

After Adoption or Guardianship



One Special Gift Deserves Another

**Post Adoption & Guardianship
Services 2000**

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This booklet replaces “The Little Golden Book, Post Adoption Services” published by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. Please discard all copies of “The Little Golden Book, Post Adoption Services” in your possession.

“A Little Golden Book” is a registered trademark of Golden Books FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT.



Find It Fast!

If you need

Answers

To questions about your adoption or guardianship, including how to find your local DCFS subsidy worker, or if you have further questions after talking to the subsidy worker.

Services

Meeting your child or family's needs.

Advocacy

With schools or other service providers.

Support

Referral to groups within your area.

Call

Post Adoption and Guardianship Information and Referral Service

800-572-2390 (toll-free inside Illinois)

312-346-1516 (outside Illinois)

Sunday — Saturday 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

The Post Adoption and Guardianship Information and Referral Service maintains an extensive database of the latest information about services available to adoptive and guardianship families statewide. The staff is trained to refer callers to expert assistance on every subject from complex subsidy issues to mediating with service providers on behalf of a child and/or family. Additionally, the staff answering calls understand your family's urgency in finding what is needed for your child and family quickly and the first time.

Website Information

The Internet has become an important source of information for busy families with computer access at home or through their local public library. You will find a wealth of state and national information about adoption and guardianship on the Internet.

Two good starting points for information about adoption, guardianship and waiting children and links to other related sites are the Post Adoption and Guardianship Information and Referral Service website: www.adoptinfo-il.org and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services website: www.state.il.us/dcf/. For your convenience, several other well-known websites recommended by families are listed on page 2.

National and Internet Resources

Adopt America Network

1025 N. Reynolds Rd., Suite 201
Toledo, OH 43615

419-534-3350

Fax: 419-534-2995

www.adoptamerica.org

E-mail: aasktoledo@aol.com

Adoption Resource Exchange for Single Parents, Inc. (ARESP)

P.O. Box 5782

Springfield, VA 22150-9998

703-866-5577

www.aresp.org

E-mail: aresp@aol.com

Adoptive Families of America (AFA)

2309 Como Avenue

St. Paul, MN 66108

800-372-3300 or 651-645-9955

Fax: 651-645-9711

www.ADOPTIVEFAM.org

E-mail: info@ADOPTIVEFAM.org

Child Welfare League of America (CWLA)

440 First Street, NW Suite 310

Washington, DC 20001-2085

202-638-2952

Fax: 202-638-4004

www.cwla.org

E-mail: webweaver@cwla.org

Children Awaiting Parents, Inc. (CAP)

700 Exchange Street

Rochester, NY 14608

716-232-5110

www.adopt.org

E-mail: cap@adopt.org

National Council of Single Adoptive Parents

P.O. Box 15084

Chevy Chase, MD 20825

Phone or Fax: **202-966-6367**

www.adopting.org/ncsap.html

International Concerns Committee for Children (ICCC)

911 Cypress Drive

Boulder, CO 80303

303-494-8333

www.ftnet.org/ICC

E-mail: icc@boulder.net

National Adoption Center (NAC)

1500 Walnut Street, 7th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

215-735-9988, 800-TO ADOPT

Fax: 215-735-9410

www.adopt.org

E-mail: nac@adopt.org

National Adoption Information Clearinghouse

330 C. Street, SW

Washington, DC 20013-1182

703-352-3488

Toll-free: 888-251-0075

Fax 703-385-3206

www.calib.com/naic

E-mail: naic@calib.com

National Council for Adoption (NCFA)

1930 Seventeenth Street NW

Washington, DC 20009-6207

202-328-1200

Fax: 202-332-0935

www.ncfa-usa.org

E-mail: ncsa@Juno.com

National Resource Center for Special Needs Adoption

1650 Northland Drive, Suite 120
Southfield, MI 48075

248-443-7080

Fax: 248-443-7099

www.spaulding.org

E-mail: SFC@ic.net

North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC)

970 Raymond Avenue, Suite 106
St. Paul, MN 55114-1149

612-644-3036

Fax: 651-644-9848

www.nacac.org

E-mail: info@nacac.org

AdoptNet Presented by, National Adoption Center

Sponsored by DHHS and Conectiv

www.adoptnet.org

www.adopting.com



Websites listed in this booklet are solely for the convenience of the reader. Inclusion in this listing does not imply an endorsement of that organization, website or individual by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). DCFS is not responsible for the maintenance of any website shown other than its own.

Subsidies

Families adopting waiting children or becoming guardians of children in the care of DCFS may receive subsidies to assist them after adoption or guardianship. Subsidies may include any or all of the following:

- **Ongoing monthly payments** equal to what the child's foster care payment was, or would have been
- **Medicaid card** to cover medical expenses not covered by family insurance or other public resources
- **Counseling** services for the family and child, if needed
- **Therapeutic day care**
- **Reimbursement for costs associated with the adoption or guardianship**, such as attorney fees and court costs, with a maximum reimbursement for non-recurring expenses of \$1500 for adoption and \$500 for guardianship.
- If you have a **conditional subsidy**, as agreed upon in your adoption assistance agreement, you may be questioning how the subsidy can be activated. The opening of a conditional subsidy may be appropriate when the child develops a condition, and needs treatment or professional intervention based on pre-existing risk factors. The determination for beginning payments and medical assistance is based on a review of the supporting documentation of the child's condition. Children who have a conditional subsidy may never receive financial assistance from DCFS. Please contact the subsidy staff below with questions.

Subsidies are available to adoptive parent(s) or guardian(s) until: the child is no longer the legal responsibility of the adoptive parent(s); or the adoptive parent(s) no longer financially supports the child; upon the child's death or when the child is absent from the home and legal responsibility of the adoptive parent(s) for more than thirty (30) days; when the child reaches the age of 18 or age 19, if the child is still in high school. The Department may continue this agreement until the child's 21st birthday if the Department determines that the child has a physical, mental or emotional disability warranting the continuation of assistance.

* see terms and conditions of your subsidy agreement

Answers to Subsidy Questions

The primary source for answers to questions about a subsidy is the DCFS subsidy worker. If you do not know who your DCFS subsidy worker is, call the Post Adoption and Guardianship Information and Referral Service at **800-572-2390** (toll-free inside Illinois) or **312-346-1516** (outside Illinois), or contact your closest DCFS office and/or the Post Adoption and Guardianship worker listed here:

Cook County	Chicago		312-808-5250
Northern Region	Rockford	Enree Sockwell	815-987-7533
	Aurora	Sue Szigeti	630-844-8966
Central Region		Ruth McFadden	309-671-7900
Southern Region	East St. Louis	Shirley Crenshaw	618-394-2112
	Marion	Lori Timmons	618-242-6556

Missing Checks...

If you have been receiving subsidy checks regularly and suddenly don't receive your monthly subsidy check, call the DCFS Payment Unit at **800-525-0499**.

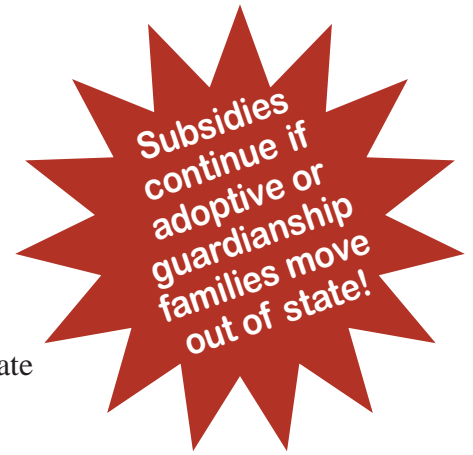
Mediation and Appeals

Your subsidy will be reviewed every two years. If your situation or the needs of the child have changed prior to review time, contact your subsidy worker to request an earlier subsidy review. If you believe however, that your rights under an adoption assistance or subsidized guardianship agreement have been violated in some way, an Administrative Appeal may be available to you. For information about the DCFS Administrative Hearing system, call **312-814-5540** (Cook County residents) or **217-782-6655** (outside Cook County).



Moving Out of Illinois

Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance (ICAMA)



Adoption

Adoptive parents often worry about what will happen to their child's subsidy if they move out of state. Illinois is now a member of the Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance (ICAMA), which assists adoptive families moving in or out of Illinois.

Move Prior to Finalization

Your worker will talk with the Interstate Compact Office to complete the necessary paperwork prior to your move. Your monthly payment will continue to be sent from Illinois and you will be asked to contact the DCFS subsidy worker about any payment problems.

Your adoption worker will provide you with information about your child's medical coverage. In some instances, you will receive the medical card from the new state for your child's medical coverage, and in some cases, your child will continue to use the Illinois medical card or you will be reimbursed by the State of Illinois for the medical care at Medicaid rates. The adoption worker will let you know what will happen in your individual case.

Move After Finalization

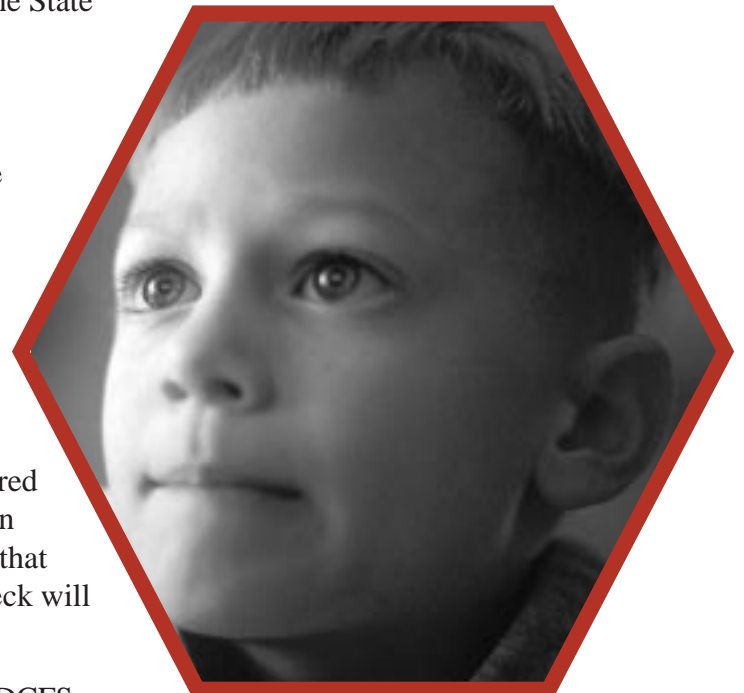
Contact your subsidy worker for information on the steps that will be taken to ensure that the new state has all of the necessary information. Illinois will continue to process your monthly payment and you will discuss any payment problems with your subsidy worker. Your subsidy worker will also let you know if you will be receiving a medical card from the new state, whether you will continue to use the medical card from Illinois, or will be reimbursed for medical care by the State of Illinois at Medicaid rates.

Guardianship

Permission to move out of the county or out of state must be obtained from the court where your guardianship was granted. At this time, there is no formalized Compact Program for guardianship families.

If you are a guardianship family contemplating an out-of-state move, you should contact the subsidy worker to determine if there is any paperwork required prior to the move. Information on your new location should be provided to the subsidy worker to ensure that you obtain a medical card and that your subsidy check will be forwarded to your new address.

Contact your subsidy worker or contact the closest DCFS office listed on page 3.



Special Assistance

Social Security Benefits

At adoption or guardianship, the worker should have discussed any benefits your child may be eligible for, and how you may apply for benefits after finalization. You must also notify Social Security that you are the *representative payee* for your child instead of DCFS.

Trust fund refund . . . if your adopted or guardianship child was receiving Social Security benefits, Veteran's Benefits, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Administration (SSA) benefits while under DCFS responsibility, the worker should have discussed his/her eligibility to receive any funds remaining in the DCFS trust fund after expenses for the child had been paid.

The monthly subsidy rate is the same as the foster care rate the child would be receiving if still in foster care, minus any benefits the child is eligible to receive. Exception: Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is not deducted from the monthly subsidy amount. After the finalization of an adoption or transfer of guardianship in court, any new benefits a child is eligible for or increases in existing benefits will not affect the subsidy payment. *Adoptive parents or guardians are responsible for notifying the Social Security Administration of an ongoing monthly adoption or guardianship subsidy payment for their child who receives SSI.*

Questions? The National Social Security Administration at 800-772-1213 or web site www.ssa.gov can refer you to your local SSA office.

Medical Card Replacement

When an adoption or guardianship finalizes, a medical card is issued with the first subsidy payment. Medical cards are issued once a year thereafter. If your child's medical card is ever lost, call **800-228-6533** to request a replacement.

Day Care

Adoptive or guardianship families not qualifying for therapeutic day care may still be eligible for day care assistance through the Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS). Parents applying for day care assistance must be employed full-time with child/ren under the age of 13, and meet income eligibility criteria. Day care assistance from DHS is on a sliding fee scale with parent/s responsible for a co-payment. Call the DHS toll-free day care referral line, 877-20-CHILD or visit the website: www.state.il.us/agency/child.htm.

KidCare Health Services

Kidcare is a state program offering health care coverage or help in paying premiums of employer-sponsored or private insurance plans for children through age 18, pregnant women who are Illinois residents, and U.S. citizens or qualified legal immigrants who meet income requirements. For eligibility requirements or more information, call **800-226-0768**.

Scholarships

Youth formerly under DCFS responsibility who are now adopted or living with guardians are eligible to apply for DCFS college scholarships. For an application and information about DCFS scholarships, call the Division of Education and Transition Services at **217-524-2030**.



Services for Disabled Individuals

Home Services

The Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS) offers Home Services to qualifying Illinois residents aimed at enabling individuals with disabilities to remain at home. Available services include: Personal Assistant, Homemaker Services, Maintenance Home Health, Electronic Home Response, Home Delivered Meals, Adult Day Care, Assistive Equipment, Environmental Modification and Respite Care. To find your local DHS counselor to see if you, your child, or your family qualifies, call **800-843-6154** (Voice and TTY). Select option four from the voicemail menu.

All DHS rules and services are also given on the website: www.state.il.us/agency/dhs.

Advocacy Services

Equip for Equality, Inc. is the corporation designated in Illinois as the protection and advocacy system for people with disabilities, mental illness and developmental disabilities.

Equip for Equality, Inc. offers

- Professional advocates and attorneys who provide technical assistance and advice in self-advocacy and direct legal services
- Monitoring of agencies responsible for delivering services to people with disabilities to ensure compliance with individual rights
- Lobbying for laws to protect the rights of individuals with disabilities
- A quarterly publication, *The Equalizer*

For further information about services, contact your nearest regional office.

Northeastern Region

11 East Adams St., Suite 1200
Chicago, IL 60603
800-537-2632
800-610-2779 (TTY line)

Central Region

427 E. Monroe
P.O. Box 276
Springfield, IL 62705
800-758-0464

Northwestern Region

1612 Second Ave.
P.O. Box 3753
Rock Island, IL 61204
800-758-6869



Educational Opportunities

On-Site Training

The DCFS Training Division offers a variety of training opportunities throughout the state for adoptive and guardianship families. If you are interested in finding on-site training classes scheduled in your area or would like to request a printed training schedule, call your closest DCFS Foster and Adoptive Training Center listed on this page.

DCFS Training Centers

Call for a free Lending Library Catalog, guidelines and request forms, or for information about on-site training currently being offered in your area or a printed training schedule.



Cook County

Harold Washington College
30 East Lake Street, Room 1128
Chicago, IL 60601
Phone: **312-553-5831 or 5830**
Fax: 312-553-3140
Training Contact: Cheryl Wiley

Rockford Area

Rock Valley Community College
DCFS Foster Parent Training Program
4151 Samuelson Road
Rockford, IL 61109
Phone: **815-227-4059**
Fax: 815-227-4137
Training Contact: Pat Randolph

Springfield Area

DCFS Foster Parent Training Program
Lincoln Land Community College
5250 Shepherd Road, PO Box 19256
Springfield, IL 62794-9256
Phone: **888-817-1825**
Fax: 217-786-2781
Training Contact: Blanca Bernasek

East St. Louis Area

Office of Continuing Education
SIU-Edwardsville
Edwardsville, IL 62026
Phone: **618-650-3213**
Fax: 618-650-2629
Training Contact: Terry Bast

Aurora Area

College of DuPage
425 22nd Street, Room K-165
Glen Ellyn, IL 61037-6599
Phone: **630-942-2903**
Fax: 630-942-3789 or 4102
Training Contact: Pat O'Dwyer

Peoria Area

Black Hawk College
301 42nd Avenue
East Moline, IL 61244
Phone: **888-507-7433**
Fax: 309-755-2200 or 9847
Training Contact: Jo Johnson

Champaign Area

Parkland Community College
201 N. Randolph, Lower Level
Champaign, IL 61821-1899
Phone: **217-355-4666 or 4644**
888-467-6065 (recorded information)
Fax: 217-355-5091
Training Contact: Judy Probeck

Marion Area

SIU-Carbondale
Divisions of Continuing Education
Washington Square C, Mail Code 6705
Carbondale, IL 62901
Phone: **618-536-7751**
Fax: 318-453-5680
Training Contact: Pat Eckert

Educational Opportunities

DCFS Lending Library

DCFS maintains a Lending Library service offering **books, cassettes** and **videos** to adoptive and guardianship families, as well as foster families, for their further education on specific topics affecting their child. The lending library has numerous resources that cover a variety of topics such as:

- 📖 General parenting
- 📖 Disciplinary strategies for difficult children
- 📖 The sexually abused child

Catalogs listing titles and descriptions by topic are available through the eight DCFS Foster and Adoptive Training Centers listed on page 7 and are also given on the DCFS website: www.state.il.us/dcfs/lendlib.htm. If you need information on other topics, let your training center know.

All books, cassettes and videos are available for free borrowing and are mailed to the requesting family with a return envelope enclosed.

Any resource available to be borrowed has been previewed by foster, adoptive or guardianship families and recommended by them to be included in the library.

Training Funds for Family Members of Persons with a Disability

Each year Illinois allocates training funds to families of persons with a disability to attend training related to the family member's disability. Only individuals — not agencies or organizations — may apply. Amount of funds available and eligibility guidelines may change each state fiscal year.

Call the Early Childhood Intervention Clearinghouse at **800-852-4302** for information or for an application.



Educational Advocacy

NEW

Educational advocacy for adoptive and guardianship families will be available effective May 1, 2000. This program provides access to an Educational Advisor, an Educational Assistant and a Volunteer Educational Advocate to assist you in working with the schools. The Educational Advisor is an individual who has expertise and experience in educational and early intervention matters, and will determine, along with you, who should be assigned to address your needs. To obtain additional information or assistance with any educational issue, contact the Regional Educational Advisor's Office serving the region where your child attends school.



COOK COUNTY

North
312-328-2477

Central
773-292-7731

South
773-371-6029

Suburbs
773-854-0606

OUTSIDE COOK COUNTY

North Region
815-967-3750

Central Region
217-355-5990
Springfield only
217-557-3046

South Region
East St. Louis
618-398-5910
Murphysboro
618-687-1733

Local Area Networks (LANs) Offer Help to Community Families

Another resource for adoptive and guardianship families for services and/or funding, is their Local Area Network (LAN). A LAN is a geographically defined area of the state. Each LAN is composed of service providers who work together to serve children and families within their own communities.

An easy way for adoptive or guardianship families to find their local area network is to contact the Adoption Preservation Provider serving their area. The Adoption Preservation Program Worker can help you locate your LAN and can answer questions about how your LAN may be able to help your family, including requirements and procedures and can also assist with the application process. To find the name and phone number of the preservation program nearest you, call **800-572-2390**.



If you would rather not contact the Adoption Preservation Provider, and would like to contact the LAN in your area directly, call your local regional DCFS office listed on the map on page 18 of this booklet or see this website: www.systemofcare.illinois.com.

Tax Benefits and Assistance

Adoption Expense Tax Credit for Adoptive Parents

Since 1997, adoptive parents have been able to take a tax credit of up to \$5,000 on their federal tax return for *qualifying expenses* paid to adopt an *eligible* child. An eligible child is any individual under 18 years old, or physically or mentally incapable of self care.

The tax credit can be as much as \$6,000 for the adoption of a child with *special needs*. A child is considered to be a special needs child if he/she is a citizen or resident of the U.S. and the state determines that the child

- Can not, or should not, be returned to his/her parent/s
and
- Probably will not be adopted unless adoption assistance is provided.

Qualifying adoption expenses are fees paid by the parent/s *not reimbursed by some other source* and may include reasonable and necessary adoption fees, court costs, attorney fees, traveling expenses and other expenses directly related to the legal adoption of an eligible child.

The adoption tax credit is available through 2001. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Publication 968 explains benefits in detail. Contact your tax consultant for more information.

Tax Benefits

Many adoptive parents and guardians will be eligible for new or expanded tax benefits.

According to the Tax Counseling Project of the Center for Law and Human Services (CLHS),

- ✓ Earned Income Tax Credit may be worth up to \$3,816 for low-income families with employment income and two or more qualifying children.
- ✓ Children listed as dependents may also be eligible for the Child Tax Credit (up to \$500 for each dependent under age 17) and the Child and Dependent Care Credit for work related child care expenses.

Tax laws can change at any time. CLHS, with help from DCFS, mailed a special tax booklet to adoption and guardianship families with helpful information needed by your tax preparer. If you did not receive a booklet, call **312-341-1666**.

Tax Return Preparation

Low-income adoptive parents or guardians needing assistance in completing their tax return may seek free, local help by calling the Tax Counseling Project at **888-827-8511**.

Call to see if you qualify and to find a tax counseling preparation site location near you. Income eligibility guidelines are subject to change annually.



Adoption and Guardianship Preservation Services



A special Adoption and Guardianship Preservation Program was developed to meet the needs of families with children requiring intensive services. Testimonials from families who have used preservation services reveal that these services worked, while other traditional, less intensive services they had tried, did not. DCFS contracts with ten agencies statewide to provide Adoption and Guardianship Preservation Services.

Preservation agency staff are trained regarding:

- Child and family dynamics of adoption and guardianship
- Common adoption and guardianship issues, such as grief and loss and attachment

Goals of all preservation programs are to help parents:

- Feel better about their ability to parent
- Understand adoption and guardianship and its impact on children
- Connect current behavior to past history
- Understand the child's past losses
- Gain skills to help their child

Preservation agency staff can also:

- Work with a adoptive or guardianship family to develop a service plan meeting their child or family needs and
- Provide home-based service, if necessary.

To find the preservation program nearest you, call **800-572-2390** (toll-free inside Illinois) or **312-346-1516** (outside Illinois).

Advocacy Office for Children and Families

If you feel you have not received all of the information or services you need to adequately provide for your child contact:

DCFS Advocacy Office for Children and Families
800-232-3798 (toll-free inside Illinois)
217-524-2029 (outside Illinois)

Standby Adoption

Illinois Public Law 91-0573 — Effective: January 1, 2000

New Option for Terminally Ill Adoptive Parents

Every responsible parent is interested in guaranteeing the welfare of the child if the parent dies prior to the child growing up. This year a new standby adoption option is available for a terminally ill parent. Standby adoption allows the terminally ill parent to choose someone to adopt the child after the parent's death or consent to the adoption. It also allows the parent to give testimony concerning his/her wishes to the Court while still alive. The person of the parent's choice will be appointed "standby adoptive parent" upon the Court's approval. Once the "triggering event" (either death of the parent or consent to the adoption) takes place, the Court will finalize the adoption, unless finalization can be shown to no longer be in the child's best interests.

Advantages: Standby adoption ensures that the child will be adopted by a person chosen by the terminally ill parent. It also ensures that the child will not enter the Illinois child welfare system during the search for an adoptive family. Standby adoption also ensures permanency for the child through adoption without requiring the adoptive parent to consent to termination of parental rights.

Standby adoption is available to all terminally ill parents, including adoptive parents.

Questions? Talk to your attorney.

Standby Guardianship and Short-Term Guardianship: Options for All Adoptive Parents

Since January 1994, Illinois standby guardianship and short-term guardianship laws have enabled parents to designate someone of their choosing as standby and/or short-term guardians for their children. Unlike standby adoption, there is no terminal illness requirement. Any parent, whether completely healthy or very ill, may use the standby and short-term guardian options.

Standby guardianship provides a guardianship alternative that will take effect on the occurrence of a future event — usually the death of the parent or the parent's inability to make and carry out day-to-day child care decisions. Once the standby guardian's duties are activated, the standby guardian has 60 days to file a petition for full guardianship with the Court. A petition for standby guardianship can be filed by an adoptive parent, birth parent or guardian. If a standby guardian is unable to fulfill his/her duties, the Court will appoint a new guardian for the child, or it may return the child to the child welfare system.

A short-term guardian can be appointed by a parent, adoptive parent, or guardian of a child. A short-term guardianship appointment is a private arrangement made without court involvement. Forms for the appointment are provided in the law. The appointment enables the short-term guardian to act as guardian of the child for up to 60 days. Short-term guardian appointments are renewable, but only one appointment can be in force at a time.

Questions? Talk to your attorney.

When Your Child Reaches 18

Expect to receive a letter from DCFS prior to your child's 18th birthday notifying you of a case review to determine if the child still needs benefits. If you do not receive a letter, contact the subsidy worker listed on page 3.

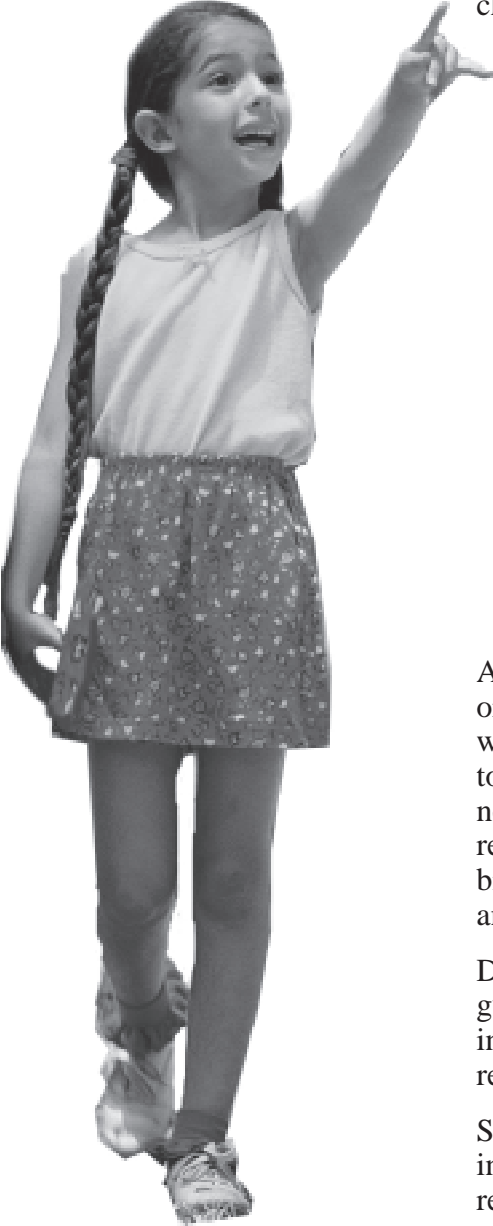
Subsidy payments and the medical card may continue until age 19 if your youth has not graduated from high school, or until age 21 if your adopted or guardianship youth has a mental or physical condition currently under medical treatment.



Search and Reunion Services

Non-Identifying Information

Illinois law requires *prior to* the adoption of a child under DCFS responsibility, that workers provide adoptive families with *all available non-identifying information* about the child and about the child's family in writing, if known. This includes:

- 
- ↪ Age of birth parent/s
 - ↪ Race, religion, and ethnic background of birth parent/s
 - ↪ General physical appearance of birth parent/s
 - ↪ Education, occupation, hobbies, interests and talents of birth parents
 - ↪ Existence of any other children born to the birth parent/s
 - ↪ Relationship between the birth parents
 - ↪ Detailed medical and mental health histories of the child, the birth parent/s and their immediate relatives
 - ↪ Information about the birth grandparent/s; reason for immigrating to the U.S., if applicable, and country of origin

At some later point in life, adoptive or guardianship parent/s, the child or the birth parent/s may have questions. Your child may wonder where she got her brown eyes or the dimple in her chin. You may want to answer your child's questions, but do not have all of the information necessary. Or, the birth parent/s may wonder how the child they relinquished is doing. Sometimes, older children want to find their birth parent/s. All of these issues can result in a great deal of confusion and concern for you and your child.

DCFS offers free Search and Reunion Services to adoptive and guardianship parents, adult adoptees, and birth family members, including the birth parent/s, when the child was under DCFS responsibility at the time of the adoption or guardianship.

Search and Reunion Services include providing *non-identifying* information located in official files and assistance with search and reunion services, if requested.

If you believe you may not have received all non-identifying information or to request information about search and reunion services, contact:

Midwest Adoption Center
3158 Des Plaines River Road, Suite 120
Des Plaines, IL 60018
847-298-9096

Website: www.MACadopt.org

Adoption Registry Helps Adoption Parties Learn About Each Other

The Adoption Registry is a confidential, cross-reference file of birth parents, adult adoptees and siblings. Individuals provide identifying information and may authorize its release to other specific parties to the adoption. A computer searches the Adoption Registry for matches and then releases the information *when both parties have given permission* for its release. The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) offers this service for a \$40 fee.

New January 1, 2000!

The Adoption Registry includes a Medical Exchange. If a medical information form is completed by any party to the adoption, the \$40 service fee is waived.

For more information about the Adoption Registry, contact

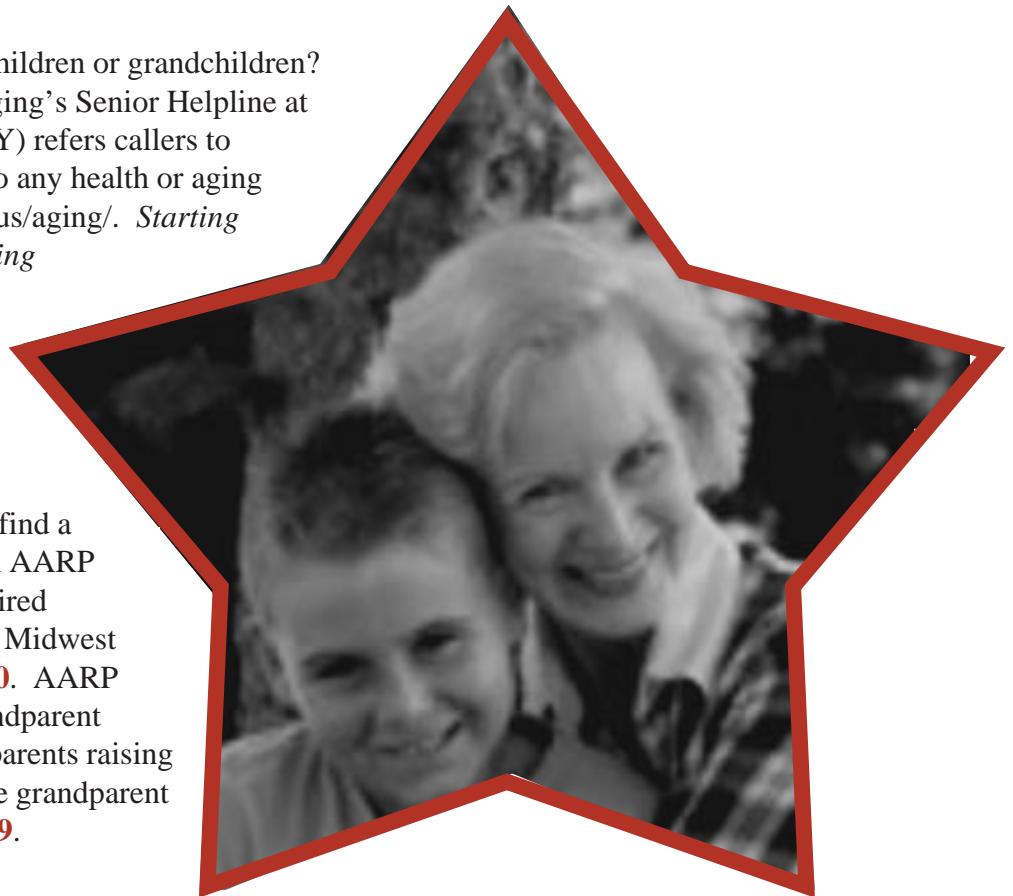
Illinois Department of Public Health
Division of Vital Records
605 W. Jefferson St.
Springfield, IL 62702-5097
217-785-3189

Website: www.idph.state.il.us/vital/home.htm

For Older Parents

Are you over 50 and raising children or grandchildren? The Illinois Department of Aging's Senior Helpline at **800-252-8966** (Voice and TTY) refers callers to programs or services related to any health or aging issue. Website: www.state.il.us/aging/. *Starting Points for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren*, a free booklet with many resources and tips for grandparents, is also available through the Senior Helpline.

Anyone over age 50 will also find a wealth of information through AARP (American Association of Retired Persons) **800-424-3410** or the Midwest Regional Office **773-714-9800**. AARP also maintains a separate Grandparent Information Center for grandparents raising grandchildren and offers a free grandparent newsletter. Call **202-434-2299**.





Adoption Update

DCFS Among "Adoption 2002" Excellence Awards Recipients for Second Consecutive Year

Illinois Brings Home 3 of 11 Awards During Adoption Awareness Month

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced its November 99 "Adoption 2002" Excellence Awards recipients and Illinois again outdistanced all other states, winning three of the 11 awards.

The Department of Children and Family Services, its Research Director and Cook County Presiding Judge Nancy Sidote Salyers were named recipients of this year's "Adoption 2002" Excellence Awards. They were chosen from more than 52 nominations nationwide.

"We're honored to receive recognition for our permanency endeavors," said DCFS Director Jess McDonald.

"Moving children into stable, loving families is a priority for DCFS and we thank those who helped us reach our record-breaking accomplishments."

The awards stem from President Clinton's initiative to double the number of children in foster care who are adopted. Illinois exceeded this goal by tripling adoptions, from 2,229 in Fiscal Year 1997 to 7,315 in 1999. The number of children moved to permanency through subsidized guardianship also increased by 72 percent.

Who Are Children Waiting for Adoption in Illinois?

Children Listed with AICI = 1558

Males	924	(59%)
Females	634	(41%)

African-American	1318	(85%)
Caucasian	169	(11%)
Latino	58	(4%)
Other	13	(<1%)

Age		
0-5	289	(19%)
6-11	982	(65%)
12+	287	(18%)

Sibling Groups

882 waiting children (57%) are members of 366 sibling groups wishing to be adopted together.

Sibling Groups

2 Children	254
3 Children	75
4 Children	32
5 Children	5

Source: Adoption Information Center of Illinois (AICI), 2-2000

Victor Carr, a former DCFS ward who was recently adopted, read an essay about his adoption experience.





One Church One Child

One Church One Child (OCOC) has been a model for family recruitment, advocacy and mentorship since being formally instituted by the Illinois Legislature in 1984. Originally created to promote adoption of waiting African-American children, OCOC now recruits both foster and adoptive families for any child needing a family. OCOC is funded by DCFS and is headed by an advisory board of ministers.

OCOC employs local adoption and foster family recruiters to work with the churches, as well as recruiting throughout the community. Recently, OCOC has added a statewide, toll-free number **877-490-8648** and a new website: www.ococil.org, to make it easy for anyone to contact the program directly about adoption or foster care or waiting children.

“Our program provides families who call us with a local OCOC recruiter dedicated to answering their questions and advocating for them from the beginning of the adoption or foster care process to the end — when a child is placed,” says Statewide Coordinator, Addie Hudson. “We pride ourselves on the quality service we can provide for children and families.”

Corporate Partnership

The Corporate Partnership for Recruitment of Adoptive Families began in 1998 as a capacity-building, public private initiative to partner child welfare agencies with large corporations to recruit adoptive families. The Partnership is especially looking for homes for African-American children, older children, siblings, and children with medical or behavioral needs. There have been three adoptions finalized as a result of the project and six more should be completed by the Summer of 2000.



Each corporate partner works with a private child welfare agency, or with DCFS directly, to develop a plan to recruit adoptive parents among employees of the corporation. DCFS supplies recruitment materials, information, training, licensing support and staff to work with employees seeking to adopt.

Adoptive families are given all the information and training possible to form a happy positive family relationship with the children that they adopt into their family.

The Corporate Partnership focuses on providing quality, customer-friendly services to families, while making a good match between every child and every family. Thirty Illinois hospitals have participated in the project to date and new corporations are being added.

To learn more about the Corporate Partnership for Recruitment of Adoptive Families call Diane DeLeonardo, Project Coordinator at **217-544-0254**, or E-mail: leonardo@fgi.net.





ALEXIS OBERDORFER

DCFS Post Adoption & Guardianship Coordinator

I care both personally and professionally about what services your child and family

need to continue to have a successful adoptive or guardianship experience. You see, as an adopted child from Cook County, I have lived the adoption experience myself and understand the value of support. Professionally, I chose to go into social work for both my undergrad and graduate degree to make a difference. Additionally, I have

gained many insights by working in a variety of areas: prevention/early intervention, child protection, case management and field work and adoption. For two years, I worked within the Latino community. I have also facilitated groups for adoptees, ages 6-35, and now train for the North American Council on Adoptable Children on transracial adoption issues.

If you have comments or suggestions about existing services or new services that should be considered, please contact our office.

We welcome your comments.

DCFS Division of Foster Care & Permanency Services
406 E. Monroe St., Station #225
Springfield, IL 62701
Phone: 217-524-2422 Fax: 217-524-3966

we possibly can in a way that not only shares our professional expertise, but that shows you how much we care. We work for you. As an adoptive and foster parent myself with a Master's of Social Work and a Master's of Business Administration, I'm interested in your feedback about the quality of our services. Don't hesitate to contact my office with ideas for services you need, or comments on existing services. Please let us know how we're doing.

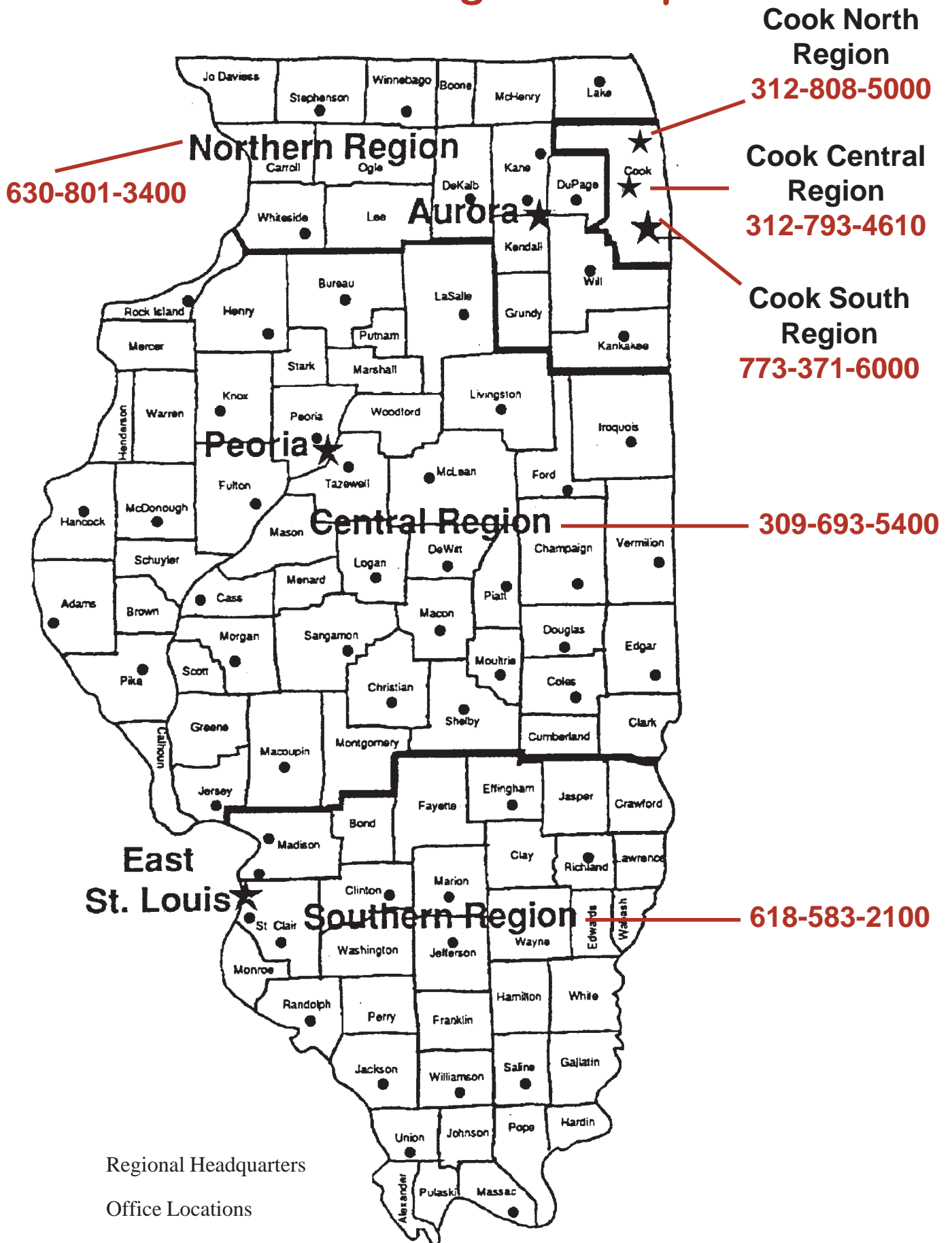
JANE ELMORE

DCFS Deputy Director Foster Care & Permanency Services

Children's happiness and futures depend on the quality of the services we provide to your family after adoption or guardianship. We want to give you and your family as much support as



DCFS Regional Map



DCFS Office Phonebook

	Phone	Fax	Counties Served
Cook North Region (Chicago)			
4055 North Western 60618	773-866-5500	773-866-5516	
4320 W. Montrose Ave. 60641	773-794-5900	773-794-5886	
750 W. Montrose 60613	773-989-5836	773-989-3478	
810 W. Montrose 60613	773-989-3450	773-989-3458	N. Cook
1911 S. Indiana 60616*	312-808-5000	312-328-2561	
1921 S. Indiana 60616	312-808-5000	312-808-5194	
950 E. 61 st St. 60637	773-947-3630	773-947-3580	
2033 S. Indiana 60616	312-808-4000	312-808-4315	
Cook Central Region (Chicago)			
1026 S. Damen 60612*	312-793-4610	312-793-6697	
3518 W. Division 60651	773-292-7700	773-292-7888	C. Cook
4909 W. Division 60651	773-854-0600	773-854-0600	
2020 W. Roosevelt 60612	312-793-7780	312-793-3248	
Cook South Region (Chicago)			
6201 S. Emerald, Chicago 60621*	773-371-6000	773-371-6065/6066	
1911 S. Indiana, Chicago 60604	312-808-5000	312-328-2568	S. Cook
7600 W. 183 rd , Tinley Park 60477	708-633-5300	708-633-5371	
15325 S. Page, Harvey 60426	708-210-2800	708-210-3083	
Northern Region			
Aurora 8 E. Galena 60506*	630-801-3400	630-844-3360	
Aurora 841 N. Lake Street 60506	630-844-8400	630-844-8405	Kane, Kendall
DeKalb 2496 DeKalb Ave. 60178	815-756-3401	815-756-1187	DeKalb, Ogle
Elgin 595 State St. 60123	847-888-7620	847-888-5543	N. Kane
Freeport 1255 W. Empire 61032	815-235-7878	815-235-7801	JoDavies, Stephenson
Glen Ellyn 800 W. Roosevelt Rd. Bldg. D, Suite 10 60137	630-790-6800	630-790-6872	DuPage
Joliet 1619 W. Jefferson St. 60435	815-730-4000	815-730-4052	Grundy, Will
Kankakee 505 S. Schuyler 60901	815-939-8140	815-939-8154	Kankakee
Rockford 200 S. Wyman 61101	815-987-7493	815-987-7447	Boone, Winnebago
Round Lake Beach 328 W. Rollins Rd. 60073	847-546-0772	847-546-1584	W. Lake
Sterling 2607 Woodlawn Suite 3 61081	815-625-7594	815-625-0279	Carroll, Lee, Whiteside
Waukegan 500 N. Greenbay Rd. 60085	847-249-7800	847-249-7804	E. Lake
Woodstock 113 Newell St. 60098	815-338-1068	815-338-1383	McHenry
Southern Region			
Alton 200 N. Center Dr. Suite D 62002	618-466-7014	618-466-9556	Madison
Anna 202 South St. 62906	618-833-4449	618-833-3871	Union
Belleville 12 N. 64 th St. Suite 1 62223	618-394-2150	618-394-2153	St. Clair
Cairo 1315 Washington 62914	618-734-0858	618-734-0861	Alexander, Pulaski, Union
Carlyle 1271C Franklin 62231	618-594-4541	618-594-4548	Bond, Clinton, Washington
E. St. Louis 5601 State St. 62203	618-398-5910	618-398-5931	St. Clair
E. St. Louis 10 Collinsville Ave., Rm. 301 62201*	618-583-2100	618-583-2141	
Effingham 401 W. Industrial Ave. Suite B 62401	217-347-5561	217-347-5589	Effingham, Fayette, Jasper
Fairview Heights 10251 Lincoln Trail #3 62208	618-394-2100	618-394-2123	St. Clair
Granite City 2021 Johnson Rd 62040	618-876-8985	618-876-8998	Madison
Harrisburg 324 E. Raymond St. 62946	618-253-7604	618-253-3813	Gallatin, Saline, White
Marion 2309 W. Main Suite 108 62959*	618-993-7100	618-993-5467	
Marion 107 Airway Dr. 62959	618-993-8639	618-997-1239	Franklin, Williamson
Metropolis 200 W. 5 th St. 62960	618-524-2428	618-524-3573	Hardin, Johnson, Massac, Pope,
Mt. Vernon 3405 Broadway 62864	618-242-6556	618-242-1138	Hamilton, Jefferson, Wayne
Murphysboro 1210 Hanson St. 62966	618-687-1733	618-684-2088	Jackson, Perry
Olney 1102A S. West St. 62450	618-393-2979	618-393-2102	Crawford, Edwards, Lawrence, Richland, Wabash
Salem 219 E. Schwartz 62881	618-548-7300	618-548-7303	Clay, Marion
Sparta 202 W. Jackson 62286	618-443-4317	618-443-4564	Monroe, Randolph So. St. Clair
Woodrider 1407 Vaughn Rd. 62095	618-452-2128	618-259-8416	Madison

*Administrative Office

DCFS Office Phonebook (con't.)

	Phone	Fax	Counties Served
Central Region			
Beardstown 121 E. Second St. 62618	217-323-2286	217-323-9447	Brown, Cass, Schuyler
Bloomington 401 Dinsmore 61701	309-828-0022	309-828-9423	DeWitt, Livingston, McLean
Cambridge 307 W. Center 61238	309-937-1071	309-937-1046	Henry
Canton 409 N. Main 61520	309-647-0051	309-647-8340	McDonough, Fulton
Carlinville 1022 N. High St. 62626	217-854-2566	217-854-6321	Macoupin, Montgomery
Carthage 414 Main 62321	217-357-6668	217-357-3305	Hancock
Champaign 2125 S. First 61820*	217-333-2420	217-333-4185	
Charleston 825 18 th St. 61920	217-348-7661	217-345-1120	Clark, Coles, Cumberland
Clinton 1150 Rte #54 W. 61727	217-935-8432	(no fax)	DeWitt
Danville 401 N. Franklin 61832	217-443-3200	217-443-2969	Iroquois, Vermillion
Decatur 2900 N. Oakland Ave. 62526	217-875-6750	217-875-6565	Macon
Galesburg 467 E. Main 61401	309-342-3154	309-343-7658	Henderson, Knox, Warren
Jacksonville 46 Northside Central Pk. Plaza 62650	217-479-4800	217-479-4836	Brown, Cass, Morgan, Schuyler, Scott
Jerseyville 108 S. State 62052	618-498-9561	618-498-6321	Calhoun, Greene, Jersey
Lincoln 1120 Keokuk St. 62656	217-735-4402	217-735-5792	Logan, Mason, Menard
Macomb 460 Deer Rd. 61455	309-837-5411	309-837-1956	Faulton, McDonough
Monticello 108 N. Charter St. 61856	217-762-2148	(no fax)	Piatt
Ottawa 776 Centennial Dr. 61350	815-433-4371	815-433-9435	LaSalle
Paris 11697 IL Hwy 1 61944	217-465-5302	217-463-1933	Clark, Edgar
Paxton 2 Lane Dr. 60957	217-379-4206	217-379-4306	Ford
Pekin 1 S. Capitol 61554	309-347-5978	309-347-6198	Tazewell, Woodford
Peoria 5415 N. University 61614*	309-693-5400	309-693-5316	
Peoria 2001 N.E. Jefferson 61603	309-671-7900	309-671-7906	
Peoria (ACR) 1115 A North St. 61606	309-671-4725	309-671-4733	
Pittsfield 953 W. Washington 62363	217-285-4622	(no fax)	Adams, Pike
Pontiac 811 W. Cleary St. 61764	815-844-1551	815-844-1562	Livingston
Princeton RR#2, Box 300 Backbone Rd. 61356	815-875-4502	815-875-1458	Bureau, Marshall, Putnam, Stark
Quincy 107 North 3rd 62301	217-221-2525	217-221-2530	
Rock Island 500 42 nd St. Suite 5 61201	309-794-3500	309-794-3511	Henry, Mercer, Rock Island
Savoy 1806 Woodfield Dr. 61874	217-333-0300	217-333-7700	(Licensing Staff)
Shelbyville 519 N. Cedar 62565	217-774-3213	217-774-4518	Shelby
Springfield 1001 N. Walnut 62702	217-782-4000	217-524-1463	Sangamon
Springfield 521 S. 11th Street 62703	217-782-4000	217-557-0093	Sangamon
Sullivan 1213 S. Hamilton 61951	217-728-7419	(no fax)	Moultrie
Taylorville 1104 W. Spresser 62568	217-824-9649	217-824-8896	Christian
Tuscola 108 Sales St. 61953	217-253-4242	217-253-6609	
Urbana 508 S. Race 61801	217-333-1034	217-333-8639	Champaign, Ford
Watseka 537 E. Walnut 60970	815-432-5218	815-432-4194	Iroquois

DCFS Information and Referral - ILLINOIS 312-793-3500
 Find a DCFS caseworker or employee, DCFS department or office, or DCFS division statewide.

DCFS Abuse/Neglect Hotline 800-25-ABUSE

*Administrative Office

To Order This Booklet

Copies of this booklet may be ordered through DCFS Communications at 217-785-1700.

Post Adoption & Guardianship Services

DCFS is an equal opportunity employer
 and prohibits discrimination in all of
 its programs and/or services.

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STATE OF ILLINOIS
Department of Children and Family Services
406 East Monroe
Springfield, IL 62701-1498

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