

# **NJ Resource Guide for Women**

## **Section II:**

### **ADOPTION & FOSTER CARE**

## **ADOPTION & FOSTER CARE**

### **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>

### **Office of the Child Advocate**

135 W. Hanover Street, 3rd Floor

PO Box 92

Trenton, NJ 08625

**Phone: (609) 984-1188**

**Toll Free Helpline: 1 (877) 543-7864**

Web: <http://childadvocate.nj.gov/>

**\* Spanish Speakers Available**

- ◆ The Office of the Child Advocate, which is “in but not of” the Department of the Public Advocate, defends the interests of children, and seeks solutions to problems affecting children through investigation, policy and practice innovation, public reporting, hearings, litigation, and other strategies. The Office’s jurisdiction extends to all public and private settings in which a State or county agency or department has placed a child, including but not limited to, juvenile detention centers, group homes, foster homes, residential treatment centers and shelters.
- ◆ The Child Advocate Helpline 1-877-543-7864 provides supportive services including an initial assessment of the situation and recommendations of resources available from the Office of the Child Advocate. Helpline serves as a resource for the public to report the experiences of children within various state systems, such as the juvenile justice system, the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS), schools, group homes and other state systems that children can be a part of. The Helpline is NOT an emergency hotline. If you have an emergency, or a child is in immediate danger, you need to call the police or
- ◆ 9-1-1. To report an allegation of abuse or neglect, call the DYFS Child Abuse Hotline at 1-877-NJ ABUSE (652-2873).

### **NJ Safe Haven Infant Protection Act**

**Toll Free: 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 Department of Children and Families (DCF), which places the infant in a foster or pre-adoptive home

## ADOPTION & FOSTER CARE

### Adopting a Child:

#### Department of Children and Families

Toll Free: 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 21<sup>st</sup> birthday

### Putting Your Child Up for Adoption:

- To place your child up for adoption, contact an Adoption Agency in your area.

### Adoption Agencies Approved to Provide Adoption Services in NJ:

## LOCAL OFFICES

LOCAL OFFICE NAME	TELEPHONE #	CC #	LO #	REG #	CTY #
Atlantic LO	800-392-2655	762	0001	1	01
Bayonne LO	800-982-7396	463	0006	4	09
Bergen LO	800-531-1096	461	0005	4	02
Bergen II (No Number Assigned Yet)		462	0087	4	02
Bloomfield LO	800-392-9536	569	0065	3	07
Burlington LO	800-847-1753	768	0008	1	03
Camden Central LO	800-531-1091	771	0066	1	04
Camden East LO	856-772-0152	774	0060	1	04
Camden North LO	800-982-7412	766	0003	1	04
Camden South LO	800-982-7395	772	0067	1	04
Cape May LO	800-531-1259	761	0020	1	05
Central Middlesex LO	888-895-2404	511	0088	3	12
Central Office IAIU	800-215-6853	912	0009		
Cumberland LO	800-531-1228	764	0002	1	06
East Orange LO	800-392-9535	565	0012	3	07
Edison ARG (Now Western Middlesex LO)	800-531-1258	508	0010	2	12
Elizabeth DO (Now Union East LO)	800-847-1738	566	0004	3	20
Gloucester LO	800-847-1741	770	0018	1	08
Hunterdon LO	800-392-2724	668	0035	2	10
Jersey City LO	800-982-7397	470	0036	4	09
Maplewood LO	888-670-6407	567	0071		07
Mercer LO	800-392-2721	669	0017	2	11

**ADOPTION & FOSTER CARE**

<b>Mercer II LO</b>	<b>609-896-1545</b>	<b>673</b>	<b>0019</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Monmouth North LO</b>	<b>800-392-9511</b>	<b>663</b>	<b>0014</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Monmouth South LO</b>	<b>800-392-9512</b>	<b>666</b>	<b>0029</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Morris LO</b>	<b>800-392-9518</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>0007</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Newark LO I</b>	<b>800-392-9532</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>0039</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>07</b>
<b>Newark LO II</b>	<b>800-392-9531</b>	<b>564</b>	<b>0064</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>07</b>
<b>Newark LO III</b>	<b>800-847-1751</b>	<b>562</b>	<b>0051</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>07</b>
<b>Newark LO IV (Formerly Essex ARC)</b>	<b>973-648-7490</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>0056</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>07</b>
<b>North Hudson LO</b>	<b>800-982-7401</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>0059</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>09</b>
<b>Ocean LO</b>	<b>800-442-6232</b>	<b>671</b>	<b>0016</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Ocean North (or II)</b>	<b>732-901-4198</b>	<b>672</b>	<b>0085</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Passaic Central LO (Formerly ARC North DO)</b>	<b>800-531-1260</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>0013</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Passaic North LO</b>	<b>800-847-1743</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>0062</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Perth Amboy LO (Coastal Middlesex)</b>	<b>800-531-1261</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>0040</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Plainfield DO (Now Union West LO)</b>	<b>800-847-1750</b>	<b>568</b>	<b>0044</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Salem LO</b>	<b>800-531-1263</b>	<b>760</b>	<b>0022</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Somerset LO</b>	<b>800-392-2734</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>0015</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Sussex LO</b>	<b>800-392-2654</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>0011</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Union City LO</b>	<b>866-244-1914</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>0074</b>		
<b>Union III (Central)</b>		<b>571</b>	<b>0089</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Union East LO</b>	<b>800-847-1738</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>0004</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Union West LO</b>	<b>800-847-1750</b>	<b>568</b>	<b>0044</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Warren LO</b>	<b>800-531-1229</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>0021</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Western Middlesex LO (Edison and Piscataway)</b>	<b>800-531-1258</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>0010</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>

**AREA OFFICES**

<b>AREA OFFICE NAME</b>	<b>TELEPHONE #</b>	<b>CC #</b>	<b>LO #</b>	<b>REG #</b>	<b>CTY #</b>
<b>Atlantic / Cape May Area Office</b>		<b>722</b>	<b>0084</b>		<b>01</b>
<b>Bergen Area Office</b>		<b>421</b>	<b>0075</b>		<b>02</b>
<b>Burlington Area Office</b>		<b>721</b>	<b>0083</b>		<b>03</b>
<b>Camden Area Office</b>		<b>720</b>	<b>0063</b>		<b>04</b>
<b>Cumberland / Gloucester / Salem Area Office</b>		<b>723</b>	<b>0085</b>		
<b>Essex Area Office I</b>		<b>520</b>	<b>0026</b>		<b>07</b>
<b>Essex Area Office II</b>		<b>530</b>	<b>0028</b>		<b>07</b>
<b>Hudson Area Office</b>		<b>422</b>	<b>0076</b>		<b>09</b>
<b>Hunterdon / Somerset / Warren Area Office</b>		<b>423</b>	<b>0077</b>		<b>21</b>
<b>Mercer Area Office</b>		<b>620</b>	<b>0072</b>		<b>11</b>
<b>Middlesex Area Office</b>		<b>523</b>	<b>0080</b>		<b>12</b>
<b>Monmouth Area Office</b>		<b>621</b>	<b>0081</b>		<b>13</b>
<b>Morris / Sussex Area Office</b>		<b>424</b>	<b>0078</b>		<b>14</b>
<b>Ocean Area Office</b>		<b>622</b>	<b>0082</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Passaic Area Office</b>		<b>420</b>	<b>0073</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>Union Area Office</b>		<b>521</b>	<b>0079</b>		<b>20</b>

## **ADOPTION & FOSTER CARE**

For a list of approved out of state agencies, please contact **DYFS** via phone at **1 (800) 331-3937** or visit their website at <http://www.state.nj.us/dcf/divisions/dyfs/>.

### **Being a Foster Parent:**

#### **Department of Children and Families**

#### **Foster Care**

**Toll Free: 1 (877) NJFOSTER (653-67837)**

**Web:** <http://www.state.nj.us/njfosteradopt/foster/> or <http://www.njfostercare.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:**

**Toll Free: 1 (877) NJFOSTER (653-67837)**

**Web:** <http://www.njfostercare.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