

# INDEPENDENT ADOPTION PROGRAM (IAP)

## FACT SHEET

- The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) or delegated county adoption agency is required to investigate all Independent Adoption Petitions and submit a final report to the court with its findings within 180 days of receipt of 50 percent of the fee, or longer as determined by the court, as long as full payment has been received. (effective 10/1/2008)
- The fee for the cost of the investigation of an Independent Adoption petition is \$4,500. (effective 10/1/2008)
- The fee for the cost of the investigation of an Independent Adoption petition for a family with a completed, valid pre-placement evaluation is \$1,550. The pre-placement evaluation must be less than one year old and meet the requirements of Family Code Section 8811.5. (effective 10/1/2008)
- The fee for the cost of the investigation of an Independent Adoption petition for a family with a completed, valid private agency adoption home study is \$1,550. The agency adoption home study must be less than two years old at the time of filing a petition. (effective 1/1/2013)
- Once the petition is filed with the court, a copy and 50 percent of the fee shall be mailed to CDSS or the delegated county adoption agency. (effective 10/1/2008)
  - The 180 day time-frame will begin once the Department or delegated adoption agency has received a copy of the filed petition and 50 percent of the fee.
- The remaining 50 percent of the fee shall be paid no later than the date determined by CDSS or the delegated county adoption agency. The CDSS or delegated county adoption agency cannot file the final court report until the remainder of the fee is paid. (effective 10/1/2008)
- The fee for all Independent Adoption investigations is non-refundable.
- Request for fee waivers will no longer be accepted. (effective 10/1/2008)
- The fee may be reduced in some cases, where the prospective adoptive parent(s) is in the lower income category, according to the income limits published by the Department of Housing and Community Development (<http://www.hcd.ca.gov/hpd/hrc/rep/state/incNote.html>), and making the required payment would be detrimental to the welfare of an adopted child. However, in no case will the fee be reduced to less than \$500. (effective 1/1/2014)
- Adopting families may be eligible for a tax credit for qualifying expenses paid to adopt an eligible child (<http://www.irs.gov/taxtopics>). Please consult your tax advisor.



If you have any questions, you may contact your local Fresno Field Office at the California Department of Social Services Adoptions Services Bureau - (559) 243-8200 for more information. You may also check CDSS' website at [www.childsworld.ca.gov](http://www.childsworld.ca.gov).

