

IN THE TWENTIETH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR THE STATE OF FLORIDA

IN RE: ADOPTION - HOME STUDIES)

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

NO. 1.6

WHEREAS, the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services (HRS), re-designated as the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), has advised by the attached letter that it would be unable to perform home studies regarding adoptive placements under Chapter 63, Florida Statutes; it is,

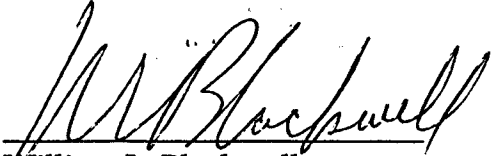
ORDERED, as follows:

1. Pursuant to Florida Statutes § 63.092, an intermediary must report any intended placement of a minor to the court before the minor is placed in the home.
2. Before placing the minor in the intended adoptive home, a preliminary home study must be performed as required by § 63.092.
3. Any licensed child-placing agency, a licensed professional, or agency described in Section 61.20(2), Florida Statutes, are qualified to perform home studies as required by Section 63.092, Florida Statutes.
4. The intermediary may request the home study of the intended placement without further designation by DCFS or order of Court.
5. An intermediary desiring to use any person or entity other than a Florida licensed child placement agency for such a home study must seek court approval before proceeding.

6. The reasonable fees of such home studies shall be paid by the adoptive parents unless waived partially or fully as provided in Section 63.097, Florida Statutes.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers, Naples, Collier County, Florida, this


13 day of Jan., 2000.


William L. Blackwell
Chief Judge

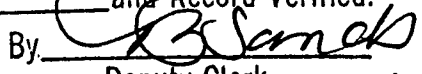
History.- Administrative Order 1.6 (April 3, 1992).

I CERTIFY THIS DOCUMENT TO BE
A TRUE & CORRECT COPY OF THE
ORIGINAL ON FILE IN MY OFFICE,

JAN 14 2000

Charlie Green, Clerk Circuit
Court Lee County, Florida
BY:  D.C.

STATE OF FLORIDA, COUNTY OF LEE

FILED FOR RECORD
This 14 Day of JAN 2000 Record in Cir. Ct. MINUTE
Book 44 Page 1 and Record Verified.
CHARLIE GREEN By: 
Clerk Circuit Court Deputy Clerk



STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

January 6, 1992

Mr. Ken Palmer
State Courts Administrator
Supreme Court Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1900

Dear Mr. Palmer:

I am writing to request your assistance with an issue that has resulted from the state's large general revenue shortfall. As I'm sure you know, the shortfall has made it necessary for HRS to find ways to reduce expenditures. One of our proposed budget reductions that was selected by the Legislature will have a direct impact on the circuit courts.

As a part of the initial planning for budget cuts, the Children, Youth and Families Program Office recommended elimination of the department's involvement in the intermediary/independent adoption process established in Chapter 63, Florida Statutes. The reasoning behind this recommendation was that private, licensed child placing agencies within the community could provide these services. With the elimination of this function, the department could eliminate the staff positions devoted to those responsibilities.

We ultimately decided not to include this proposal in our recommendations to governor, and the governor did not include this plan as part of his cost cutting measures. As you know, however, the Supreme Court later ruled that budget reductions had to be approved by the Legislature. In making their decision, the Legislature requested and reviewed our original proposals. They subsequently elected to eliminate the staff responsible for this function and thus our involvement in intermediary/independent adoptions.


The effective date of the funding reduction for this function was midnight, December 31. Accordingly, the department is no longer accepting new cases. We will continue to serve and bring to closure all existing cases.

Because of the circuit court's involvement and ultimate responsibility in these adoptions, I wanted to bring this matter to your attention. I would also greatly appreciate your help in letting the appropriate judges know about this change in our involvement with these cases.

Mr. Palmer
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If have any questions, please let me know, or feel free to call
Ms. Patricia Nichols at 488-8762, or John P. Perry III, at 488-
9440.

Sincerely,


Robert B. Williams
Secretary

STATE OF FLORIDA, COUNTY OF LEE

FILED FOR RECORD

This 6th Day of April 19 92 Record in Ca. Cl. Min.
Book 36 Page _____ and Record Verified.
CHARLIE GREEN By Mark Wood
Clerk Circuit Court Deputy Clerk

I CERTIFY THIS DOCUMENT TO BE A
TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF THE
ORIGINAL ON FILE IN MY OFFICE,
CHARLIE GREEN, CLERK CIRCUIT COURT
LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

DATED: April 6, 1992

BY: Mark Wood
Deputy Clerk