

Index No: 97-08, dated November 15, 1997

Applicable to: Adoptive Placements

Question:

What responsibility do private agencies have, when placing children for adoption, to consider the parent's wishes regarding the adoptive placement? Can the biological parents require that the child be placed in a specific home or a home of a specific race or religion?

Response:

The laws of Illinois have been amended to give parents whose children are being placed for adoption the ability to consent to adoption by a specified person. The Department's rules, which are derived from these laws, are being amended to reflect the changes in law. In the near future, good practice, Illinois law, and Department policy will give parents greater ability to direct the adoptive placement for their child. At this time, Department procedures are much more limited, in that agencies are required to give consideration to the parent's preference that their child be placed in an adoptive home of a specified religion.