

STATE OF WISCONSIN
Department of Health and Family Services
Division of Children and Family Services

DCFS Memo Series 2007 -10
September 4, 2007

Re: Application of First Time
Adoption Preparation to
International Adoptions
under Wis. Stats. s. 48.839.

To: Area Administrators/ Human Services Area Coordinators
Bureau Directors
County Departments of Community Programs Directors
County Departments of Developmental Disabilities
Services Directors
County Departments of Human Services Directors
County Departments of Social Services Directors
Licensing Chiefs/Section Chiefs
Tribal Chairpersons/Human Services Facilitators

From:

Reggie Bicha
Administrator



2005 Wisconsin Act 293 created s. 48.84, Stats., which establishes requirements for pre-adoption preparation for certain proposed adoptive parents who have not previously adopted. Act 293 created a requirement that certain person(s) who have not previously adopted a child must obtain pre-adoption preparation on issues that may confront adoptive parents. The Department has promulgated rules regarding pre-adoption preparation at Ch. HFS 51, Adm. Code. The Emergency Rule became effective on April 1, 2007. The permanent rule became effective August 1, 2007.

As required by Act 293, certain prospective adoptive parents in Wisconsin who have not previously legally adopted a child must complete pre-adoption preparation requirements under s. 48.84, Stats., prior to the Department approving the adoptive placement of a child which is required for the State of Wisconsin to recognize an international adoption under s. 48.97, Stats., and prior to the child being brought into Wisconsin for adoption. Attached to this numbered memo is a memorandum on "Recognition of International Adoptions in Wisconsin".

Procedure

To obtain recognition of an international adoption in the Wisconsin courts, persons who are Wisconsin residents at the time of the international adoption must obtain the state's approval of the adoptive placement in Wisconsin. The Department will not issue a letter confirming recognition until the parent or parents demonstrate compliance with applicable preadoption preparation training requirements. For international adoptions there may be a significant period of time between the initial efforts to become an adoptive parent and placement of a child. **The Department is directing all licensed child placing agencies subject to HFS 54, to submit their home studies and any other supporting documentation to the Department for the purpose of seeking recognition only after the prospective adoptive parents have completed any applicable training.**

The Department has received questions regarding the application of pre-adoption preparation requirements for parents adopting an international child in a foreign country pursuant to ss. 48.839, and 48.97, Stats. A wide variety of fact situations have been posed and the Department provides guidance in the form of the attached reference chart.

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MEMO WEB SITE: <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/memos>

Attachments: [Recognition of International Adoptions in Wisconsin](#)
[Chart: Application of First Time Adoption Preparation to International Adoptions under s. 48.839, Stats.](#)

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