

**TRANSITIONS IN FOSTER TO ADOPTION  
TEAM CHECKLIST**

1. Transition for Birth Families
  - Support provided birth family after termination of parental rights
  - The team addressed the family's anger, grief and loss
  - The family was helped to resolution and a renewed sense of control, direction and purpose
  - The team or mediator facilitated sharing of information between adoptive and birth families (when appropriate)
2. Transition for Adoptive Families
  - The family's commitment to permanency was explored and understood
  - Full disclosure of child's information, including short and long term needs
  - Family's/child's strengths identified to meet those needs
  - Family's existing supports identified
  - Additional needed supports/resources identified
  - All family members are included in decision making
  - Realistic description of what support will and will not be available
  - Adoptive mother understands her unique role as a target of child's anger and is prepared to deal with child's pain and not lose confidence in her mothering
  - Family can temper its expectations and understand the need for patience over time, foremost with themselves and their own ambivalent feelings
  - Family knows how and where further help can be obtained in the future
  - The foster/adoptive family is supported if the child is transitioned out of their home
3. Transition for Adopted Children.
  - The team understands there is no good way this child came to adoption
  - The team can view this adoption "through the eyes of this child"
  - The child's grieving and loss have been assessed and addressed
  - The child's attachment to the new family has been assessed and addressed
  - A structured transition experience has been facilitated with the child, adoptive family and birth family (if appropriate)
  - The team has and can implement adoption expertise to manage: (See Betsy Keefer's Handout #1 - Themes in Adoption)
    1. The child's grief and loss
    2. The child's sense of rejection and abandonment
    3. The child's guilt and shame
    4. The child's loss of trust
    5. The child's loss of identity
    6. The child's loss of control
    7. The child's divided loyalty
4. System Steps for Transition to Adoption
  - Change Permanency Goal to adoption when reunification is ended, by amending or creating a new service plan in SAFE
  - If concurrent adoption plan is not already in place, implement or initiate this with family
  - If child is not legally free, work with the AG to have a TPR request filed with the court and enter the TPR filing date in the SAFE Adoption Tab
  - Establish the adoptive foster care agreement and enter the agreement date in the SAFE Adoption Tab or Placement Window
  - If child is legally free (both parents have relinquished or parental rights were terminated or parent(s) are deceased), enter the TPR finalized dates or parents deceased indicator in the SAFE Adoption Tab
  - Establish the adoption agreement (formal adoptive placement) and document the adoption agreement date in SAFE along with entry of required reporting data on this adoption in the SAFE Adoption tab or Placement Window (even if the case is under appeal). If the case is under appeal, mark this indicator also

- ❑ Prior to the finalization of the adoption, prepare adoption subsidy agreements and have them signed and in place