

## **Adoption Links Worldwide Disruption Policy and Plan for Service**

It is the **right of any child in a disruption** situation to receive full protection and services and to be deemed as the primary client by ALW and the Adoptive Family.

### **The Disruption Plan** 96.50 (f)

1. ALW Responsibilities:
  - a. If the family disrupts the adoption during the post placement phase, ALW will have a legal responsibility to remove, care for and identify a new adoptive family for the child.
  - b. Unless otherwise agreed upon with the adoptive family, ALW will identify an appropriate temporary placement.
  - c. ALW will (through it's pool of waiting families, Nebraska Adoption Agency Association, Nebraska's waiting Foster/Adoptive parents and JCICS) make every effort to identify an appropriate and approved adoptive family and transition the child into that placement.
  - d. In the event a family cannot be identified to adopt the child ALW will assess the following to make a determination of "best interest" and if/when/how the child would be returned to their birth country. The only circumstances in which ALW would consider returning a child to his/her country of origin would be if;
    - i. ALW, the Central Authority, NGO, or Foreign ASP in that country could assure a physically and emotionally safe and stable place for the child to reside and,
    - ii. The child was of an age where they could participate in their own adoption plan and they had a strong desire to return to their country (Nebraska recognizes 14 as an age where they are allowed to participate in their own adoption planning) and,
    - iii. It was legal and approved by all governmental authorities.
    - iv. Best interest of the child is assessed primarily on a child's physical and emotional safety, above all else including the child's desires, length of time in the US, or current or past relationships.
    - v. In the event it is the recommendation of ALW to return a child to his/her country of origin, the Central Authorities will be notified in accordance with their regulations and procedures.
2. Adoptive Family Responsibilities:
  - a. The adoptive parents will be financially responsible for the cost's associated with the care for the child, including cradle/foster/respite care, medical care or treatment, therapy, education, etc., just as if the child was still in their care.
  - b. The financial responsibilities will cease when the child is placed with a new adoptive family, or returned to the country of origin.

- c. The adoptive family will not be expected to pay any fees to ALW for disruption services (i.e., transition work with the child, supervising the temporary placement, arranging for the new adoptive placement.)
- d. If it is deemed “in the best interest of the child” to return the child to their country of origin, the family will pay for travel and escort expenses.
- e. The adoptive family will be required to pay for, and participate in (at a minimum), the required post placement supervision even if the child has already been removed from the home. ALW recognizes that, on rare occasions, families aren’t able to fulfill their commitment to a child they intended to adopt and that a disruption is a very stressful and difficult process. ALW believes in providing services to these families to help them through this process.
- f. Whenever appropriate, the adoptive family will participate in transitioning the child, communicating with the temporary caregivers and next adoptive family, and will overtly assure the child that the disruption was not the fault of the child.
- g. The adoptive family will keep the child on their health insurance until such time that the child is officially and legally no longer their responsibility.