

## Chapter DCF 51

### PREADOPTION TRAINING

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**Note:** Chapter HSS 51 was renumbered to chapter HFS 51 under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 1., Stats., and corrections made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 6. and 7., Stats., [Register, May, 1999, No. 521](#). Chapter HFS 51 was renumbered to chapter DCF 51 under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 1., Stats., [Register November 2008 No. 635](#). Chapter DCF 51 was repealed and a new chapter DCF 51 created effective September 1, 2018 by [CR 18-001](#).

**DCF 51.01 Authority and purpose.** This chapter is promulgated under the authority of ss. [48.84](#) and [227.11 \(2\)](#), Stats., to establish the topics and procedures for the preadoption training required for prospective adoptive parents who have not previously adopted a child.

**History:** [CR 18-001](#): cr. [Register August 2018 No. 752](#), eff. 9-1-18.

**DCF 51.02 Definitions.** In this chapter:

(1) “Adoption” means a process provided by law to establish the legal relationship of parent and child between persons who do not have that relationship by birth, with the same mutual rights and obligations that exist between the child and the child’s birth parents.

(2) “Adoption agency” means the department of children and families; a county department under s. [46.22](#) or [46.23](#), Stats.; a tribal child welfare department in this state; or a licensed child welfare agency with powers and duties under ss. [48.60](#) and [48.61 \(5\)](#) and (7), Stats.

(3) “Foster parent” means a person licensed under s. [48.62 \(1\)](#), Stats., and ch. [DCF 56](#).

(4) “Preadoption training” means the preadoption preparation required under s. [48.84 \(1\)](#), (2), and (2g), Stats.

(5) “Proposed adoptive parent” means an individual that an adoption agency has identified as the prospective adoptive parent for a specific child.

(6) “Prospective adoptive parent” means an individual who is going through the process to become an adoptive parent for a child.

**History:** [CR 18-001](#): cr. [Register August 2018 No. 752](#), eff. 9-1-18; correction in numbering under s. [13.92 \(4\) \(b\) 1.](#), Stats., [Register August 2018 No. 752](#).

**DCF 51.03 When preadoption training is required.**

A prospective adoptive parent who has not previously adopted a child shall complete preadoption training before any of the following:

(1) A child may be placed under s. [48.833](#), Stats., for adoption by the proposed adoptive parent.

(2) The proposed adoptive parent may petition for placement of a child for adoption under s. [48.837](#), Stats.

(3) The proposed adoptive parent may bring a child into this state for adoption under s. [48.839](#), Stats.

**History:** [CR 18-001](#): cr. [Register August 2018 No. 752](#), eff. 9-1-18.

**DCF 51.04 Who may provide training.** Only an entity authorized under s. [48.84 \(1\)](#), Stats., may provide preadoption training.

**History:** [CR 18-001](#): cr. [Register August 2018 No. 752](#), eff. 9-1-18.

**DCF 51.05 Content and number of hours.** (1) A prospective adoptive parent shall complete at least 25 hours of preadoption training that includes all of the following topics:

(a) Adoption and its impact on parenting and family dynamics.

(b) The issues for a child in an adoptive placement.

(c) Loss and grief for the adopted child and the adoptive family.

(d) Attachment issues in adoptive placements.

(e) Support and resources for adopted children and adoptive families.

(f) Cultural sensitivity in adoption.

(g) Effects of abuse and neglect in adoption, including sexual abuse.

(h) Legal issues relating to adoption.

(i) Issues of children being adopted from an institutionalized care setting.

(j) Educational issues in adoption.

(k) Childhood developmental stages.

(L) Trauma issues related to adoption.

(2) The content of the preadoption training shall be current and relevant to the type of adoption that the prospective adoptive parent is seeking.

**History:** [CR 18-001](#): cr. [Register August 2018 No. 752](#), eff. 9-1-18.

**DCF 51.06 Format of training.** (1) Preadoption training shall include all of the following:

(a) At least 6 hours of training that is provided in person, either individually or in a group.

(b) At least 6 hours of training that is appropriate to the specific needs of the child to be adopted.

(2) The credit given for training using books or periodicals may not exceed 5 hours of the required hours of preadoption training.

(3) A prospective adoptive parent shall have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss all of the topics required under s. [DCF 51.05](#).

**History:** [CR 18-001](#): cr. [Register August 2018 No. 752](#), eff. 9-1-18.

**DCF 51.07 Credit for foster parent training.** (1) COMPLETION OF THE STANDARDIZED CURRICULUM. Notwithstanding s. [DCF 51.05](#), a prospective adoptive parent that has completed the foster parent training under s. [DCF 56.14 \(6d\)](#), (6h), or (7) may receive credit as appropriate toward the 25 hours of preadoption training under ss. [DCF 51.05](#) and [51.06](#). The adoption agency shall ensure that the prospective adoptive parent

completes in-person training sufficient to cover the required topics in s. [DCF 51.05 \(1\)](#) as they relate to adoption.

**(2) PARTIAL COMPLETION OF THE STANDARDIZED CURRICULUM.** If a prospective adoptive parent has partially completed the foster parent training under s. [DCF 56.14 \(6d\)](#), [\(6h\)](#), or [\(7\)](#), the adoption agency shall determine the amount of credit to allow for the foster parent training that was completed and what additional training is needed for the adoptive parent to comply with ss. [DCF 51.05](#) and [51.06](#).

**History:** CR 18-001: cr. [Register August 2018 No. 752](#), eff. 9-1-18; correction in numbering in (1) made under s. [13.92 \(4\) \(b\) 1.](#), Stats., [Register August 2018 No. 752](#).

**DCF 51.08 Competency in the required training topics.** The adoption agency shall determine whether prospective adoptive parents are competent in the required topics under s. [DCF 51.05](#) and may require a prospective adoptive parent to com-

plete additional training if the prospective adoptive parent has not attained basic competency in the required topics.

**History:** CR 18-001: cr. [Register August 2018 No. 752](#), eff. 9-1-18.

**DCF 51.09 Training documentation.** The adoption agency shall maintain documentation that each prospective adoptive parent completed the required preadoption training in the agency's record on the parent.

**History:** CR 18-001: cr. [Register August 2018 No. 752](#), eff. 9-1-18.

**DCF 51.10 Postadoption training.** The entity that provides the required preadoption training shall refer adoptive parents with postadoption needs to resources appropriate to the specific needs of the family or offer to provide at least 6 hours of training if the entity has sufficient expertise with the family's specific needs.

**History:** CR 18-001: cr. [Register August 2018 No. 752](#), eff. 9-1-18.