

# INDEPENDENT ADOPTION PROGRAM (IAP)

## FACT SHEET

### CHANGES FOR ALL INDEPENDENT ADOPTION PETITIONS FILED IN CALIFORNIA ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 1, 2008:

- 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 as long, as full payment has been received.
- The fee for the cost of the investigation of an Independent Adoption petition is \$4,500.
- The fee for the cost of the investigation of an Independent Adoption petition for a family with a completed, approved pre-placement evaluation is \$1,550. The pre-placement evaluation must meet the requirements of Family Code Section 8811.5.
- Once the petition is filed with the court, a copy and 50% of the fee shall be mailed to CDSS or the delegated county adoption agency.
  - The 180 day time-frame will begin once the Department or delegated adoption agency, has received a copy of the filed petition and 50% of the fee.
- The remaining 50% 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.
- The fee for all Independent Adoption investigations is non-refundable.
- Request for fee waivers will no longer be accepted.
- The fee may be reduced in some cases, where the prospective adoptive parent(s) is in the very low 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.
- 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.
- The statutory changes are amendments made to Family Code Sections 8807, 8808 and 8810.



If you have any questions, please contact the CDSS Adoptions District Office or the delegated county adoption agency (Alameda, Los Angeles, or San Diego) in your area for more information. You may also check CDSS' website at [www.childsworld.ca.gov](http://www.childsworld.ca.gov).

