

**ADOPTION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
INDEPENDENT ADOPTIONS PROGRAM
STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Federal subsidies were created by Congress (through Public Law 96-272-the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980) to encourage the adoption of special needs children and remove the financial disincentives for families to adopt. Recognizing that adoptive parents often experience financial difficulty meeting the special needs of children who formerly were placed in California's foster care system, the state Legislature created the Adoption Assistance Program (AAP.) In creating the program, the Legislature intended to benefit children in foster care by providing the security and stability of a permanent home through adoption. Children may receive a federally funded subsidy under Title IV-E or a state-funded subsidy.

To be AAP eligible, a child who is adopted through the Independent Adoptions Program must meet the following eligibility criteria (Welfare and Institutions Code section 16120 (a) through (c); (j)(1); (l) and (m):

- I. a) Prior to the finalization, the child has met the requirements to receive federal supplemental security income benefits, as determined and documented by the federal Social Security Administration and meets the three part special needs determination;

Or

- b) The child received AAP benefits with respect to a prior adoption; the parental rights of the adopted parents were terminated or the adoptive parents died and the child meets the three part special needs determination;

And

- II. The child is a United States citizen, a qualified alien as defined in Title 8 USC section 1641(b) or a member of one of the exempted groups pursuant to Title 8 USC section 1612(b).

To apply for the AAP, adoptive families must submit a completed Request for Adoption Assistance Program (AAP 1) Benefit form provided by the licensed adoption agency. The responsible public agency will determine the child's special needs eligibility for participation in the program. If the child is deemed eligible, the responsible public agency will negotiate and sign an AAP agreement, or a deferred AAP agreement, with the adoptive parents, prior to the adoption finalization.

My/Our signature(s) signify that I/we have read this Statement of Acknowledgement, discussed our questions with our Adoptions Specialist or County Social Worker and understand the implications that it has for my/our adoption.

PROSPECTIVE ADOPTIVE PARENT	PROSPECTIVE ADOPTIVE PARENT	DATE
ADOPTIONS SPECIALIST OR COUNTY SOCIAL WORKER		DATE