

NEW YORK STATE
 DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
 40 NORTH PEARL STREET, ALBANY, NEW YORK 12243



BARBARA B. BLUM
 Commissioner

[An Administrative Directive is a written communication to local Social Services Districts providing directions to be followed in the administration of public assistance and care programs.]

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVE

TRANSMITTAL NO.: 82 ADM-12
 [Services]

TO: Commissioners of Social Services
 Executive Staff of Authorized Agencies

SUBJECT: Priority for Certain Adoptive Applicants DATE: March 30, 1982

SUGGESTED DISTRIBUTION: Commissioners of Social Services
 Authorized Agency Executives
 All Foster Care and Adoption Staff

CONTACT PERSON: Any questions concerning this release should be directed to Hanna Grossman, 212-488-8028, or to the appropriate regional adoption specialist, Cheryl Larrier, 212-488-2400 or Shirley Norton, 212-488-3072 - Metropolitan Regional Office; Nancy Ewvaraye, 518-473-1007 - Eastern Regional Office or Evelyn Fairwell, 716-454-4272 - Western Regional Office.

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this letter is to advise authorized agencies about adoption applicant priorities pursuant to Regulation Part 421.13.

II. BACKGROUND

The Child Welfare Reform Act of 1979 requires the Department to promulgate standards regarding procedures for the handling of adoptive applicants. Regulation Part 421, effective September 30, 1981, established a system of priorities for serving adoptive applicants. Section 13 of this Part states that the Department will annually determine the significant characteristics of the largest proportion of waiting children. Applicants seeking children having this characteristics and foster parents seeking to adopt a child who has resided in their home 18 continuous months shall receive first priority for adoption studies.

FILING REFERENCES

Previous ADMs/INFs	Releases Cancelled	Dept. Regs.	Social Services Law and Other Legal References	Bulletin/Chapter Reference	Miscellaneous References
		421	372 398		

Regulation Part 421 covers many other aspects of procedures for serving adoptive applicants as well as substantive standards for their selection. It also replaces elements of former Parts 421 and 422 dealing with other adoption matters. An Administrative Directive covering this material will be issued as soon as possible.

However, the regulation is in effect, and its implementation with regard to the priority scheme requires that the Department announce the group of children who are currently waiting in largest numbers in order to indicate to agencies the applicants who shall receive first priority.

Although this section states that the Department will make this determination annually on or about April 1, this information is being issued now and will remain in effect until the next such determination early in 1983.

III. IMPLICATIONS

The CWRA of 1979 and new Part 421 of the Department regulations have created substantial changes in the way in which agencies must serve persons inquiring about adoption and adoptive applicants. One part of this change is the requirement to obtain from applicants a description of the characteristics of the child being sought and to organize services to applicants according to a priority scheme based on those characteristics, and specifically to provide first priority to applicants for children with the characteristics listed herein.

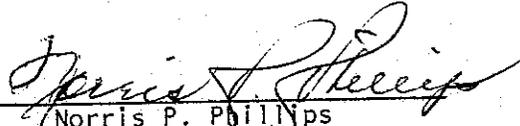
IV. REQUIRED ACTION

1. Have all applicants for adoption complete a form, such as DSS #857 (Rev. 12/81) or another form approved by the Department, indicating the characteristics they desire in a child.
2. Review the application forms to identify all applicants interested in children who are:
 - a. Black and 9 years of age or over, or
 - b. foster children who have been in the applicant's home continuously for 18 months or more.
3. Notify in writing each applicant so identified that their adoption study is a first priority for the agency.
4. Schedule their first appointment no later than 30 days after receipt of their completed application.
5. Assign the adoption study and schedule study activities with priority for these applicants.

Other requirements for procedure regarding adoption inquirers and adoptive applicants are spelled out in Part 421.

V. EFFECTIVE DATE

This release is effective March 1, 1982.



Norris P. Phillips
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Services

