

# Adoption Connection

DCFS Quarterly Newsletter for Adoptive Families



October 2024

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## Adoption Q&A

**My child was adopted from foster care and is now 18 years old. Can she request information from her foster care record?**

**Yes.** She can contact [dcfs.fostercare@la.gov](mailto:dcfs.fostercare@la.gov) to make the request.

**Can the adoption subsidy be transferred to someone upon my death?**

**Maybe.** If the adoption dissolved due to death, and the deceased adoptive parents provided in a will for guardianship of the child, or if there was no will and a family member elects to become a guardian, the duly designated tutor or guardian may continue to receive subsidy payments on behalf of the eligible child. This is provided that the named individual is capable of securing a permanent home for the child in all respects other than financial, and the child's needs are beyond the resources of the tutor/guardian. The adoptive child is required to reside in the same home as the legal tutor/guardian.

**The child I adopted has special needs and cannot live on his own. Will I receive a subsidy for him past the age of 18?**

**No,** but you can apply to see if he is eligible for Social Security. The Adoption Subsidy ends when your child reaches 18 years old. However, there are some provisions in place if your child was adopted at 16 years old or older. Please speak with the subsidy worker in your region to learn more. The Subsidy Worker Directory is attached.

Send your questions to [dcfs.adoptions@la.gov](mailto:dcfs.adoptions@la.gov) for future issues, or call a DCFS Adoption staff member for immediate needs.

## November is National Adoption Awareness Month

This year's theme is, "Honoring Youth: Strengthening Pathways for Lasting Bonds." Get resources, find out how to raise awareness, read the national proclamation and more [here](#).

The annual **Together We Can Conference** is Nov. 6-8 at the Cajundome Conference Center in Lafayette

- 13.5 hours of continuing education credits
- Registration is open
- Visit <https://latwc.org/index.html> to learn more and register

## Let's Talk About Adoption

**Parenting After Trauma: Understanding Your Child's Needs**

from [healthychildren.org](http://healthychildren.org)

All children need homes that are safe and full of love. This is especially true for children who have experienced severe trauma. Early, hurtful experiences can cause children to see the world differently and react in different ways. Some children who have been adopted or placed into foster care need help to cope with what happened to them in the past. Knowing what experts say about early trauma can help you work with your child.

### Forms of trauma

An event is traumatic when it threatens the child or someone the child depends on for safety and love. Abuse may be traumatic, but trauma may take many forms. It includes:

- Neglect
- Separations
- Violence between caregivers
- Natural disasters
- Accidents

A frightened child may feel out-of-control and helpless. What is traumatic for one child may not be seen as traumatic for another child. Fear responses are based on a child's sense of what is frightening.

Continue reading this article [here](#).

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## Strategies to Adjust to the Effects of Trauma

from "Parenting After Trauma: Understanding Your Child's Needs"

- **Learn to notice and avoid (or lessen) "triggers."** Find out what distracts or makes your child anxious. Work to lessen these things.
- **Set up routines for your child** so they know what to expect.
- **Give your child a sense of control** through simple choices. Respect your child's decisions.
- **Do not take your child's behaviors personally.**
- **Try to stay calm.** Find ways to respond to outbursts that do not make things worse. Lower your voice. Do not yell or show aggression. Do not stare or look directly at your child for too long. Some children see this as a threat.
- **Remain available and responsive** when your child keeps you at a distance.
- **Avoid discipline that uses physical punishment.** For a child who was abused, this may cause panic and out-of-control behavior.
- **Let your child feel the way they feel.** Teach your child words to describe their feelings when they are calm, words they can use when they get upset. Show acceptable ways for them to deal with feelings. Then, praise them for expressing their feelings or calming down.
- **Be consistent, predictable, caring, and patient.** Over time, this shows your child that others can be trusted to stay with them and help them. It may have taken years of trauma or abuse to get the child in their current state of mind. Learning to trust again is not likely to happen overnight—or anytime soon.
- **Ask for help** whenever you have concerns, questions, or are struggling. Pediatricians, developmental specialists, and therapists can suggest ideas why your child reacts certain ways, and effective responses. Sometimes medications, used appropriately, will help to manage symptoms and make learning new ways possible.

## DCFS Adoption Highlight



Michael is a handsome, theatrical, and helpful teenager with a big personality. In his free time he enjoys listening to music, watching TV, and doing online research. Michael is a big fan of Tyler Perry; his favorite character is Madea, and his favorite TV show is

Sistas. His favorite color is red, and he loves soul food. Michael is hoping to find his forever home with a family to love and support him. For more information on Michael, contact Tara Williamson at [Tara.Williamson.dcf@la.gov](mailto:Tara.Williamson.dcf@la.gov).

## DCFS News Corner

LA 211, Louisiana's Statewide Network, connects callers to information about critical health and human services available in their community. Support is available 24/7, and it's FREE and confidential. Visit [louisiana211.org](http://louisiana211.org) or text your Zip Code to 898-211

### State Office Closures:

November 5 - Election Day  
November 11 - Veterans Day  
November 28-29 - Thanksgiving  
December 24-25 - Christmas

## Resources for Adoptive Families

- [DCFS's Adoption Page](#)
- [Center for Adoption Support and Education](#)
- [Louisiana 211](#)
- [National Training and Development Curriculum \(NTDC\) for foster and adoptive parents](#)

## Mobile Crisis Response Services available in three regions

The Louisiana Department of Health's 24/7 Mobile Crisis Response (MCR) Services for children and youth are now available in the Orleans, Lafayette and Lake Charles regions. See the list of providers below. Consisting of two key components, Mobile Crisis Response and Community Brief Crisis Support, the Medicaid covered service is easy to access with a simple phone call.

**Mobile Crisis Response** provides up to 72 hours of intervention. MCR teams are dispatched to provide immediate, on-the-spot assistance to stabilize a crisis. **Community Brief Crisis Support** provides up to 15 days of crisis services. The service offers short-term, intensive care that connects children with essential resources and ongoing support for their well-being and recovery.

Adoptive and foster caregivers, along with DCFS staff, service providers, school personnel, CASA workers, etc. can use the service. There are no referral forms or prior authorization required to have an MCR team go to the child within one to two hours of the request, depending on the distance. A self-identified crisis is sufficient to have an MCR team deployed to a child.

MCR can be used as stabilization for a child experiencing agitation or a mental health crisis.

You can access providers directly or via 988. Please note that OBH regions are different from DCFS' regions, so some parishes will be served by a different agency.

### Region 1 – Orleans

**Jefferson Parish Human Services Authority**

Phone: 504-832-5123

Website: <https://www.jphsa.org/>

### Resources for Human Development - Orleans

Phone: 504-821-2222

### Region 5 – Lafayette\*

**The Extra Mile**

Phone: 337-362-8899

Website: <https://theextramileregioniv.com/>

*\*St. Mary Parish will be served through the Thibodaux Region provider when they come online. Please do not call The Extra Mile for services in St. Mary.*

### Region 6 – Lake Charles

**Imperial Calcasieu Human Services Authority**

Toll-free line: 1-833-900-0055

Phone: 337-475-3100

Website: <https://imcalhsa.org/>

## Louisiana Foster Care Support Organization offers list of resources, mentors for adoptive and foster caregivers

DCFS partners with the [Louisiana Foster Care Support Organization](#) (LFCSO) to ensure that foster caregivers have the support and resources they need to care for the children placed in their homes.

### Foster Care/Adoption Mentors

LFCSO provides mentors to adoptive parents and foster caregivers who have questions, concerns, or just need to talk to someone. The mentors are experienced foster caregivers who understand what the mentees are going through.

- Find a mentor [here](#).
  - Keep in mind you can call a mentor in any region, not just your own, and you can reach out as often as you need.
- Apply [here](#) to be a mentor for other foster caregivers or adoptive parents.

For more information about the Louisiana Foster Care Support Organization, contact Margie Nielson at [margie@louisianafostercare.com](mailto:margie@louisianafostercare.com).