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Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2013 4:27 PM
To: scott@afamilyforeverychild.org
Subject: Legally free vs legal risk



Dear ,

While you are reading a child's biography, you may come across two terms that you might seem unfamiliar or even a bit daunting. These terms are legally free and legal risk. So what do they mean?

Legally free means that the child's birth parent's rights have been terminated by the state. This means that the child is a "ward" of the state and has no legal parents. All the paper work is done, and there is no risk that a child placed for adoption will not be adopted by the family selected a the pre-adoptive placement.

Legal risk means that the child's birth parents have not undergone termination of their parental rights. The child is still available for adoption though, and their caseworker is actively seeking an adoptive family; the state is simply trying to avoid having a large number of children be "wards" of the state.

Some states do everything possible to keep the number of children considered orphans low and work to find adoptive families **before** the child is considered to be a waiting child. Usually, children with the status of legal risk are shown to in-state families only with the hope to find an adoptive placement before the termination of parental rights is completed.

Source: www.families.com

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