

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
OHIO DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES

DATE: October 10, 2024
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
LOCATION: Teleconference and in-person, DCY 35E, room 7B,
246 N. High Street,
Columbus, Ohio 43215

This meeting will be held by teleconference and in person. If you would like to submit oral testimony, please attend the meeting site location, or call in at the date and time to 1-614-721-2972. Then enter the meeting I.D # which is 470 636 583#. Written testimony may also be submitted electronically to: rules@jfs.ohio.gov.

Pursuant to section 5101.141, 5103.03 and 5151.166 and Chapter 119 of the Ohio Revised Code, the director of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services gives notice of the department's intent to consider the amendment of the rule as identified below and of a public hearing thereon. The rule has been amended to remove regulatory restrictive words as described in SB 9 of the 135th General Assembly. The rule was amended to change the reference of all systems to Ohio's Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (Ohio's CCWIS). Ohio's CCWIS is defined as a federally recognized case management information system that state and tribal title IV-E agencies may develop to support their child welfare program needs. Ohio's CCWIS is designed to support social workers' needs to organize and record quality case information about the children and families receiving child welfare services. Ohio's CCWIS consists of several automated functions which are approved by the Children's Bureau and include but are not limited to: Ohio Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS), Ohio Residential Treatment Information System (RTIS), Child and Adult Protective Services (CAPS) Learning Management System (LMS), Taking Early Action Matters (TEAM) Ohio, and Ohio Certification for Agencies and Families (OCAF). The rule is being filed as part of the five-year rule review process.

The rule has been amended to replace "Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS)" with "the department of children and youth (DCY)." Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) has been stricken from form titles and retitled "Department of Children and Youth."

Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) rule 5101:2-49-05 entitled "**Initial Determination of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance (AA) Monthly Payment Amount**" outlines how to determine the monthly payment amount for adoption assistance (AA).

The following is a brief explanation of the changes:

- The rule and form have been amended to remove regulatory restrictive words as described in Senate Bill (SB) 9 of the 134th General Assembly.
- This rule was amended to change the reference of all systems to the Ohio Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (Ohio CCWIS). Ohio CCWIS is defined as a federally recognized case management information system that state and tribal Title IV-E agencies may develop to support their child welfare program needs. Ohio CCWIS is designed to support the needs of caseworkers to organize and record quality case information about the

children and families receiving child welfare services. Ohio CCWIS consists of several automated functions which are approved by the federal Children's Bureau and include but are not limited to: the Ohio Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS), the Ohio Residential Treatment Information System (RTIS), the Child and Adult Protective Services (CAPS) Learning Management System (LMS), Taking Early Action Matters (TEAM) Ohio, and the Ohio Certification for Agencies and Families (OCAF).

- The rule and form have been amended to replace "Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS)" with "Ohio Department of Children and Youth (DCY)."
- Language was added in paragraph (B) to identify additional characteristics which may not be considered when a prospective adoptive parent(s) is interested in adopting and negotiating an AA agreement.
- Language was included in the rule in paragraph (C) to inform Public Children's Services Agencies (PCSA) to not consider the Ohio Adoption Grant Program when negotiating the AA agreement in accordance with rule 5101:2-44-15 of the Administrative Code. The Ohio Adoption Grant Program is a one-time payment, per child, provided to eligible adoptive parents for qualifying adoptions finalized on or after January 1, 2023, as long as state funds are available.
- Clarification in paragraph (D) any social security benefits available to the child after adoption finalization are to be considered in the negotiation process.
- Clarification was added to paragraph (G) a PCSA shall enter into a separate county agreement with the adoptive parent(s) for a county adoption maintenance subsidy that exceeds the Foster Care Maintenance amount the child would receive if he/she were currently in a foster home.
- Language was added in paragraph (H) to align with federal guidance in the Social Security Act 473(a)(3) and in accordance with 45 CFR 1356.20 and 1356.40 the fiscal requirement of federal payments for AA under Title IV-E.
- Extension of the mediation conference in paragraph (J)(1) to be held within sixty days to allow for conference documentation preparation.
- The rule has been amended to remove the revision date from the form(s) referenced in the rule.

A copy of the proposed rule(s) is available, without charge, to any person affected by the rule(s) at the address listed below. The rule(s) is also available on the internet at <http://www.registerofohio.state.oh.us/>. A public hearing on the proposed rule(s) will be held at the date, time, and location listed at the top of this notice. Either written or oral testimony will be taken at the public hearing. Additionally, written comments submitted or postmarked no later than the date of the public hearing will be treated as testimony.

Requests for a copy of the proposed rule(s) or comments on the rule(s) should be submitted by mail to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Office of Legal and Acquisition Services, 30 East Broad Street, 31st Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3414, by fax at (614) 752-8298, or by e-mail at rules@jfs.ohio.gov.