

*New Jersey*  
**RESOURCE GUIDE**  
*for Women*

**Section II:**

**ADOPTION & FOSTER CARE**



State of New Jersey  
Department of Community Affairs  
Summer 2011

**ALPHABETICAL DIRECTORY OF INFORMATION AND SERVICES**

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**NJ Department of Children and Families**

222 South Warren Street, 3rd Floor

PO Box 729

Trenton, NJ 08625

**Phone:** 609-984-4500**Web:** <http://www.state.nj.us/dcf/index.shtml>**NJ Safe Haven Infant Protection Act****NJ Division of Youth and Family Services****Phone:** 1-877-839-2339**Web:** <http://njsafehaven.org/>

- ◆ Legal information on how to deliver an unwanted infant safely and anonymously.

**This Act:**

- Allows a distressed parent to give up an unwanted infant safely, legally and confidentially
- Preserves the parent from arrest or prosecution for abandonment
- Requires no names or records
- Permits babies less than 30 days old to be given up at any hospital emergency room or police station in New Jersey
- Makes medical treatment and social services available to the birth mother
- Puts the child into the custody of the Division of Youth and Family Services, which places the infant in a foster or pre-adoptive home

**Adopting a Child:****Adoption****NJ Department of Children and Families****Phone:** 1-800-99-ADOPT (23678)**Web:** <http://www.state.nj.us/njfofosteradopt/adoption/>

- ◆ Many children long for a forever family because they are not able to be reunited with their birth parents. Being an adoptive parent can change a child's life forever, as well as bring new joy and fulfillment to your family.

**Adoption Subsidies Provide:**

- A regular monthly payment to help meet every-day expenses
- A one time payment to cover legal fees related to the adoption
- Medicaid coverage to assist with any physical or psychological condition that is not covered by the family's own insurance
- Parents receive the full subsidy until the child reaches 18 years of age
- When children are in a secondary education program, DYFS can continue to pay an 80% subsidy beyond age 18, but not beyond the child's 21st birthday

**Adoption Agencies - In-State/Out-of-State****NJ Department of Children and Families****Web - PDF:** <http://www.state.nj.us/dcf/divisions/licensing/AdoptionAgency.pdf>

**Being a Foster Parent:****Foster Care****NJ Department of Children and Families****Toll Free: 1-877-NJ-FOSTER (653-67837)****Web:** <http://www.state.nj.us/njfostradopt/foster/> or <http://www.njfostrcare.org/>

- ◆ Foster care is family-based care for children who temporarily are not able to live at home. During the time that children live in a foster home, the foster parents provide the same care that the children's own parents would provide. If you are interested in becoming a foster parent, the Division of Youth and Family Services will help you through the steps to become a foster parent and provide training to help you understand the special needs your foster child may have.

**Support for Foster Parents**

NJ Department of Children and Families

**Toll Free: 1 (877) NJFOSTER (653-67837)****Web:** <http://www.njfostrcare.org/parentingframe.html>

- ◆ The Division of Youth and Family Services provides support to assist in the care of foster children. A foster parent receives a board payment of \$400 to \$500 per month, a clothing allowance and health care coverage for the child.

**In addition, you may be eligible for one or more of the following supportive services:**

- Childcare while you are attending foster parent training or working
- Telephone calls and/or home visits by visitors who offer advice
- Reimbursement for special transportation needs
- Infant care, car seats and/or bicycle helmets