

Appendix B

Resource Family Registry and Related Requirements

Act 160 of 2004, established the Resource Family Registry under § 6344 (d.1). Information contained in the resource family registry includes the following:

1. The name, Social Security number, date of birth, gender, marital status, race and ethnicity of applicants.
2. The date(s) of the resource family application.
3. The current and previous home addresses of applicants.
4. The county of residence of applicants.
5. The name, date of birth, Social Security number, gender and relationship of all household members.
6. The name, address and telephone number of any current and previous foster family care agency or adoption agency affiliated with the applicants.
7. The disposition related to approval or disapproval of applicants and the date and basis for the disposition.
8. The type of care the resource family will provide.
9. The number of children that may be placed in the resource family home.
10. The age, race, gender, level of special need, characteristics and behaviors of children that may be placed in the resource family home.
11. The family issues for a child that the resource family would like to provide care for.
12. The resource family's ability to provide care for sibling groups.
13. The resource family's feelings regarding openness and contact with birth families.
14. The occupation, special needs training or experience of applicants.
15. The type of neighborhood in which the applicant lives (rural, urban, suburban).
16. The date and reason for any closure of the resource family home.
17. Appeal activity of resource family applicants or approved resource families, the basis for appeals, the status and disposition of all appeal related activities

The information maintained in the resource family registry is not available to the public. Information may be released only after positive identification to the following:

1. An authorized official of a county or private agency, a federal agency or an agency of another state who performs resource family approvals or the Department in the course of the official's duties.
2. A guardian ad litem or court-designated advocate for a child. In this circumstance, information is limited to the resource family with which the child is placed.
3. A court of competent jurisdiction, including a district justice, a judge of the Municipal Court of Philadelphia or the Pittsburgh Magistrates Court, pursuant to a court order or subpoena in a criminal matter involving a charge of child abuse.

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4. A court of competent jurisdiction in a child custody matter. The Department shall provide any files the court considers relevant.
5. The Attorney General.
6. Federal auditors as required for Federal financial participation in funding of agencies. However, federal audits may not remove identifiable information or copies thereof from the agency or the Department.
7. Law enforcement agents of any jurisdiction. The information must be relevant to the investigation of crimes involving the resource family.
8. Appropriate officials of another private agency, another county agency or another state regarding a resource family that has applied to become a resource family for that agency, county or state.
9. A resource family upon written request may receive a copy of all information contained in the registry about their family.