

## Nonrecurring Adoption Expenses

Nonrecurring adoption expenses are expenses directly related to the legal adoption of a child with special needs. They include reasonable and necessary expenses incurred by, or on behalf of the adoptive parents. These would include:

- Reasonable and necessary adoption fees;
- Attorneys' fees and court costs;
- The adoption home study, including health and psychological examination;
- Supervision of the placement prior to the adoption;
- Transportation costs and reasonable costs of lodging and food for the child and/or the adoptive parent(s) when necessary to complete the adoption process.
- Reimbursement does not include expenses related to the negotiation of an adoption assistance agreement or state hearing.

There are no income eligibility requirements for Nonrecurring Adoption Expenses. The current maximum for Nonrecurring Adoption Expenses subsidy is \$2,000 per child. Stepparents are not eligible for Nonrecurring Expenses subsidies if a biological parent is present in the home.

Nonrecurring Adoption Expenses are not subject to post finalization approval.

The process for application is:

1. The application for Nonrecurring Adoption Expenses is completed and submitted to the PCSA prior to finalization of the adoption. If an adoption assistance agreement is in effect, the application is submitted to the PCSA responsible for the agreement. If there is no adoption assistance agreement, the application is submitted to the PCSA in the county in which the adoptive parent resides.
2. If the child is eligible, the PCSA and family enter into an Agreement for Reimbursement of Nonrecurring Adoption Expenses prior to finalization.
3. Claims (receipts) for reimbursements are submitted to the PCSA
4. Claims for reimbursements are submitted by the PCSA to ODJFS no later than two years following the date in which the payment or reimbursement was made by the PCSA.
5. When siblings are placed for adoption, either separately or together, each child shall be treated as an individual. A separate JFS 01438 form, "Agreement for Payment or Reimbursement for Nonrecurring Expenses Incurred in the Adoption of a Special Needs Child," shall be completed for each child, and ODJFS will reimburse adoptive parents up to \$2,000 for each child.

This subsidy is provided once and is not re-determined at regular intervals.