and protection of civil rights. The standards so established are applied by the State to any foster family home or child-care institution receiving funds under titles IV-E or IV-B.</p>	
1356.21(m)(1)&(2) 471(a)(11)	<p><u>B. REVIEW OF PAYMENTS AND LICENSING STANDARDS</u></p> <p>The State agency reviews at reasonable, specific, time-limited periods established by the State:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the amount of the payment made for foster care maintenance and adoption assistance to assure their continued appropriateness; and 2. the licensing or approval standards for child care institutions and foster family homes. 	
471(a)(12)	<p><u>C. FAIR HEARINGS</u></p> <p>The State agency has a system for granting an opportunity for a fair hearing (before the State agency) to any individual whose claim for benefits under this plan is denied or not acted upon with reasonable promptness.</p>	

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471(a)(13)	<p><u>D. INDEPENDENT AUDIT</u></p> <p>The State Agency will arrange for a periodic and independently conducted audit, no less frequently than once every three years, of the titles IV-E and IV-B programs.</p>	
471(a)(9)	<p><u>E. CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT</u></p> <p>The State agency will report to an appropriate agency or official known or suspected instances of physical or mental injury, sexual abuse or exploitation, or negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child receiving aid under titles IV-B or IV-E under circumstances that indicate that the child's health or welfare is threatened.</p>	
471(a)(18)(A)&(B) 1355.38(a)(2)(iii)	<p><u>F. REMOVAL OF BARRIERS TO INTERETHNIC ADOPTION</u></p> <p>1. The State has a plan, approved by the Secretary not later than January 1, 1997, which provides that neither the State nor any other entity in the State that receives funds from the Federal Government and is involved in adoption or foster care placements may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. deny to any person the opportunity to become an adoptive or foster parent, on the basis of race, color, or national origin of the person, or of the child involved; or b. delay or deny the placement of a child for adoption or into foster care, on the basis of race, color, or national origin of the adoptive or foster parent or the child involved; and c. with respect to a State, maintains any statute, regulation, policy, procedure or practice that, on its face, is a violation as defined in paragraphs 471(a)(18)(A) and (B) above. 	

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1355.38(a)(5)	2. Compliance with the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 (Pub.L.95-608) does not constitute a violation of section 471(a)(18).	
471(a)(19)	<p><u>G. KINSHIP CARE</u></p> <p>The State considers giving preference to an adult relative over a non-related caregiver when determining a placement for a child, provided that the relative caregiver meets all relevant State child protection standards.</p>	
1356.30(a) 471(a)(20)(A)	<p><u>H. SAFETY REQUIREMENTS</u></p> <p>1. Safety requirements for foster care and adoptive home providers.</p> <p>a. Unless an election provided for in paragraph (d) of this section is made, the State provides documentation that criminal records checks have been conducted with respect to prospective foster and adoptive parents.</p>	
1356.30(b) 471(a)(20)(A)(i)	<p>b. The State does not approve or license any prospective foster or adoptive parent, nor does the State claim FFP for any foster care maintenance or adoption assistance payment made on behalf of a child placed in a foster home operated under the auspices of a child placing agency or on behalf of a child placed in an adoptive home through a private adoption agency, if the State finds that, based on a criminal records check conducted in accordance with paragraph (a) of this section, a court of competent jurisdiction has determined that the prospective foster or adoptive parent has been convicted of a felony involving:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Child abuse or neglect; (2) Spousal abuse; (3) A crime against a child or children (including child pornography); or, (4) A crime involving violence, including rape, sexual assault, or homicide, but not including other physical assault or battery. 	

TITLE IV-E STATE PLAN - STATE OF _____

Regulatory Reference/ Federal Statute	Requirement	State Statutory/Regulatory Policy References and Citation(s) for Each
1356.30(c) 471(a)(20)(A)(ii)	<p>c. The State does not approve or license any prospective foster or adoptive parent, nor claim FFP for any foster care maintenance or adoption assistance payment made on behalf of a child placed in a foster family home operated under the auspices of a child placing agency or on behalf of a child placed in an adoptive home through a private adoption agency, if the State finds, based on a criminal records check conducted in accordance with paragraph (a) of this section, that a court of competent jurisdiction has determined that the prospective foster or adoptive parent has, within the last five years, been convicted of a felony involving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Physical assault; (2) Battery; or, (3) A drug-related offense. 	
1356.30(d) 471(a)(20)(B)	<p>d. Criminal records checks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The State may elect not to conduct or require criminal records checks on prospective foster or adoptive parents by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Notifying the Secretary in a letter from the Governor; or (b) Enacting State legislation. (2) Such an election removes the State's obligation to comport with paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section. 	
1356.30(e)	<p>e. If the State opts out of the criminal records check requirement, the licensing file for that foster or adoptive family contains documentation that verifies that safety considerations with respect to the caretaker(s) have been addressed.</p>	
1356.30(f)	<p>f. In order for a child care institution to be eligible for title IV-E funding, the licensing file for the institution contains documentation which verifies that safety considerations with respect to the staff of the institution have been addressed.</p>	

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Regulatory Reference/ Federal Statute	Requirement	State Statutory/Regulatory Policy References and Citation(s) for Each
471(a)(23)(A)&(B)	<p><u>I. INTERJURISDICTIONAL ADOPTIONS</u></p> <p>The State will not:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. deny or delay the placement of a child for adoption when an approved family is available outside of the jurisdiction with responsibility for handling the case of the child; or 2. fail to grant an opportunity for a fair hearing, as described in section 471(a)(12), to an individual whose allegation of a violation of part (1) of this subsection is denied by the State or not acted upon by the State with reasonable promptness. 	
471(a)(22)	<p><u>J. QUALITY STANDARDS</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Effective January 1, 1999, the State has developed and implemented standards to ensure that children in foster care placements in public or private agencies are provided quality services that protect the safety and health of the children. 	
471(a)(24)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The State will ensure that prospective foster parents are adequately trained with the appropriate knowledge and skills to provide for the needs of the child and that such preparation will be continued after the placement. 	

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Regulatory Reference/ Federal Statute	Requirement	State Statutory/Regulatory Policy References and Citation(s) for Each
	SECTION 6. GENERAL PROVISIONS	
471(a)(5)	<p><u>A. PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The State agency and the local agencies administering the title IV-E program have established and will maintain methods of personnel administration in conformity with standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration, prescribed in 5 CFR 900 by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management pursuant to Sec. 208 of the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970, as amended. 2. The State agency is implementing an affirmative action plan to assure equal employment opportunity in all aspects of personnel administration as specified in 5 CFR 900. The plan provides for specific action steps and timetables to assure such equal opportunity, and is available for review upon request. 	
471(a)(8)	<p><u>B. SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The State agency has safeguards restricting use of or disclosure of information concerning individuals assisted under the State plan to purposes directly connected with: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. the administration of the title IV-E plan or any of the State plans or programs under Parts A, B or D of title IV or under titles I, V, X, XIV, XVI (as in effect in Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands), XIX or XX, or the supplemental security income program under title XVI; and b. any investigation, prosecution, or criminal or civil proceeding conducted in connection with the administration of any such plan or program; and 	
471(a)(8)(A)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. the administration of the title IV-E plan or any of the State plans or programs under Parts A, B or D of title IV or under titles I, V, X, XIV, XVI (as in effect in Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands), XIX or XX, or the supplemental security income program under title XVI; and 	
471(a)(8)(B)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> b. any investigation, prosecution, or criminal or civil proceeding conducted in connection with the administration of any such plan or program; and 	

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Regulatory Reference/ Federal Statute	Requirement	State Statutory/Regulatory Policy References and Citation(s) for Each
471(a)(8)(C)	c. the administration of any other Federal or federally assisted program which provides assistance (in-cash or in-kind) or services directly to individuals on the basis of need; and	
471(a)(8)(D)	d. any audit or similar activity conducted in connection with the administration of any such plan or program by any governmental agency authorized by law to conduct such audit or activity.	
	2. The safeguards provided will prohibit the disclosure to any committee or legislative body (other than an agency referred to in clause 471(a)(8)(D) with respect to an activity referred to in such clause) of any information which identifies by name or address any applicant for or recipient of assistance under title IV-E of the Act.	
471(a)(6)	<p><u>C. REPORTING</u></p> <p>The State agency makes reports in such form and containing such information on the State's title IV-E program as are required by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the State agency will comply with such provisions as the Secretary may from time to time find necessary to assure the correctness and verification of such reports.</p>	
471(a)(7)	<p><u>D. MONITORING</u></p> <p>The State agency monitors and conducts evaluations of activities carried out in the State's title IV-E program.</p>	

Regulatory Reference/ Federal Statute	Requirement	State Statutory/Regulatory Policy References and Citation(s) for Each
1355.30	<p><u>E. APPLICABILITY OF DEPARTMENT-WIDE REGULATIONS</u></p> <p>The State agency will comply with all of the requirements of applicable regulations, including the regulations listed below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 45 CFR Part 16 - Department Grant Appeals Process 2. 45 CFR Part 30 - Federal Claims Collection 3. 45 CFR Part 74 - Administration of Grants (except for Sections 74.23 and 74.52) 4. 45 CFR Part 76 - Government Debarment and Suspension 5. 45 CFR Part 80 - Nondiscrimination 6. 45 CFR Part 81 - Hearings under Part 80 7. 45 CFR Part 84 - Nondiscrimination on basis of handicap 8. 45 CFR Part 91 - Nondiscrimination on basis of age 9. 45 CFR Part 93 - New restrictions on lobbying 10. 45 CFR Part 95 - General Administration - Grant Programs (Public Assistance and Medical Assistance) 11. 45 CFR Part 97 - Consolidation of grants to the insular areas 12. Section 95.517 (supersedes section 205.150) - Cost Allocation Plans 13. Section 201.5 - Grants (except that ACYF shall supply appropriate forms and instructions) 14. Section 201.6 - Withholding/Reduction of FFP 15. Section 201.7 - Judicial Review 16. Section 201.15 - Deferral of Claims 17. Section 201.66 - Repayment of Federal Funds by Installments 18. Section 204.1 - Submittal of State Plans for Governor's Review 19. Section 205.5 - Plan Amendments 20. Section 205.10 – Hearings 21. Section 205.50 - Safeguarding Information 22. Section 205.100 - Single State Agency 	
1356.21(c)	<p><u>F. AVAILABILITY OF STATE PLANS</u></p>	

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Regulatory Reference/ Federal Statute	Requirement	State Statutory/Regulatory Policy References and Citation(s) for Each
	The State plans and plan amendments for titles IV-E and IV-B are made available by the State agency for public review and inspection.	
1355.33(b) 1355.33(e) 1355.35(a)	<p><u>G. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION OF REVIEW REPORTS AND MATERIALS</u></p> <p>The State agency makes available for public review and inspection all statewide assessments, report of findings, and program improvement plans developed as a result of a full or partial child and family services review.</p>	

TITLE IV-E STATE PLAN - STATE OF _____

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I hereby certify that I am authorized to submit amended pages for the State Plan on behalf of

(Designated State Agency)

Date _____

(Signature)

(Title)

APPROVAL DATE: _____

EFFECTIVE DATE: _____

(Signature ACF Regional Representative)

TITLE IV-E STATE PLAN - STATE OF _____

**GOVERNOR'S CERTIFICATION
TITLE IV-E of the SOCIAL SECURITY ACT**

I certify that _____
(Name of Agency)

- (a) has the authority to submit the State plan under title IV-E of the Social Security Act for Foster Care and Adoption Assistance; and
- (b) is the single State agency responsible for administering the plan or supervising the administration of the plan by local political subdivisions. It has the authority to make rules and regulations governing the administration of the plan that are binding on such subdivisions. The title IV-E plan is mandatory upon the subdivisions and is in effect throughout the State.

Date

Signature

TITLE IV-E STATE PLAN - STATE OF _____

A S S U R A N C E

I hereby assure that the State agency administering the title IV-E programs obtained the relevant sections of the title IV-A State plan (as in effect in this State on July 16, 1996) and used them as the basis for making title IV-E eligibility determinations. I certify that I am authorized to submit, as an appendix to this State's title IV-E State plan, those relevant sections of the title IV-A State plan.

On behalf of _____
(Designated State Agency)

Date _____

(Signature)

(Title)

APPROVAL DATE: _____

EFFECTIVE DATE: _____

(Signature ACF Regional Representative)

The following is the most recent version of the title IV-E State Plan, and reflects all revisions to the State Plan document prior to the issuance of this new comprehensive document. We have included it to assist you in making the transition from your current document to the new one.

The key for the changes follow:

Italics - New language added based on law and/or regulatory change.

~~Line Out~~ - Language deleted because it was either replaced or no longer correct.

ATTACHMENT B

OMB Approval No.
Expiration Date:

**STATE PLAN FOR TITLE IV-E OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT
FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION ASSISTANCE**

STATE OF _____

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
CHILDREN'S BUREAU

**STATE PLAN FOR TITLE IV-E OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT
FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION ASSISTANCE
STATE OF _____**

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STATE AGENCY CERTIFICATION **ATTACHMENT A**

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ASSURANCE **ATTACHMENT C**

STATE PLAN FOR TITLE IV-E OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT
FEDERAL PAYMENTS FOR FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION ASSISTANCE
STATE OF _____

As a condition of the receipt of Federal funds under title IV-E of the Social Security Act (hereinafter, the Act), the

(Name of State Agency)

(hereinafter "the State Agency") submits herewith a State plan for the program to provide, in appropriate cases, foster care and adoption assistance under title IV-E of the Act and hereby agrees to administer the program in accordance with the provisions of this State plan, title IV-E of the Act, and all applicable Federal regulations and other official issuances of the Department.

The official text of said laws, regulations and official issuances governs, and the State Agency acknowledges its responsibility to adhere to them regardless of the fact that, for purposes of simplicity, the specific provisions printed herein are sometimes paraphrases of, or excerpts and incomplete quotations from the full text.

The State Agency understands that if and when title IV-E is amended or regulations are revised, a new or amended State plan for title IV-E that conforms to the revisions must be submitted.

The State Agency certifies the following:

TITLE IV-E STATE PLAN - STATE OF _____

Regulatory Reference/ Federal Statute	Requirement	State Statutory/Regulatory Policy References and Citation(s) for Each
	SECTION 1. ORGANIZATION	
471(a)(2)	<p><u>A. DESIGNATION AND AUTHORITY OF STATE AGENCY</u></p> <p>The State Agency has been designated to administer or supervise the administration of the program under this plan. (See attachment A.) It is also the agency that administers or supervises the administration of the State Child Welfare Services Plan under subpart 1 of title IV-B of the Act.</p>	
	<p><u>B. STATE AGENCY STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION</u></p> <p>The State Agency has available upon request an organizational chart of the State Agency and a description of the functions of each of its organizational units as they relate to the administration or supervising the administration of the title IV-E foster care maintenance and adoption assistance payments program.</p>	
471(a)(3)	<p><u>C. STATEWIDE OPERATIONS</u></p> <p>The title IV-E plan for foster care and adoption assistance payments is in effect in all political subdivisions of the State and is mandatory upon those political subdivisions administering it.</p>	
471(a)(4)	<p><u>D. COORDINATION WITH TITLES IV-A AND IV-B PROGRAMS</u></p> <p>The title IV-E program is coordinated at the local level with the programs at the State or local level assisted under titles IV-A, IV-B and XX of the Act and under all appropriate provisions of Federal law.</p>	

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Regulatory Reference/ Federal Statute	Requirement	State Statutory/Regulatory Policy References and Citation(s) for Each
471(a)(17)	<p><u>E. CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT FOR CERTAIN CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE</u></p> <p>The State Agency takes all appropriate steps, including cooperative efforts with the State agencies administering the plans approved under parts A and D, to secure an assignment to the State of any rights to support on behalf of each child receiving foster care maintenance payments under this part.</p>	

Regulatory Reference/ Federal Statute	Requirement	State Statutory/Regulatory Policy References and Citation(s) for Each
	SECTION 2. FOSTER CARE MAINTENANCE PAYMENTS	
471(a)(1)	<u>A. ELIGIBILITY</u> 1. Payments are provided for each child:	
472(a) 1356.21(c) 472(a)(1)	<p>a. who meets the requirements of 406(a) or 407 of the Act (as in effect 7/16/96) but for his removal from the home of a relative specified in 406(a), if the removal from <i>the his home was the result of a judicial determination (unless the child was removed pursuant to a voluntary placement agreement) to the effect that:</i></p> <p>(1) <i>continuation of residence in the home would be contrary to the welfare, or that placement would be in the best interest, of the child. The contrary to the welfare determination will be made in the first court ruling that sanctions (even temporarily) the removal of a child from home. If the determination regarding contrary to the welfare is not made in the first court ruling pertaining to removal from the home, the child will not be eligible for title IV-E foster care maintenance payments for the duration of that stay in foster care; and</i></p> <p>(2) <i>reasonable efforts of the type described in 471(a)(15) for a child have been made.</i></p> <p>was the result of a judicial determination to the effect that continuation therein would be contrary to the welfare of such child and (effective October 1, 1983) that reasonable efforts have been made prior to the placement of each child in foster care, to prevent or eliminate the need for removal of the child from his home, and to make it possible for the child to return to his home; or</p>	

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Regulatory Reference/ Federal Statute	Requirement	State Statutory/Regulatory Policy References and Citation(s) for Each
472(a)(2) 472(a)(2)(A) 472(a)(2)(B)	b. whose placement and care in a foster family home or child care institution (as defined in 472(c) of the Act) is the responsibility of either: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) the State Agency administering the approved State title IV-E plan, or (2) any other public agency with whom the State Agency administering or supervising the administration of the approved State title IV-E plan has made an agreement which is still in effect, and 	
472(a)(4)(A) 472(a)(4)(B)(i) 472(a)(4)(B)(ii)	c. who: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) received aid under the State plan approved under 402 of the Act (as in effect 7/16/96) in or for the month in which either a voluntary agreement was entered into or court proceedings leading to the removal of the child from the home were initiated, or (2) would have received aid in or for such month if application for such aid had been made, or (3) had been living with a relative specified in 406(a) of the Act (as in effect 7/16/96) within six months prior to the month in which a voluntary agreement was entered into or court proceedings were initiated, and would have received aid in or for such month if in such month he had been living with such relative and an application had been made for aid under title IV-A of the Act. 	
472(a)	2. In any case where the child is an alien disqualified by the Immigration and Nationality Act from receiving aid in or for the month in which a voluntary placement agreement was entered into or court proceedings leading to the removal of the child from the home were instituted, such child shall be considered to satisfy the requirements of section "c". above (and 473(a)(1)(B)), with respect to that month, if he or she would have satisfied	

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	such requirements but for such disqualification.	
1356.21(k)	<p>3. Removal.</p> <p>a. <i>For the purposes of meeting the requirements of section 472(a)(1) of the Act, a removal from the home must occur pursuant to:</i></p> <p>(1) <i>a voluntary placement agreement entered into by a parent or relative which leads to a physical or constructive removal (i.e., a non-physical or paper removal of custody) of the child from the home; or</i></p> <p>(2) <i>a judicial order for a physical or constructive removal of the child from a parent or specified relative.</i></p> <p>b. <i>A removal has not occurred in situations where legal custody is removed from the parent or relative and the child remains with the same relative in that home under supervision by the State agency.</i></p> <p>c. <i>A child is considered constructively removed on the date of the first judicial order removing custody, even temporarily, from the appropriate specified relative or the date that the voluntary placement agreement is signed by all relevant parties.</i></p>	

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Regulatory Reference/ Federal Statute	Requirement	State Statutory/Regulatory Policy References and Citation(s) for Each
1356.21(l)	<p>4. <i>Living with a specified relative. For purposes of meeting the requirements for living with a specified relative prior to removal from the home under section 472(a)(1) of the Act and all of the conditions under section 472(a)(4), one of the two following situations will apply:</i></p> <p>a. <i>the child was living with the parent or specified relative, and was AFDC eligible in that home in the month of the voluntary placement agreement or initiation of court proceedings; or</i></p> <p>b. <i>the child had been living with the parent or specified relative within six months of the month of the voluntary placement agreement or the initiation of court proceedings, and the child would have been AFDC eligible in that month if s/he had still been living in that home.</i></p>	
<p>472(f)</p> <p>1356.22(a) 472(d)</p> <p>472(f)(1)</p> <p>472(f)(2)</p>	<p><u>B. VOLUNTARY PLACEMENTS (State Option)</u></p> <p>1. Foster care maintenance payments are made in cases of voluntary placement of a minor child out of the home by or with the participation of the State Agency only if:</p> <p>a. the State has fulfilled all of the requirements of Section 472 of the Act, as amended; Sections 422(b)(10) and 475(5) of the Act; and 45 CFR 1356.21(f)(g)(h) and (i) of the Act, and</p> <p>b. the assistance of the State Agency has been requested by the child's parent(s) or legal guardian(s), and</p> <p>c. there is a written voluntary placement agreement, binding on all parties to the agreement, which specifies at a minimum the legal status of the child and the rights and obligations of the parents or guardians, the child and the State Agency while the child is in placement.</p>	

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Regulatory Reference/ Federal Statute	Requirement	State Statutory/Regulatory Policy References and Citation(s) for Each
1356.22(b) 472(e)	2. Federal <i>financial participation</i> is claimed only for voluntary foster care maintenance expenditures made within the first 180 days <i>of the child's placement in foster care</i> unless there has been a judicial determination by a court of competent jurisdiction, within the first 180 days of the date of such placement, to the effect that the continued voluntary placement is in the best interests of the child.	
1356.22(c) 472(g)(1)&(2)	3. The State Agency has established a uniform procedure or system, consistent with State law, for revocation by the parent(s) of a voluntary placement agreement and return of the child.	
1355.20(a) 475(4)(A)	<p><u>C. PAYMENTS</u></p> <p>1. Foster care maintenance payments for a child in foster care may cover the cost of (and the cost of providing) food, clothing, shelter, daily supervision, school supplies, a child's personal incidentals, liability insurance with respect to the child, and reasonable travel to the child's home for visitation <i>with family, or other caretakers</i>. <i>Local travel associated with providing the items listed above is also an allowable expense. In the case of child care institutions, such term must include the reasonable costs of administration and operation of such institutions as are necessarily required to provide the items described in the preceding sentences.</i></p> <p>b. In the case of institutional care, the reasonable costs of administration and operation of such institution as are necessarily required to provide the items noted in C.1.a.</p>	
472(b)(1)&(2)	<p>2. Foster care maintenance payments are made only on behalf of an eligible child who is:</p> <p>a. in the foster family home of an individual, whether the payments are made to such individual or to a public or nonprofit private child</p>	

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	<p>placement or child care agency, or</p> <p>b. in a child care institution, whether the payments are made to such institution or to a public or nonprofit private child placement or child care agency. Such payments are limited to include only those items that are included in the term "foster care maintenance payments" (defined in 475(4) of the Act).</p>	
472(c)(1)&(2)	<p>Foster care payments are made for the care of children in foster family homes, private child care institutions, or public child care institutions accommodating no more than 25 children, which are licensed by the State in which they are situated or have been approved by the agency in such State having responsibility for licensing or approving foster family homes or child care institutions. Federal reimbursement is not available for children who are in detention facilities, forestry camps, training schools or any other facility operated primarily for the detention of delinquent children.</p>	
1355.20(a) 472(c)(1)	<p>3. <i>Foster family home means, for the purpose of title IV-E eligibility, the home of an individual or family licensed or approved as meeting the standards established by the State licensing or approval authority(ies) (or with respect to foster family homes on or near Indian reservations, by the tribal licensing or approval authority(ies)), that provides 24-hour out-of-home care for children. The term may include group homes, agency-operated boarding homes or other facilities licensed or approved for the purpose of providing foster care by the State agency responsible for approval or licensing of such facilities. Foster family homes that are approved must be held to the same standards as foster family homes that are licensed. Anything less than full licensure or approval is insufficient for meeting title IV-E eligibility requirements.</i></p>	

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Regulatory Reference/ Federal Statute	Requirement	State Statutory/Regulatory Policy References and Citation(s) for Each
1355.20(a) 472(c)(2)	4. <i>Child care institution means a private child care institution, or a public child care institution which accommodates no more than twenty-five children, and is licensed by the State in which it is situated or has been approved by the agency of such State or tribal licensing authority (with respect to child care institutions on or near Indian Reservations) responsible for licensing or approval of institutions of this type as meeting the standards established for such licensing. This definition must not include detention facilities, forestry camps, training schools, or any other facility operated primarily for the detention of children who are determined to be delinquent.</i>	
1356.21(j) 475(4)(B)	5. <i>Child of a minor parent in foster care. Foster care maintenance payments made on behalf of a child placed in a foster family home or child care institution, who is the parent of a son or daughter in the same home or institution, must include amounts which are necessary to cover costs incurred on behalf of the child's son or daughter. Said costs must be limited to funds expended on those items described in the definition of foster care maintenance payments.</i>	
1356.21(g)	<p><u>D. CASE REVIEW SYSTEM</u></p> <p>1. Case Plan To meet the case plan requirement of 471(a)(16), 475(1) and 475(5)(A) and (D) of the Act, the State Agency has promulgated policy materials and instructions for use by State and local staff to determine the appropriateness of and necessity for the foster care placement of the child. The case plan for each child:</p>	
1356.21(g)(1)	a. is a written document which is a discrete part of the case record, in a format determined by the State, which is developed jointly with the parent(s) or guardian(s) of the <i>child in foster care</i> foster child; and	

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1356.21(g)(2)	b. is developed within a reasonable period, <i>to be established by the State, but in no event</i> later than 60 days from the <i>child's removal from the home. time the State Agency assumes responsibility for providing services, including placing the child;</i>	
1356.21(g)(4)	c. "after October 1, 1983, includes a description of the services offered and provided to prevent removal of the child from the home and to reunify the family; and	
475(1)(A)	d. includes a description of the type of home or institution in which the child is placed; and	
475(1)(A)	e. includes a discussion of the safety and appropriateness of the placement and how the responsible agency plans to carry out the judicial determination made with respect to the child in accordance with 472(a)(1) of the Act, and	
475(1)(B)	f. includes a plan for assuring that the child receives safe and proper care and services are provided to the parent(s) in order to improve the conditions in the parent's (parents') home to facilitate the child's return to his own safe home or the permanent placement of the child; and	
475(1)(B)	g. includes a plan for assuring that services are provided to the child and foster parents in order to address the needs of the child while in foster care; and	
475(1)(B)	h. includes a discussion of the appropriateness of the services that have been provided to the child under the plan; and	
475(1)(D)	i. where appropriate for a child 16 or over, includes a written description of the programs and services which will help such child prepare for the transition from foster care to independent living; and	

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1356.21(g)(5) 475(1)(E)	j. <i>documents the steps to finalize a placement when the case plan goal is or becomes adoption or placement in another permanent home in accordance with sections 475(1)(E) and (5)(E) of the Act. When the case plan goal is adoption, at a minimum, such documentation shall include child-specific recruitment efforts such as the use of State, regional, and national adoption exchanges including electronic exchange systems.</i>	
1356.21(g)(3) 475(5)(A)	k. <i>includes a discussion of how the case plan is designed to achieve a safe placement for the child in the least restrictive (most family-like) setting available and in close proximity to the home of the parent(s) when the case plan goal is reunification and a discussion of how the placement is consistent with the best interests and special needs of the child.</i> be designed to achieve placement in a safe setting that is the least restrictive (most family-like) and most appropriate setting available and in close proximity to the parent's (parents') home consistent with the best interest and special needs of the child; and	
475(5)(A)(i)	l. if the child has been placed in a foster family home or child-care institution a substantial distance from the home of the parent(s), or in a different State, sets forth the reasons why such a placement is in the best interests of the child; and	
475(5)(A)(ii)	m. if the child has been placed in foster care in a State outside the State in which the child's parent(s) are located, assures that an agency caseworker, of either State, visit the foster home or institution no less frequently than every 12 months and submit a report on the visit to the State agency of the State where the home of the child's parent(s) is located; and	

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475(1)(C)	<p>n. incorporates the health and education records of the child, to the extent available and accessible, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (9) the names and addresses of the child's health and educational providers; (10) the child's grade level performance; (11) the child's school record; (12) assurances that the child's placement in foster care takes into account the proximity to the school in which the child is enrolled at the time of placement; (13) a record of the child's immunizations; (14) the child's known medical problems; (15) the child's medications; and (16) any other relevant health and education information concerning the child determined to be appropriate by the State agency. 	
1356.21(f)	<p>2. Case Review The State Agency has a case review system which meets the requirements of 475(5) and 475(6) of the Act and assures that:</p>	
475(5)(B)	<p>a. a review of each child's status is made no less frequently than once every six months either by a court or by administrative review to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) determine the safety of the child, the continuing need for and appropriateness of the placement, (2) determine the extent of compliance with the case plan, (3) determine the extent of progress made toward alleviating or mitigating the causes necessitating the placement, and (4) project a likely date by which the child may be returned and safely maintained at home or placed for adoption or legal guardianship. 	

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475(6)	<p>b. if an administrative review is conducted, the following requirements specified in 475(6) of the Act will be met:</p> <p>(1) the review will be open to the participation of the parents of the child, and</p> <p>(2) the review will be conducted by a panel of appropriate persons, at least one of whom is not responsible for the case management of, or delivery of services to either the child or the parents who are the subject of the review.</p>	
1356.21(h) 475(5)(C)	<p>3. Permanency Hearing</p> <p>a. To meet the requirements of the permanency hearing, the State holds permanency hearings for all children under the responsibility for placement and care of the title IV-E/IV-B State Agency, including children for whom the State claims Federal reimbursement for the costs of voluntary foster care maintenance payments.</p>	
1356.21(h) 475(5)(C)	<p>b. The permanency hearing takes place within 12 months of the date the child is considered to have entered foster care (as defined within the meaning of 475(5)(F) and not less frequently than every 12 months thereafter during the continuation of foster care.</p> <p>The only exceptions to this requirement are:</p> <p>a. for those children who are placed in a court sanctioned permanent foster home with a specific caregiver; and</p> <p>b. for those children who are free for adoption and are placed in adoptive homes pending the finalization of the adoption.</p>	

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1356.21(h)(2) 471(a)(15)(E)(i)	<p>c. When a court determines that reasonable efforts to return the child home are not required, a permanency hearing is held within 30 days of that <i>determination, unless the requirements of the permanency hearing are fulfilled at the hearing in which the court determines that reasonable efforts to reunify the child and family are not required.</i></p>	
1356.21(b)(3) 475(5)(C)	<p>d. For the purposes of this requirement, a permanency hearing will determine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) the permanency plan for the child that includes whether, and if applicable when, the child will be returned to the parent, placed for adoption and the State will file a petition for termination of parental rights, or referred to legal guardianship, or (in cases where the State agency has documented to the State court a compelling reasons for determining that it would not be in the best interest of the child to return home, be referred for termination of parental rights, or be placed for adoption, with a fit and willing relative, or with a legal guardian) placed in another planned permanent living arrangement; (2) <i>in the case of a placed out of the state in which the home of the parent(s) of the child is located child described in subparagraph (A)(ii), whether the out-of State placement continues to be appropriate and in the best interests of the child, and,</i> (3) <i>in the case of a child who has attained age 16, the services needed to assist the child to make the transition from foster care to independent living.</i> 	
	<p>e. <i>Procedural safeguards are also be applied with respect to parental rights pertaining to the removal of the child from the home of his parents, to a change in the child's placement, and to any determination affecting visitation privileges of parents.</i></p>	

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1356.21(h)(3)	f. <i>If the State concludes, after considering reunification, adoption, legal guardianship, or permanent placement with a fit and willing relative, that the most appropriate permanency plan for a child is placement in another planned permanent living arrangement, the State will document to the court the compelling reason for the alternate plan.</i>	
1356.21(h)(4)	g. <i>When an administrative body, appointed or approved by the court, conducts the permanency hearing, the procedural safeguards set forth in the definition of permanency hearing will be extended by the administrative body.</i>	
475(5)(D)	<p>4. Health and Education Records A child's health and education records are reviewed and updated, and supplied to the foster parent or foster care provider with whom the child is placed, at the time of each placement of the child in foster care.</p>	
1356.21(o) 475(5)(G)	<p>5. Notice <i>The State provides the foster parent(s) of a child and any preadoptive parent or relative providing care for the child with timely notice of and an opportunity to be heard in permanency hearings and six-month periodic reviews held with respect to the child during the time the child is in the care of such foster parent, preadoptive parent, or relative caregiver. Notice of and an opportunity to be heard does not include the right to standing as a party to the case.</i></p>	
472(h)(1) 473(b)(1)(B)(2)	<p><u>E. MEDICAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES</u> For purposes of titles XIX and XX, any child with respect to whom foster care maintenance payments are made under this section will be deemed a dependent child as defined in 406 of the Act (as effective 7/16/1996) and shall be deemed</p>	

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	to be a recipient of aid to families with dependent children under Part A of this title. Titles XIX and XX services will be available to such child in the State in which the child resides.	
1356.21(h) 471(a)(14)	<p><u>F. SPECIFIC GOALS IN STATE LAW</u></p> <p>1. The State agency formulates for each fiscal year, commencing with the fiscal year which begins October 1, 1983, a specific goal as to the maximum number of children (in absolute numbers or as a percentage of all children in foster care receiving assistance under a State title IV-E program) who at any given time during the fiscal year will have been in foster care for over 24 months. <i>The specific foster care goals required under section 471(a)(14) of the Act are incorporated into State law by statute or administrative regulation with the force of law.</i></p>	
	2. The State Agency will describe the steps that will be taken to achieve the specific goal established.	
	3. The specific goal for the first fiscal year will be established by the State in law on or before October 1, 1982.	
1356.21(b) 471(a)(15)(A)&(B)	<p><u>G. PREVENTIVE AND REUNIFICATION SERVICES</u></p> <p>1. <i>Reasonable efforts.</i> <i>The State makes reasonable efforts to maintain the family unit and prevent the unnecessary removal of a child from his/her home, as long as the child's safety is assured; to effect the safe reunification of the child and family (if temporary out-of-home placement is necessary to ensure the immediate safety of the child); and to make and finalize alternate permanency plans in a timely manner when reunification is not appropriate or possible. In order to satisfy the "reasonable efforts" requirements of section 471(a)(15) (as implemented through section 472(a)(1) of the Act), the State must meet the requirements of paragraphs (b) and (d) of this section. In determining reasonable efforts to be made with respect to a child and in</i></p>	

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	<i>making such reasonable efforts, the child's health and safety is the State's paramount concern.</i>	
471(a)(15)(C)	2. If continuation of reasonable efforts as described in section 471(a)(15)(B) of the Act is determined to be inconsistent with the permanency plan for the child, reasonable efforts are made to place the child in a timely manner in accordance with the permanency plan, and to complete whatever steps are necessary to finalize the permanent placement of the child;	
1356.21(b)(1)(l)& (ii)	<p>3. <i>Judicial determination of reasonable efforts to prevent a child's removal from the home.</i></p> <p>a. <i>When a child is removed from his/her home, the judicial determination as to whether reasonable efforts were made, or were not required to prevent the removal in accordance with paragraph (b)(3) of this section, is made no later than 60 days from the date the child is removed from the home. pursuant to paragraph (k) of this section.</i></p> <p>b. <i>If the determination concerning reasonable efforts to prevent the removal is not made as specified in paragraph (b)(1)(i) of this section, the child is not eligible under the title IV-E foster care maintenance payments program for the duration of that stay in foster care.</i></p>	

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1356.21(b)(2)(i)	<p>4. Judicial determination of reasonable efforts to finalize a permanency plan.</p> <p>a. <i>The State agency obtains a judicial determination that it has made reasonable efforts to finalize the permanency plan that is in effect (whether the plan is reunification, adoption, legal guardianship, placement with a fit and willing relative, or placement in another planned permanent living arrangement) within twelve months of the date the child is considered to have entered foster care in accordance with the definition at Sec. 1355.20 of this part, and at least once every twelve months thereafter while the child is in foster care.</i></p>	
1356.21(b)(2)(ii)	<p>b. <i>If such a judicial determination regarding reasonable efforts to finalize a permanency plan is not made, the child becomes ineligible under title IV-E from the end of the twelfth month following the date the child is considered to have entered foster care or the end of the <u>12th month following the month</u> in which the most recent judicial determination of reasonable efforts to finalize a permanency plan was made, and remains ineligible until such a judicial determination is made.</i></p>	
1356.21(b)(3) 471(a)(15)(D)	<p>5. Circumstances in which reasonable efforts are not required to prevent a child's removal from home or to reunify the child and family.</p> <p><i>Reasonable efforts to prevent a child's removal from home or to reunify the child and family are not required if the State agency obtains a judicial determination that such efforts are not required because:</i></p>	
1356.21(b)(3)(l) 471(a)(15)(D)	<p>a. <i>A court of competent jurisdiction has determined that the parent has subjected the child to aggravated circumstances (as defined in State law, which definition may include but need not be limited to abandonment, torture, chronic abuse, and sexual abuse);</i></p>	

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1356.21(b)(3)(ii) 471(a)(15)(D)	<p>b. <i>A court of competent jurisdiction has determined that the parent has been convicted of:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) committed <i>Murder (which would have been an offense under section 1111(a) of title 18, United States Code, if the offense had occurred in the special maritime or territorial jurisdiction of the United States) of another child of the parent;</i> (2) committed <i>Voluntary manslaughter (which would have been an offense under section 1112(a) of title 18, United States Code, if the offense had occurred in the special maritime or territorial jurisdiction of the United States) of another child of the parent;</i> (3) aided, abetted, attempted, conspired or solicited <i>Aiding or abetting, attempting, conspiring, or soliciting to commit such a murder or such a voluntary manslaughter; or</i> (4) committed <i>A felony assault that results in serious bodily injury to the child or another child of the parent; or,</i> 	
1356.21(b)(3)(iii) 471(a)(15)(D)	<p>c. The parental rights of the parent with respect to a sibling have been terminated involuntarily.</p>	
1356.21(b)(4) 471(a)(15)(F)	<p>6. Concurrent planning. <i>Reasonable efforts to finalize an alternate permanency plan may be made concurrently with reasonable efforts to reunify the child and family.</i></p>	
1356.21(b)(5)	<p>7. Use of the Federal Parent Locator Service. <i>The State agency may seek the services of the Federal Parent Locator Service to search for absent parents at any point in order to facilitate a permanency plan.</i></p>	

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<p>1356.21(i)(1)</p> <p>1356.21(i)(1)(i) 475(5)(F)</p>	<p><u>H. TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS</u></p> <p>1. <i>The State will file a petition (or, if such a petition has been filed by another party, seek to be joined as a party to the petition) to terminate the parental rights of a parent(s):</i></p> <p>a. <i>whose child has been in foster care under the responsibility of the State for 15 of the most recent 22 months. The petition must be filed by the end of the child's fifteenth month in foster care. In calculating when to file a petition for termination of parental rights, the State:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) will calculate the 15 out of the most recent 22 month period from the date the child entered foster care as defined at section 475(5)(F) of the Act; (2) will use a cumulative method of calculation when a child experiences multiple exits from and entries into foster care during the 22 month period; (3) will not include trial home visits or runaway episodes in calculating 15 months in foster care; and, (4) only applies section 475(5)(E) of the Act to a child once if the State does not file a petition because one of the exceptions applies; 	
<p>1326.21(i)(1)(ii)</p>	<p>b. <i>whose child has been determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to be an abandoned infant (as defined under State law). The petition to terminate parental rights is made within 60 days of the judicial determination that the child is an abandoned infant; or,</i></p>	

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1326.21(i)(1)(iii)	<p>c. who has been convicted of one of the felonies listed above. Under such circumstances, the petition to terminate parental rights is made be within 60 days of a judicial determination that reasonable efforts to reunify the child and parent are not required.</p>	
1326.21(i)(2)	<p>2. <i>The State may elect not to file or join a petition to terminate the parental rights of a parent of this section if:</i></p> <p>a. <i>at the option of the State, the child is being cared for by a relative;</i></p> <p>b. <i>the State agency has documented in the case plan (which must be available for court review) a compelling reason for determining that filing such a petition would not be in the best interests of the individual child;</i></p> <p>c. <i>the State agency has not provided to the family, consistent with the time period in the case plan, services that the State deems necessary for the safe return of the child to the home, when reasonable efforts to reunify the family are required.</i></p>	
1326.21(i)(3)	<p>3. <i>When the State files or joins a petition to terminate parental rights, it concurrently begins to identify, recruit, process, and approve a qualified adoptive family for the child.</i></p>	
1355.20(a) 475(5)(F)	<p><u>I. DATE CHILD CONSIDERED TO HAVE ENTERED CARE</u></p> <p>A child will be considered to have entered foster care on the earlier of:</p> <p>1. the date of the first judicial finding that the child has been subjected to child abuse or neglect; or</p> <p>2. the date that is 60 days after the date on which the child is removed from the home.</p>	

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1356.21(d)	<p><u>J. DOCUMENTATION OF JUDICIAL DETERMINATIONS.</u></p> <p><i>The judicial determinations regarding contrary to the welfare, reasonable efforts to prevent removal, and reasonable efforts to finalize the permanency plan in effect, including judicial determinations that reasonable efforts are not required, are explicitly documented and made on a case-by-case basis and so stated in the court order.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. If the reasonable efforts and contrary to the welfare judicial determinations are not included as required in the court orders identified in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section, a transcript of the court proceedings is the only other documentation accepted to verify that these required determinations have been made.</i> <i>2. Neither affidavits nor nunc pro tunc orders will be accepted as verification documentation in support of reasonable efforts and contrary to the welfare judicial determinations.</i> <i>3. Court orders that reference State law to substantiate judicial determinations are not acceptable, even if State law provides that a removal must be based on a judicial determination that remaining in the home would be contrary to the child's welfare or that removal can only be ordered after reasonable efforts have been made.</i> 	
1356.21(e)	<p><u>K. TRIAL HOME VISITS</u></p> <p><i>A trial home visit may not exceed six months in duration, unless a court orders a longer trial home visit. If a trial home visit extends beyond six months and has not been authorized by the court, or exceeds the time period the court has deemed appropriate, and the child is subsequently returned to foster care, that placement must then be considered a new placement and title IV-E eligibility must be newly established. Under these circumstances the judicial determinations regarding contrary to the welfare and reasonable efforts to</i></p>	

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	<i>prevent removal are required.</i>	
477	<p><u>L. CHAFEE FOSTER CARE INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM (STATE OPTION)</u></p> <p><i>The State has a Chafee Foster Care Independence Program which meets the requirements of and contains the certifications set forth in Section 477.</i></p>	

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	SECTION 3. ADOPTION ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS	
473(a)(1)(A) 473(c)	<u>A. ELIGIBILITY</u> 1. Adoption assistance payments may be made to parents who adopt a child with special needs. A child will not be considered a child with special needs unless:	
473(c)(1)	a. the State has determined he cannot or should not be returned to the home of his parents;	
473(c)(2)(A)	b. the State had first determined that a specific factor or condition exists with respect to the child (such as his ethnic background, age, or membership in a minority or sibling group, or the presence of factors such as medical conditions or physical, mental or emotional handicaps) because of which it is reasonable to conclude that such child cannot be placed for adoption without providing adoption assistance or medical assistance under Title XIX; and	
473(c)(2)(B)	c. a reasonable, but unsuccessful, effort has been made to place the child without providing assistance except where it would be against the best interests of the child due to such factors as the existence of significant emotional ties with prospective adoptive parents while in the care of such parents as a foster child.	
473(a)(1)(B)	2. Adoption assistance payments are made to adoptive parents who have entered into an adoption assistance agreement (see subsection C of this plan) with the State Agency.	
473(a)(2)(A)(i)	3. Adoption assistance payments are made with respect to an adoptive child who:	

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473(a)(2)(A)(ii)	<p>a. at the time adoption proceedings were initiated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) met the requirements of 406(a) or 407 of the Act (as effective 7/16/96), or would have met such requirements except for his removal from the home of a relative (specified in 406(a)) either pursuant to a voluntary placement agreement with respect to which Federal payments are provided under 474 (or 403) of the Act (as effective 7/16/96) or as a result of a judicial determination to the effect that continuation therein would be contrary to the welfare of the child, or (2) meets all the requirements of title XVI of the Act with respect to eligibility for supplemental security income benefits, and (3) <i>is a child whose costs in a foster family home or child care institution are covered by the foster care maintenance payments being made with respect to his or her minor parent as provided in section 475(4)(B).</i> 	
473(a)(2)(B)(i) &(ii)(I)	<p>b. received aid under the State plan approved under 402 of the Act, or would have received aid under such plan had application been made, in or for the month a voluntary placement agreement was entered into or court proceedings were initiated leading to the removal of the child from his home, or</p>	
473(a)(2)(B)(i) &(ii)(II)	<p>c. had been living with a relative specified in 406(a) of the Act within six months prior to the month in which a voluntary placement agreement was entered into or court proceedings were initiated leading to the removal of the child from his home, and would have received such aid under the State plan approved under 402 of the Act for that month if in that month</p>	

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	the child had been living with such a relative and application had been made, or	
473(a)(2)(C)	d. has been determined by the State to be a child with special needs.	
473(a)(2)(C)	<p>4. Any child who meets the following requirements will be treated as meeting the requirements to receive adoption assistance payments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. meets the requirements of 473(a)(2)(C), b. was determined eligible for adoption assistance payments with respect to a prior adoption, c. is available for adoption because the prior adoption has been dissolved and the parental rights of the adoptive parents have been terminated or because the child's adoptive parents have died, and d. fails to meet the requirements of 473(a)(2)(A) and (B) but would meet such requirements if the child were treated as if the child were in the same financial and other circumstances the child was in the last time the child was determined eligible for adoption assistance payments and the prior adoption were treated as never having occurred. 	
473(a)(1)(B)(i)	<p><u>B. PAYMENTS – AMOUNTS AND CONDITIONS</u></p> <p>1. Payments will be made for nonrecurring adoption expenses incurred by or on behalf of the adoptive parents in connection with the adoption of a child with special needs, directly through the State Agency or through another public or nonprofit private agency, in amounts determined through an agreement with the adoptive parents, and</p>	
473(a)(1)(B)(ii)	<p>2. In any case where the child meets the requirements of 473(a)(2) of the Act, the State may make adoption assistance payments to adoptive parents, directly through the State Agency or through another public or nonprofit private agency, in amounts so determined through an adoption assistance agreement (see Section 3, item C of this plan).</p>	

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473(a)(3)	3. The amount of such payment: a. will take into consideration the circumstances of the adopting parents and the needs of the child being adopted;	
	b. may be adjusted periodically with the concurrence of the adoptive parents to reflect changing circumstances; and	
	c. may not exceed the foster care maintenance payment which would have been paid during the period if the child with respect to whom the adoption assistance payment is made had been in a foster family home.	
1356. 40(d)	4. In determining eligibility for adoption assistance payments, there is no income eligibility requirement (means test) for the adoptive parents.	
473(a)(4)	5. Payments are terminated when the State determines that: a. the child has attained the age of 18 (or, where the State determines that the child has a mental or physical handicap which warrants the continuation of assistance, the age of 21), or b. the parents are no longer legally responsible for the support of the child, or the child is no longer receiving support from the adoptive parents.	
473(a)(4)	6. The adoptive parents are required to inform the State Agency of circumstances that would make them ineligible for adoption assistance payments or eligible for adoption assistance payments in a different amount.	
475(3)	<u>C. ADOPTION ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT</u> 1. An adoption assistance agreement is a written agreement, binding on all parties, between the State Agency, other relevant agencies, and the prospective adoptive parents.	

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1356.40(b) ACYF-PA-87-03	2. The adoption assistance agreement meets the requirements of 475(3) of the Act and ACYF-PA-87-03, dated July 23, 1987, and	
1356.40(b)(1)	a. is signed by the adoptive parents and a representative of the State Agency and in effect before adoption assistance payments are made under title IV-E, but no later than the finalization of the adoption;	
1356.40(b)(2) 475(3)	b. specifies the duration of the agreement;	
1356.40(b)(3)	c. specifies the amount of the adoption assistance payments (if any) and the nature and amount of any other payments, services and assistance to be provided (including nonrecurring adoption expenses in agreements that become effective on or after January 1, 1987, for expenditures incurred by the parents on or after that date);	
473(b)	d. specifies the child's eligibility for title XIX and title XX;	
475(3)(B)	e. specifies, with respect to agreements entered into on or after October 1, 1983, that the agreement remains in effect regardless of the State of residence of the adoptive parents;	
475(3)	f. contains provisions for the protection of the interests of the child in case the adoptive parents and child should move to another State while the agreement is in effect; and	
1356.40(d)	g. for agreements entered into on or after October 1, 1983, if a needed service specified in the agreement is not available in the new State of residence, the State making the original adoption assistance payment remains financially responsible for providing the specified service(s).	

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473(b)(1-4)	<p><u>D. MEDICAID AND SOCIAL SERVICES</u></p> <p>1. For the purposes of titles XIX and XX, any eligible child for whom there is an adoption assistance agreement in effect under 473(a)(2) (whether or not adoption assistance payments are being made) are deemed to be a dependent child as defined in 406 of the Act and are deemed to be a recipient of AFDC under part A of title IV of the Act in the State in which such child resides. Any child of such eligible child will be eligible for such services.</p>	
471(a)(21) (A)&(B)	<p>2. The State will provide health insurance coverage (through one or more State medical assistance programs), with the same type and kind of benefits as those which would be provided for children by the State under title XIX, or a comparable State medical plan, for any child who has been determined to be a child with special needs, for whom there is in effect an adoption assistance agreement between the State and an adoptive parent or parents, and who the State has determined cannot be placed with an adoptive parent or parents without medical assistance due to special needs for medical, mental health or rehabilitative care.</p>	
471(a)(21)(C)&(D)	<p>3. In the event that the State provides such coverage through a State medical assistance program other than the program under title XIX, and the State exceeds its funding for services under such other program, any such child is deemed to be receiving aid or assistance under the state plan under this part for purposes of section 1902(a)(10)(a)(i)(1); and in determining cost-sharing requirements, the State will take into consideration the circumstances of the adopting parent or parents and the needs of the child being adopted consistent, to the extent coverage is provided through a State medical assistance program, with the rules under such program.</p>	

Regulatory Reference/ Federal Statute	Requirement	State Statutory/Regulatory Policy References and Citation(s) for Each
	SECTION 4. GENERAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS	
471(a)(10)	<p><u>A. STANDARDS FOR FOSTER FAMILY HOMES AND CHILD CARE INSTITUTIONS</u></p> <p>The State Agency has established or designated a State authority or authorities which is responsible for establishing and maintaining standards for foster family homes and child care institutions which are reasonably in accord with recommended standards of national organizations concerned with standards for such institutions or homes, including standards related to admission policies, safety, sanitation, and protection of civil rights. The standards so established are applied by the State to any foster family home or child care institution receiving funds under title IV-E or IV-B.</p>	
1356.21(m)(1)&(2) 471(a)(11)	<p><u>B. REVIEW OF PAYMENTS AND LICENSING STANDARDS</u></p> <p>The State Agency <i>reviews at reasonable, specific, time-limited periods to be established by the State:</i></p> <p>will make periodic reviews of the standards referred to in 471(a)(10) and amounts paid as foster care maintenance and adoption assistance payments to assure their continuing appropriateness. This includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the amount of the payment made for foster care maintenance and adoption assistance to assure their continued appropriateness; and 2. the licensing or approval standards for child care institutions and foster family homes. 	

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471(a)(12)	<p><u>C. FAIR HEARINGS</u></p> <p>The State Agency has a system for granting an opportunity for a fair hearing before the State Agency to any individual whose claim for benefits under this plan is denied or not acted upon with reasonable promptness.</p>	
471(a)(13)	<p><u>D. INDEPENDENT AUDIT</u></p> <p>The State Agency will arrange for a periodic and independently conducted audit, no less frequently than once every three years, of the titles IV-E and IV-B programs.</p>	
471(a)(9)	<p><u>E. CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT</u></p> <p>If the State Agency has reason to believe that the home or institution in which a child resides is unsuitable because of the abuse, neglect or exploitation of the child and whose care is paid in part or in full under the State titles IV-E and IV-B programs will bring such condition to the attention of the appropriate court or law enforcement agency.</p>	
471(a)(18)(A)&(B)	<p><u>F. REMOVAL OF BARRIERS TO INTERETHNIC ADOPTION</u></p> <p>1. The State has a plan, approved by the Secretary not later than January 1, 1997, which provides that neither the State nor any other entity in the State that receives funds from the Federal Government and is involved in adoption or foster care placements may:</p> <p>a. deny to any person the opportunity to become an adoptive or foster parent, on the basis of race, color, or national origin of the person, or of the child involved; or</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. delay or deny the placement of a child for adoption or into foster care, on the basis of race, color, or national origin of the adoptive or foster parent or the child involved; and c. <i>with respect to a State, maintains any statute, regulation, policy, procedure, or practice that on its face, is a violation as defined in paragraphs (a)(2)(i) and (2)(ii) of this section.</i> 	
1355.38(a)(5)	2. <i>Compliance with the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 (Pub.L.95-608) does not constitute a violation of section 471(a)(18).</i>	
471(a)(19)	<p><u>G. KINSHIP CARE</u></p> <p>The State considers giving preference to an adult relative over a non-related caregiver when determining a placement for a child, provided that the relative caregiver meets all relevant State child protection standards.</p>	
1356.30(a) 471(a)(20)(A)	<p><u>H. SAFETY REQUIREMENTS</u></p> <p>1. Safety requirements for foster care and adoptive home providers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Unless an election provided for in paragraph (d) of this section is made, the State provides documentation that criminal records checks have been conducted with respect to prospective foster and adoptive parents. 	
1356.30(b) 471(a)(20)(A)(i)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. <i>The State does not approve or license any prospective foster or adoptive parent, nor does the State claim FFP for any foster care maintenance or adoption assistance payment made on behalf of a child placed in a foster home operated under the auspices of a child placing agency or on behalf of a child placed in an adoptive home through a private adoption agency, if the State finds that, based on a criminal records check conducted in accordance with paragraph (a) of this section, a court of competent jurisdiction has determined that the prospective foster or</i> 	

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	<p><i>adoptive parent has been convicted of a felony involving:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) <i>Child abuse or neglect;</i> (2) <i>Spousal abuse;</i> (3) <i>A crime against a child or children (including child pornography); or,</i> (4) <i>A crime involving violence, including rape, sexual assault, or homicide, but not including other physical assault or battery.</i> 	
<p>1356.30(c) 471(a)(20)(A)(ii)</p>	<p>c. <i>The State does not approve or license any prospective foster or adoptive parent, nor claim FFP for any foster care maintenance or adoption assistance payment made on behalf of a child placed in a foster home operated under the auspices of a child placing agency or on behalf of a child placed in an adoptive home through a private adoption agency, if the State finds, based on a criminal records check conducted in accordance with paragraph (a) of this section, that a court of competent jurisdiction has determined that the prospective foster or adoptive parent has, within the last five years, been convicted of a felony involving:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) <i>Physical assault;</i> (2) <i>Battery; or,</i> (3) <i>A drug-related offense.</i> 	
<p>1356.30(d) 471(a)(20)(B)</p>	<p>d. <i>Criminal records checks.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) <i>The State may elect not to conduct or require criminal records checks on prospective foster or adoptive parents by:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) <i>Notifying the Secretary in a letter from the Governor; or</i> (b) <i>Enacting State legislation.</i> (2) <i>Such an election removes the State's obligation to comport with paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section.</i> 	

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1356.30(e)	e. <i>If the State opts out of the criminal records check requirement, the licensing file for that foster or adoptive family contains documentation that verifies that safety considerations with respect to the caretaker(s) have been addressed.</i>	
1356.30(f)	f. <i>In order for a child care institution to be eligible for title IV-E funding, the licensing file for the institution contains documentation which verifies that safety considerations with respect to the staff of the institution have been addressed.</i>	
471(a)(23)(A)&(B)	<p><u>I. INTERJURISDICTIONAL ADOPTION</u></p> <p>The State will not:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. deny or delay the placement of a child for adoption when an approved family is available outside of the jurisdiction with responsibility for handling the case of the child; or 2. fail to grant an opportunity for a fair hearing, as described in section 471(a)(12), to an individual whose allegation of a violation of Paragraph (1) of this subsection is denied by the State or not acted upon by the State with reasonable promptness. 	
471(a)(22)	<p><u>J. QUALITY STANDARDS</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Effective January 1, 1999, the State has developed and implemented standards to ensure that children in foster care placements in public or private agencies are provided quality services that protect the safety and health of the children. 	
471(a)(24)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The State will ensure that prospective foster parents are adequately trained with the appropriate knowledge and skills to provide for the needs of the child and that such preparation will be continued after the placement. 	

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	SECTION 5. GENERAL PROVISIONS	
471(a)(5)	<p><u>A. PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The State Agency and the local agencies administering a title IV-E program have established and will maintain methods of personnel administration in conformity with standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration, prescribed in 5 CFR 900 by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management pursuant to Sec. 208 of the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970, as amended. 2. The State Agency is implementing an affirmative action plan to assure equal employment opportunity in all aspects of personnel administration as specified in 5 CFR 900. The plan provides for specific action steps and timetables to assure such equal opportunity, and is available for review upon request. 	
471(a)(8)	<p><u>B. SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The State Agency has safeguards restricting use of or disclosure of information concerning individuals assisted under the State plan to purposes directly connected with: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. the administration of the title IV-E plan or any of the State plans or programs under Parts A, B or D of title IV or under titles I, V, X, XIV, XVI (as in effect in Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands), XIX or XX, or the supplemental security income program under title XVI, and b. any investigation, prosecution, or criminal or civil proceeding conducted in connection with the administration of any such plan or program, and 	
471(a)(8)(A)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. the administration of the title IV-E plan or any of the State plans or programs under Parts A, B or D of title IV or under titles I, V, X, XIV, XVI (as in effect in Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands), XIX or XX, or the supplemental security income program under title XVI, and 	
471(a)(8)(B)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> b. any investigation, prosecution, or criminal or civil proceeding conducted in connection with the administration of any such plan or program, and 	

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471(a)(8)(C)	c. the administration of any other Federal or federally assisted program which provides assistance (in cash or in kind) or services directly to individuals on the basis of need, and	
471(a)(8)(D)	d. any audit or similar activity conducted in connection with the administration of any such plan or program by any governmental agency authorized by law to conduct such audit or activity.	
	e. The safeguards provided will prohibit the disclosure to any committee or legislative body (other than an agency referred to in clause 471(a)(8)(D) with respect to an activity referred to in such clause) of any information which identifies by name or address any applicant for or recipient of assistance under title IV-E of the Act.	
471(a)(6)	<p><u>C. REPORTING</u></p> <p>The State Agency makes reports in such form and containing such information on the State's title IV-E program as are required by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the State Agency will comply with such provisions as the Secretary may from time to time find necessary to assure the correctness and verification of such reports.</p>	
471(a)(7)	<p><u>D. MONITORING</u></p> <p>The State Agency monitors and conducts evaluations of activities carried out in the State's title IV-E program.</p>	

Regulatory Reference/ Federal Statute	Requirement	State Statutory/Regulatory Policy References and Citation(s) for Each
1355.30	<p><u>E. APPLICABILITY OF DEPARTMENT-WIDE REGULATIONS</u></p> <p>The State agency will comply with all of the requirements of applicable regulations, including the regulations listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 23. 45 CFR Part 16 - Department Grant Appeals Process 24. 45 CFR Part 30 - Federal Claims Collection 25. 45 CFR Part 74 - Administration of Grants (except for Sections 74.23 and 74.52) 26. 45 CFR Part 76 - Government Debarment and Suspension 27. 45 CFR Part 80 - Nondiscrimination 28. 45 CFR Part 81 - Hearings under Part 80 29. 45 CFR Part 84 - Nondiscrimination on basis of handicap 30. 45 CFR Part 91 - Nondiscrimination on basis of age 31. 45 CFR Part 93 - New restrictions on lobbying 32. 45 CFR Part 95 - General Administration - Grant Programs (Public Assistance and Medical Assistance) 33. 45 CFR Part 97 - Consolidation of grants to the insular areas 34. Section 95.517 (supersedes section 205.150) - Cost Allocation Plans 35. Section 201.5 - Grants (except that ACYF shall supply appropriate forms and instructions) 36. Section 201.6 - Withholding/Reduction of FFP 37. Section 201.7 - Judicial Review 38. Section 201.15 - Deferral of Claims 39. Section 201.66 - Repayment of Federal Funds by Installments 40. Section 204.1 - Submittal of State Plans for Governor's Review 41. Section 205.5 - Plan Amendments 42. Section 205.10 - Hearings 43. Section 205.50 - Safeguarding Information 44. Section 205.100 - Single State Agency 	

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1356.21(c)	<p><u>F. AVAILABILITY OF STATE PLANS</u></p> <p>The State plans and plan amendments for titles IV-E and IV-B are made available by the State Agency for public review and inspection.</p>	
<p>1355.33(b) 1355.33(e) 1355.35(a)</p>	<p><u>G. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION OF REVIEW REPORTS AND MATERIALS</u></p> <p>The State agency makes available for public review and inspection all statewide assessments (45 CFR 1355.33(b)), report of findings (1355.33(e)), and program improvement plans (1355.35(a)) developed as a result of a full or partial child and family services review.</p>	

IV-E STATE PLAN - STATE OF _____

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that I am authorized to submit amended pages for the State Plan on behalf of

(Designated State Agency)

Date _____

(Signature)

(Title)

APPROVAL DATE: _____

EFFECTIVE DATE: _____

(Signature ACF Regional Representative)

IV-E STATE PLAN - STATE OF _____

**GOVERNOR'S CERTIFICATION
TITLE IV-E of the SOCIAL SECURITY ACT**

I certify that _____
(Name of Agency)

- (c) has the authority to submit the State plan under title IV-E of the Social Security Act for Foster Care and Adoption Assistance; and
- (d) is the single State agency responsible for administering the plan or supervising the administration of the plan by local political subdivisions. It has the authority to make rules and regulations governing the administration of the plan that are binding on such subdivisions. The title IV-E plan is mandatory upon the subdivisions and is in effect throughout the State.

Date

Signature

IV-E STATE PLAN - STATE OF _____

A S S U R A N C E

I hereby assure that the State agency administering the title IV-E program obtained the relevant sections of the title IV-A State plan (as in effect in this State on July 16, 1996) and use them as the basis for making title IV-E eligibility determinations. I certify that I am authorized to submit, as an appendix to this State's title IV-E State plan, those relevant sections of the title IV-A State plan.

on behalf of _____
(Designated State Agency)

Date _____

(Signature)

(Title)

APPROVAL DATE: _____

EFFECTIVE DATE: _____

(Signature ACF Regional Representative)