

FAQ's on Inquiring and Submitting for Children:

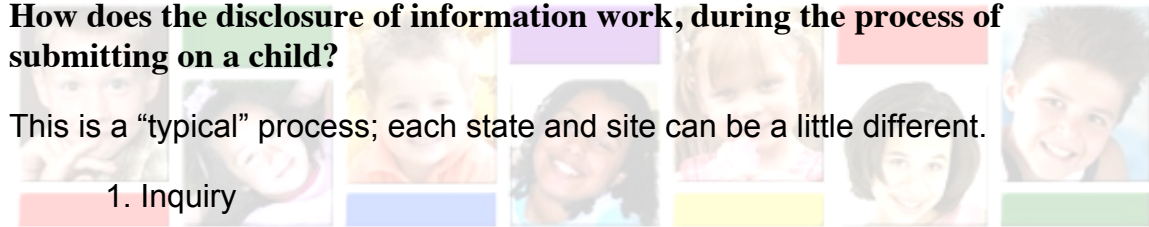
Who should we submit on and how strictly should we follow our parameters for a child?

Only you and your family can ultimately decide what is right for you. You know your strengths and weaknesses better than anyone else. If a caseworker considers you for a child, you have an opportunity to gain more information about the child or children you have submitted on. Many children we don't know much on in the beginning and until we receive more information you will not really know if they will fit in your family or not.

When submitting for a child, keep in mind what your home study approves you for. Caseworkers will only consider you for the children that you are approved for, so make sure that you are not submitting for children that are well outside of your approved age range or sibling group size. If your searches or inquiries are coming back small or empty, you may want to re-evaluate your criteria. Talk with your adoption worker about getting an update to your home study to approve you to adopt children that are older or who have more significant needs.

How does the disclosure of information work, during the process of submitting on a child?

This is a "typical" process; each state and site can be a little different.



1. Inquiry

2. Submit your study

3. If you are a potential match (determined by the child's worker) you will receive the child summary and other documents related to the child.

4. Chosen as a match at a committee hearing or selections staffing. If there are any other documents you have not seen, you will receive them at this point—before the child is in your home.

Should we submit on more than one child at a time?

Yes, you should submit on as many kids as you can that fall into your parameters and as broad as you can make them. You need to keep in mind, as much as we try and update our web site (as this is very important to us), we are still at the mercy of the workers to update us, so it is possible as many as half of the kids you submit on may be placed or in the matching process.

We have definitely seen a higher success rate in our families that submit on many and often. Remember-YOU are your best advocate. Families that have been matched with children found that the more they submitted and advocated

for themselves through recruitment opportunities and events, the faster they were selected and matched with a child.

Will social workers look at it badly if we submit on many children?

In most cases they will never know, each submission is done individually to that worker about that child. Group submissions are not suggested.

Are my odds really better when I submit on many children?

Yes, without a doubt, we have families that submit for 30 plus kid a month. Even if you are not picked for these particular children, you are getting your study and family in front of many workers that have caseloads of children.

I feel like I am shopping for a child!

We hear this a lot, and we understand this feeling, but unfortunately this is the current situation of the “adoption environment”. Children have no way to look for their families, so we need you to look for them! We also believe it is best for you to look to get the best match and best chance of long lasting “forever” success.

When we have social workers for more than one group interested in us, what do we do?

It is important to see this through to the point that you get full info on each group, and a level of contact that to you demonstrates a high level of interest from their worker. It is a hard call, but we suggest you ask for everything you can get and contact with as many people in the kid’s lives as they will give you-foster parents, therapists, attorney’s, CASA’s, teachers, mentors and others.

When do we let the social workers know we are also being considered for another group/or child?

This is a very hard call, and we suspect many of you will be in this situation. Please feel free to consult your adoption worker and/or Nora Sharp the Matching Assistance Coordinator in these situations, as it is very hard to navigate. Basically when it gets to the point that both workers are counting on your family as a final choice, you need to let them know you are looking at another group/children.

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