

THIS LETTER EXPIRES ON _____

Re: _____, DOB _____

The Honorable Judge _____

_____ Judge _____ :

The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, Division of _____ Division of Safety and Permanence has been requested to review the case information available for the above captioned child in order to determine the child's adoptability in the Special Needs Adoption program. After careful review of the information provided by _____ County Department of Human Services, our Department has made the following determination.

_____ Department is willing to accept custody and guardianship of this child if such is the disposition of the Court. The permanency plan for this child is adoption based on the following conditions as indicated.

- _____ The present foster parents have expressed an interest in applying to adopt. The Department will initiate the Adoptive Family Assessment after receiving the application packet from the family. However, licensed foster parents are not guaranteed approval as an adoptive family.
- The Department _____ has identified an approved _____ adoptive family who is interested in proceeding with placement of this child for the purpose of adoption.
- We have photo-listed this child in the Adopt! publication and have received responses that indicate a likelihood of matching with an approved adoptive family.
- We presently have a pool of approved adoptive families who could match with this child, or we believe children of this description can be readily placed for adoption.
- _____ A relative has expressed interest in applying to adopt.
- We will work with the Tribe to locate an appropriate American Indian adoptive family.

If, for any reason, the adoptive placement disrupts prior to the finalization of the adoption, the Department _____ will take the following action to reassess the adoptability of this child.

- _____ Review the treatment needs of the child to assess if referral for short-term treatment will alleviate barriers for adoption.
- _____ Assess the child's willingness for an adoption if age appropriate.
- _____ Photo-list the child in the Adopt! publication for a period of three months to identify other approved adoptive families who express an interest and can meet the needs of the child.
- _____ Contact other Regional Office adoption social workers to locate approved waiting families.

If our efforts to place this child with an approved adoptive family have not been successful after two years of the Termination of Parental Rights, the Department will petition the Court for a return of custody to the county with the Department retaining guardianship as specified in s. 48.43(7). In this manner, the child's service needs can be met through the array of County services. The Department will remain available should adoption later be indicated.

Should the Court terminate parental rights and transfer the legal custody and guardianship to the Department, we ask that the Court provide a certified copy of the dispositional order and a certified copy of the child's birth certificate. In addition, for federal eligibility standards, it is important that the Dispositional Order contain the following language:

1. The continuation of the child in the parent or relative home is contrary to the welfare of the child; and
2. That reasonable efforts have been made to prevent the removal of the child from the home; or if applicable, reasonable efforts have been made to make it possible for the child to return to his/her home.



A representative of our Department will not be attending the Hearing unless otherwise notified. However, please advise us of the hearing date.

In the event that custody and guardianship is granted to the State of Wisconsin, Department of Children and Families, it is imperative that our Department receive notification of a birth parent's intent to appeal a Termination of Parental Rights order. Without notification, our Department could potentially facilitate an illegal adoption.

In view of changing situations and needs of children, the Department will need to reassess the child's situation if a Termination of Parental Rights is not effected within six months from the date this letter is signed. In this event, the Department will reassess the child's adoptability when provided updated information by the County Department of Human Services.

Sincerely,

, Adoption Worker
Adoption and Consultation Unit
Northern Region

cc: , Case M  County Human Ser ,

