



Adopting from Foster Care with the Help of the Alliance

The Alliance for Children's Rights provides free legal services to families adopting children from the foster care system through the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and some Foster Family Agencies. Unless prospective adoptive parent(s) have chosen to hire a private attorney, DCFS will refer the case to the Alliance for legal representation in finalizing the adoption. DCFS will refer a case to the Alliance after the family has completed the Resource Family Approval (RFA) process, the child's parental rights have been terminated by the dependency court, and the family has signed the Adoptive Placement papers with their DCFS and/or FFA social worker.

Families assisted by the Alliance may have their adoption hearing scheduled on an Adoption Day or a regular weekday at Children's Court. Adoption Days, which are typically held four times a year on designated Friday afternoons, are special because the court is exclusively dedicated to finalizing adoptions on those days, and there is an extra festive atmosphere. Check our calendar at allianceforchildrensrights.org for upcoming Adoption Day dates.

About Us

The Alliance for Children's Rights is a nonprofit legal service organization dedicated solely to protecting abused and neglected children. We specialize in completing adoptions for children in foster care, including youth in the county's extended foster care program up to age 21 ("non-minor dependents"), and providing post-adoption assistance.

The Alliance and our pro bono attorneys provide:

- Information and education about the foster care adoption process;
- Preparation and filing of all the necessary legal documents to finalize the adoption;
- Representation at the adoption finalization hearing;
- Help accessing the correct Foster Care rate and Adoption Assistance Program (AAP) benefits, and with securing Medi-Cal coverage and resolving denials of coverage for children adopted from foster care;
- Special Education and IEP advocacy for children in foster care and those adopted from foster care;
- Mental health advocacy for children who have been in foster care;
- Help for children adopted from foster care with post-adoption benefits and services

After the Alliance receives the adoption case referral from DCFS, we will contact you for a telephone interview to learn more about you and the needs of your family. Formal legal representation by the Alliance or one of our pro bono attorneys to finalize the adoption begins after you have been interviewed and after you have signed a representation agreement sent to you by the Alliance or one of our volunteer attorneys.

Alliance for Children's Rights, Adoption Program

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