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BRL Memo 2007 - 03

TO: Child Placing Agencies

FROM: Jill D. Chase, Director
Bureau of Regulation and Licensing

RE: **Pre-Adoptive Placement Training**

The Wisconsin State Legislature enacted 2005 Wisconsin Act 293 which amended s. 48.84, of the Wisconsin Statutes to require prospective adoptive parents to receive pre-adoption preparation training effective **April 1, 2007**. The pre-adoptive training is required of all first-time adoptive parents which includes domestic, special needs, and international adoptions.

The new law requires the training in the following circumstances:

- Before a child may be placed under s. 48.833, Stats., (special needs adoption) for adoption;
- Before a proposed adoptive parent who has not previously adopted a child may petition for placement of a child for adoption under 48.837, Stats., (nonrelative adoption); and
- Before a proposed adoptive parent who has not previously adopted a child may bring a child into Wisconsin for adoption under s. 48.839, Stats., (international adoptions).

Under s. 48.84, Wis. Stats., pre-adoption training must be provided by a licensed child welfare agency, a licensed private adoption agency (child placing agency), the state adoption information exchange under s. 48.55, Stats., the state adoption center under s. 48.55, Stats., a state-funded foster care and adoption resource center, or a state-funded post adoption resource center.

Section 48.84, Stats., requires the Department to establish, by rule, the number of hours of training necessary, and the training content, including information on issues that may confront all adoptive parents and issues that may confront adoptive parents of special needs and international children.

The training must include the following:

- **Minimum of 2 hours of orientation** for the adoptive parent or parents. The orientation training should include information on the purpose and function of the agency through which the child is being adopted and a description of the support and services available to the adoptive family and other post adoption services available to the family through other agencies.
- **Minimum of 10 hours of core competencies** training during the period when the emergency rule is in effect. This training information should develop an understanding and awareness of the core competencies.
- **Minimum of 16 hours of core competencies** training is required once the permanent rule becomes effective. The training information should develop a specific understanding and awareness of the following core competencies:
 - a. Adoption and its impact on parenting and family dynamics.

- b. The issues for a child in adoptive placement.
- c. Loss and grief for the adoptive 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.
- h. Legal issues relating to adoption.
- i. Issues of children being adopted from an institutional care setting.
- j. Educational issues in adoption.

As a result of this new statute requirement under s. 48.84, the Department has amended and revised **HFS 51- ADOPTION OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS AND PREADoption PREPARATION TRAINING**. This proposed emergency rule will take effect on April 1, 2007 until a permanent rule is promulgated.

A public hearing will be held on both the proposed emergency and permanent rules on April 27 from 8:00-12:00 at 1 West Wilson Street, Room 751, Madison, WI 53703.

- This hearing will be simultaneously Webcast at:
<http://media1.wi.gov/DHFS/Viewer/?peid=fbce571a-fbdc-4e1a-bfec-2daf83eabd77>
- Written comments will be accepted until 4:30 p.m. on April 27, 2007.
- Rule-making documents may be viewed at <https://apps4.dhfs.state.wi.us/admrules/public/Home>

Please contact your licensing specialist or Mary Morse at (608) 266-0415 if you have any question about the training requirements of the proposed rule change.

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