

Santa Clara County Social Services Agency

ADOPTION

PROGRAM

RESOURCES

GUIDE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Adoption Program Resources	1-2
Mental Health Resources for Therapy	3
Medical Resources	3
Dental Resources	4
Education Resources	4-5
Community Adoption Resources	6
Other Resources	6-7
DFCS Phone Numbers for AAP and PAS Information.....	7

ADOPTION PROGRAM RESOURCES

POST-ADOPTIVE SERVICES

The Santa Clara County Department of Family and Children's Services:

Post-Adoptive Services are services provided to the adoption triad (birth parents, adoptees, and adoptive parents) after the adoption has been finalized.

The services which are provided by Santa Clara County's Post-Adoptive Services program include the following:

1. Reassessment of AAP (Adoption assistance Program) benefit. One primary function of the County's Post-Adoptive Services Program is the facilitation of the Adoption Assistance Program (AAP). Specific details should be discussed with the adoption social worker who will guide the adoptive family through the AAP application process.

AAP facilitates the adoption of children who might otherwise remain in long-term foster care. This program provides financial assistance, including help with medical care, to families who adopt special needs children and who may not have the financial resources to meet the needs of these children. The Post-Adoptive Services Social Workers can provide consultation, AAP information, and assistance with information about community resources to address the needs of your child.
2. Requests for non-identifying information from adoption records. (Adoption records are permanent records – preserved and maintained forever by Santa Clara County!)
3. Requests for search information (identifying information) received from birth parents, adoptees, birth siblings of adoptees, and adoptive parents and for facilitating reunions between adult adoptees and birth parents and between adult adoptees and birth siblings according to California law.

4. Requests for medical information about birth parents and adoptees from adoptees and adoptive parents.
5. Updating of adoption records with medical information and current addresses by triad members.
6. Requests to forward letters, cards, pictures, etc. from adoptive parents to birth parents and vice versa per earlier agreements made at the time of the adoption or to place such material into adoption records for possible delivery to the adult adoptee or to the birth parent at some point in the future.
7. Requests for support groups by the adoption triad including the Parents Adopting Kids Kamp.
8. Miscellaneous requests – for example: Requests for copies of lost or misplaced adoption or disclosure documents or to track adopted children’s birth certificates not received by the adoptive families.

To contact a Santa Clara County Post-Adoptive Social Worker, call (408) 975-5119.

AAP PACT (Adoption Assistance Program Parenting Adoptive Children Together):

The Department of Family and Children’s Services is working in conjunction with AFTER Program of the Kinship Center to provide services to adoptive families designed to prevent out-of-home placement of adopted children. For information about the program, contact a Santa Clara County Post-Adoptive Services Social Worker at (408) 975-5119.

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES FOR THERAPY

Santa Clara County Mental Health Services:

Provides information regarding mental health services for children with Medi-Cal. The service can also be helpful in obtaining services in other counties within the state. Call 1-800-704-0900.

Santa Clara County Psychological Association Information and Referral Service:

This service can provide information about psychologists who accept private insurance, Medicare, and Medi-Cal. In North Santa Clara County call (650) 321-7789, and in South County call (408) 253-1151.

The following agencies are located within Santa Clara County and provide mental health services for clients with Medi-Cal:

<i>Asian Americans For Community Involvement (AACI)</i>	(408) 975-2730
<i>Gardner Family Care Corporation</i>	(408) 287-6200
<i>Ujima Adult & Family Services, Inc.</i>	(408) 928-1700
<i>Alum Rock Counseling Center, Inc. (ARCC)</i>	(408) 294-0500
<i>Bascom Mental Health Center</i>	(408) 299-8751
<i>Las Plumas Mental Health Center</i>	(408) 729-5382
<i>Mekong Community Center</i>	(408) 274-2453

MEDICAL RESOURCES

All children who are recipients of the Adoption Assistance Program (AAP) are provided with Medi-Cal, either as a primary or secondary coverage.

Private medical providers determine whether they will accept Medi-Cal patients. The Santa Clara Valley Medical Center and Valley Health Programs accept Medi-Cal. Your local public health office listed in the telephone directory can provide resource information for Medi-Cal providers.

CHILD HEALTH AND DISABILITY PREVENTION (CHDP) Program:

For Medi-Cal eligible children age 3-20 CHDP provides complete health check-ups in order to detect and treat medical and dental problems before they become serious. To obtain a list of CHDP providers contact the Santa Clara Valley Health and Hospital System CHDP Program at 1-800-689-6669, or (408) 793-2001. The Santa Clara County Social Services Agency CHDP Program can be contacted at (408) 975-5772. Pamphlets are available in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

DENTAL RESOURCES

Medi-Cal also covers dental care and in certain cases, orthodontia. For information about available programs, contact the State Dental Referral Line at 1-800-322-6384, the Santa Clara County Dental Society at (408) 289-1480, or the CHDP Program at (408) 299-6158. The UCSF School of Dentistry (415) 476-1891, and the University of the Pacific, School of Dentistry (415) 929-6550 or (415) 929-6555 are also perspective resources.

EDUCATION RESOURCES

In 1975, Congress passed a comprehensive law, which mandates that every student is entitled to a free and appropriate education (FAPE). A student can no longer be denied admission to a school or be regulated to an isolated location. Your public school district is responsible for all children. If you think that your child needs help in school, write a letter to the school principal with a copy to the school psychologist. In the letter state your concerns and request a complete learning evaluation of your child. Provide as much documentation as you have. The assessment must be completed within 50 days. Every student with a disability is entitled to a free and appropriate education, this means special education specifically designed at no cost to the parents to meet the unique needs of the student.

Santa Clara County Social Services Agency

If an assessment indicates that a student needs a particular type of service, the school may not refuse this service on the grounds that they do not have that service available at the school. They must find the means to provide it.

Students with disabilities who are not eligible for special education are still entitled to receive support services necessary to enable them to benefit from their school program under State and Federal Laws. This is referred to as a 504 Plan.

If a student needs mental health services, request that the IEP team refer the student to County Mental Health for an AB3632 assessment.

If you do not agree with the results of the IEP, you have the right to appeal. You should be given a copy of the "Notice of Parent's Rights and Procedural Safeguards." This will explain the appeal process.

State regulations do not allow for Adoption Assistance Program (AAP) funding of educational services.

The Santa Clara County Department of Family and Children's Services has an Educational Services Coordinator available to answer questions about your child. To contact the Educational Services Coordinator, call (408) 975-5488.

COMMUNITY ADOPTION RESOURCES

The following is a list of agencies that provide support groups.

FAIR (Families Adopting in Response):

FAIR is an adoption support organization composed of adoptive parents and adoptive children. Workshops and support groups are available in addition to other services. There is a modest membership fee. To contact FAIR, call (650) 856-3515, or visit their web-site at www.fairfamilies.org

AFTER (Adoptive Family Therapeutic & Educational Resources):

Provides information and referral services including referrals to trained clinicians, as well as educational workshops and support groups for adoptive parents and children. AFTER also is working with Santa Clara County on the AAP PACT Program. To contact AFTER, call (408) 573-8222, or visit their web-site at www.afteradoption.org

The Grandparent Caregiver Resource Center:

Located at Catholic Charities, 2625 Zanker Road, Suite 200, San Jose, CA 95134, the program is designed to support relative adoptions/placements. For information, contact Beth Berezovsky at (408) 325-5196.

OTHER RESOURCES

The following is a list of general community resources. The respective agencies may or may not have experience in dealing with adoption related issues.

Family Resource Centers of Santa Clara County:

The *NUESTRA CASA* Family Resource Center is located at 1998 Alum Rock Avenue, San Jose, CA 95116. The telephone number is (408) 729-2300.

The *UJIRANI* Family Resource Center is located at 687 N. King Road, San Jose, CA 95116. The telephone number is (408) 452-6560.

Regional Center:

For information on services for adults and children with developmental disabilities please contact the Department of Developmental Services at (916) 654-1690 for information on your local regional center. For residents of Santa Clara County contact San Andreas Regional Center at (408) 374-9960.

Santa Clara County Social Services Agency

The *ASIAN PACIFIC* Family Resource Center is located at 625-F Wool Creek Drive, San Jose, CA 95112. The telephone number is (408) 299-1500.

The *GILROY* Family Resource Center is located at 8833 Monterey Road, Gilroy, CA 95020. The telephone number is (408) 846-5000.

California Children's Services (CCS):

CCS provides services for children with special health care needs. They are located at 720 Empey Way, San Jose, CA 95128. Please check your telephone directory for your local CCS office.

San Andreas Regional Center:

The Regional Centers provide various services to people with disabilities that meet eligibility requirements. The services include, but are not limited to, respite care, speech therapy, physical therapy, and occupational therapy. Check your local telephone directory for the telephone number.

Protection and Advocacy, Inc. (PAI):

PAI can provide you with state regulation on programs including, but not limited to; Medi-Cal, Victims Rights, Americans with Disabilities Act, and Special Education Regulations for a modest donation. Contact PAI at 1-800-776-5746.

California Department of Social Services:

For additional adoption information, visit the CDSS web-site at www.childsworld.org

DFCS PHONE NUMBERS FOR AAP AND PAS

Santa Clara County DFCS Adoption Phone Numbers: (408) 975-5119

Post Adoptive Services (PAS) Clerk, Carol Aldridge

PAS Coordinator, Irene Peoples

PAS Caseworkers: Sharon Cruz and Lori Emil

You may have a delay in beginning to receive your AAP payments. If you need to speak to someone regarding this delay, please contact Post Adoptive Services.

NEW BIRTH CERTIFICATE

You should receive your new birth certificate within 6-10 months. If you do not, you can contact Lynn Lewis at the California Bureau of Vital Statistics (916) 323-3108.