

CHILD PROTECTION BULLETIN

STATE CHILD
PROTECTION
SOCIETY, ASSAM

MONTHLY BULLETIN OF ACTIVITIES CONCERNING CHILD PROTECTION IN ASSAM

EDITORIAL

Adoption is a tough decision for a family to make. Factors such as infertility or a passion to provide a home for a child in need can influence a family's decision to adopt. Parents who make the decision to bring a new member into their family are giving a child the life that he or she would never have experienced. At the same time, the adoption gives the family an opportunity to raise and guide a child to a successful life. Adopting a child will not change much in your life but for that child the whole world will change as he/she will get a new life with new beginning.

Earlier people had all together a different notion with regard to adoption. Anyone who adopted a child were looked down upon, were criticized and so on. But now the mindset has changed, Adoption has become globally acceptable. Adoption is a noble task, let us promote legal adoption and provide homes to the children who have no one.

Editorial Board,

State Child Protection Society,

CHANGES IN ADOPTIONS REGULATIONS 2017

MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT has notified the Adoption Regulations 2017 as framed by the Central Adoption Resource Authority. These guidelines come into force w.e.f. Jan 16, 2017. The 2017 regulations are path breaking in terms of addressing the need for in-family adoptions, post adoption support, child centric provisions, category for immediate placements, flexibilities by way of relaxation committee, extended validity of home study report, equitable referral of children, time limit on courts for disposing adoption deeds, consolidation of seniority list, facilitating root search even by children below 18 years of age to name a few. The salient features of these guidelines are:

- A Fundamental Principle relating to all adoptions to be registered on Child Adoption Resource Information and Guidance System (CARINGS) has been included to ensure that all adoptions, including In-Family and Relative adoptions are registered with CARA.
- The scope of children available for adoption has been expanded to include a child of a relative and step-children
- The age criteria for prospective adoptive parents have been relaxed for relative / in-family adoptions and adoption by step-parent.
- The limit on eligibility for adoption has been reduced from 4 children to 3 children. Therefore, couples with three or more children shall not be considered for adoption except in case of special need children, hard to place children as mentioned in regulations and for relative adoption and adoption by step-parent.
- Home Study Report emphasizes the preparedness of the parents and their ability to support a child in adoption – beyond their immediate need.
- DCPU has been allowed time limit of 3 working days to place advertisement / notification for tracing the parents/guardians in case of child received in adoption – earlier the same was 72 hours.
- Parents can indicate their preference for the State from which they wish to adopt, at the time of registration, itself – which will determine their waitlist in that State, for their chosen preference for the gender and age combination of the child they wish to adopt. Parents can also indicate "All India" if they do not have any specific preference. The parents will be automatically registered for all the Specialized Adoption Agencies of the State or States they have opted for.
- The validity of the home study report has been extended to 3 years from 2 years.
- The number of children to be referred to parents based on their seniority has been reduced to three (from up to six, previously) – in one or more referrals.
- New terms related to Disruption, Dissolution and Habitual Residence have been included to address Post Adoption responses.
- The validity of registration of parents has been extended from current period of two years to being valid until adoption is complete, with revalidation of the Home Study Report in every three years.
- In case of siblings or twins, the Specialized Adoption Agency shall file single application in the court.
- The court shall hold the adoption proceeding in-camera and dispose of the case within a period of two months from the date of filing of the adoption application by the Specialized Adoption Agency.
- The adoptive parents shall not be asked in the adoption order to execute any bond or make investment in the name of the child, considering the fact that their psycho-social profile and financial status have already been ascertained from the Home Study Report and other supporting documents.
- Special provisions have been provided for to address post adoption scenarios relating to disruption or dissolution of adoption, safeguarding the interests of the child.
- The parents shall be referred children on the basis of a single seniority list as against separate seniority list provided for in erstwhile regulations for resident of overseas parents.
- Parents shall be allowed to change the State preference once within sixty days from the date of registration without losing their seniority.
- Seniority of parents registered as single, but married later shall be counted from the date of registration as single after receipt of fresh Home Study Report.
- Parents registered for normal child, shall be able to adopt a special need child or children in Immediate Placement category with the same seniority.
- Provision has been made for adoptees above eighteen years to apply for root search independently online while children below eighteen years can apply jointly with their adoptive parents to the Authority seeking facilitation of root search.
- The regulations provide for additional efforts for adoption of children, who are not getting any referral for long time.
- Provisions have been made for adoption by relatives and step-children within new guidelines.
- A Relaxation Committee has been provided for to facilitate decision making in extra ordinary circumstances of adoption, bearing the best interests of the child.

"Parenthood requires love, not DNA"

Salient aspects of Adoption under HAMA and JJ Act, are as tabulated underneath

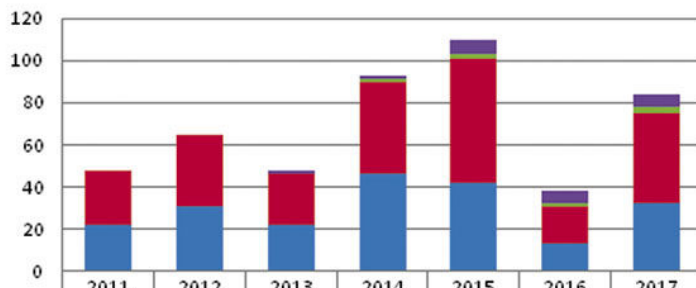
HAMA	JJ Act
Only for Hindus	A Secular Act
Same sex children cannot be adopted	No such conditions
Children only up to 15 years of age can be adopted	Children up to 18 years of age can be adopted
Registered deed finalizes adoption, court permission required in some cases	Adoption order finalizes adoption, deed is not required
An OAS child in SAA/CCI belongs to the State & cannot be adopted under HAMA. Such application should not be entertained by the courts	JJ Act provisions for rehabilitation of OAS children in the SAA/CCI and these children have to be placed in adoption under this Act
Suitability of the PAPs, sourcing of the child and the post-adoption follow up cannot be ascertained/ensured for adoption under HAMA	Welfare & Best Interests of the Child is ensured due to the built in mechanisms in the JJ Act
Courts may require services of Scrutiny Committee in case declaratory suit is filed for adoptions under HAMA	There is no requirement of scrutiny and the same has not been envisaged under JJ Act due to the built in scrutiny mechanisms.
Inter-country adoptions cannot be done under HAMA as these fall under private and direct adoption and is not supported by Hague Convention on Adoptions (Para 22 & 23 of Ch 6 of Hague Convention Information Brochure)	All Inter-country adoptions shall be done as per provisions of this Act. (Section 56(4) of the JJ Act, 2015)

LIST OF SPECIALISED ADOPTION AGENCIES

Name of Agencies/District Covering	E-mail	Contact Person
Nivedita Nari Sanstha , Dewan Mesion, Sonai Road, Silchar-788006.	nns.silchar@gmail.com	Ms Diba Roy-Secretary-9435070157
Matri Mandir , South Sarania, near ISKON temple, Ulubari, Guwahati-781007.	matrimandir1989@gmail.com	Ms Deepali Borah- Coordinator-9706885765/0361-2523109 Mr. B.P.Saraf-Managing Trustee-09864023725
Indian Council for Child Welfare , Head Office-G.N. Bordoloi Road, Near Government Emporium, Ambari, Guwahati-781001, Assam / Shishu Greh, Ram Krishna Mission Road, Ulubari, Guwahati-781007.	iccwashb@rediffmail.com	Ms Anamika Das-Coordinator-9864156663, Social Worker-8011001195, Mili Hazarika- lawyer-9435046887 Ms. Ruprekha Mushaharry- General Secretary- 09435048178
North East Voluntary Association of Rural Development , 1) Bidyapara, Church Road, Ward no-9, Pin- 783301 Dist. Dhubri, Assam (2) Head Office-C/O-Lifeline Clinical Hospital and Research Centre, P.O-Kahilipara, Dakhin Gaon, Guwahati-781019	nevardsaadhubri@gmail.com	Sri Fakharuddin Ali Ahmed- Coordinator-9577804214 President- Dr. M.M. Alam- 09957722119
Jagriti Sanmilita Unnayan Kendra , Bongalmora, P.O-Islamgaon, Dist.- Lakhimpur PIN-787054 Assam	mailjsuk.7@gmail.com saalakhimpurassam@gmail.com	Sri Bikash Phukan-President-9435097324 Shri Anupam Gogoi-Coordinator-9508037827 Baishali Konwar-9707456067
Morigaon Mahila Mehfil , Civil Hospital Road, Ward No.-7, P.O-Morigaon, Dist.- Morigaon, PIN-782105	mahilamehfil@yahoo.co.in	Ms Wahida Rehman- Cordinator-9435164216
Shape , Jyotinagar, B.G.Road, Sibsagar Pin-785640	shapeghy@gmail.com	9706048626
Sadau Asom Gramya Puthibharal Santha , H.O-Sankar nagar , Chandmari path, P.O-782002	balladev_gssarmah@rediffmail.com	9435061686 / Social Worker - 8402906607
Student Welfare Mission , Pathsala Barpeta, Assam, Pin-781325	swm.ptsl@gmail.com	9864395683
Nichima Orphanage Home Society , Village-Sishubari. P.O-Koilamoila, Dist-Chirang BTAD, Pin- 783393	narzaryedison@gmail.com	9957721145
Sri Sri Sewa Ashram , Borpathar, P.O-Maduripathar, Silapathar, Dhemaji Pin-787059	goswamimadhav705@gmail.com	9954440848 / 9707011244
Shanti Seva Ashram , PB no-24, Balugada, Sabjibari, Makum Road, Tinsukia-786146	saatinsukia2016@gmail.com	0374-2120760/9435037524 – Israel Nanda – Secretary / Coordinator- 8761902097
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Mission Concern , Dhansiri Nepali Basty, Dhansiri, PS-Diphu, Dist Karbi Anglong, Pin-782470, Karbi Anglong	pradhanambi28@gmail.com	8403817997 / 8575660419
Destiny NGO , Opp. Ganga Bhandar, Abanti Drugs Building, 3rd floor, Station Road, Karimganj-788710	mailatdestiny@gmail.com	9435025988 / 9957070131
Gramya Vikash Mancha , Vill.- Kardaitola (Near Barbari Chowk) PO- Barbari, Via-Kalang, Pin-781351, Nalbari, Assam	saanalbari2017@gmail.com	9864354888 / 03624-283740/283888
Fherenga Dao (NGO) , Ward No. 4, H.O.-Tangla, PO-Tangla, Dist.-Udalguri, Pin- 784521	saaudalguri@gmail.com pherengadao@gmail.com	9864623957
Eight Brothers Social Welfare Society , Bamparbatia, Bhupen Deka Path, Tezpur, Sonitpur, Assam, Pin-784001	eightbrotherssocial@gmail.com	9864025972 / 8253851983

"Adopting one child won't change the world. But for that one child the world will change"

Yearwise data of Adoption



Glimpse of First Zonal Level Conference on Effective Implementation of Child Protection Laws organized by High Court Committee on Juvenile Justice, Gauhati High Court in partnership with State Child protection Society, Assam and UNICEF, Assam held at Assam Administrative Staff College, Khanpara on dated 10th February 2018.



REUNITING OF A CHILD WITH HIS PARENTS

On 20th September 2016, SAA ICCW/ASB received male child Guddu (name changed) from Guwahati Childline(GCL). At the time of admission he could not speak or understand Assamese but could speak or understand Bengali and Hindi that too, not properly. We doubt from the pronunciation of his words that Guddu could be either from Orissa or from Jharkhand. During intervention Guddu said his place's name as Kharijor and his parents name. He also mentioned that he came by train to Guwahati with his Nani (maternal grandmother) and in the station he got separated from his nani. The police had found him and handed him over to GCL. The SAA had produced him and his matter in-front of CWC, Kamrup(M) and as per order of competent authority his matter was published in news paper by DCPO, Kamrup (M). Simultaneously CWC, Kamrup (M) was being requested by the SAA to give order to publish his matter on social media. By following the order of CWC, Kamrup(M), SAA published his matter in social media by mentioning his place name Kharijor. After posting in social media we got responses from our friends and one of our friend mentioned about place the Khariar, Orissa. We had contacted with the Khariar police station and one ASI from the police station talked with Guddu to verify his locality. The ASI talked with him in Oriya and Guddu was able to understand his language and it was confirmed that he was from Orissa. Therefore, we searched in internet to find out his place Kharijor and finally we were able to track his place Kharijor in Orissa. This is a village in Sundargarh district, Block — Nagaon, GP - Lukumbda. Immediately from our side we had contact the DCPO of Sundargarh district and informed about the matter and placed all collected information in-front of CWC, Kamrup (M). As per the order of CWC, Kamrup (M), DCPO, Kamrup (M) had contact the DCPO, Sundargarh district, Orissa for verification of Guddu's family and address after which confirmation report on Guddu's parents was received by DCPO, Kamrup (M). Immediately after receiving the report, CWC, Kamrup (M) had ordered the SAA with the help of GCL to transfer Guddu to Rourkella childline, Orissa to handover him to his parents and finally the child could go back to his family ■

Adoption by Prospective Adoptive Parents from Specialized Adoption Agency



Glimpse of State Consultation cum Launching of Campaign i.e "It takes Assam to end Child Sexual Abuse" organized by World Vision India in collaboration with State Child Protection Society held at Silpagram on dated 9th February 2018



Glimpse of Second Zonal Level Conference on Effective Implementation of Child Protection Laws organized by High Court Committee on Juvenile Justice, Gauhati High Court in partnership with State Child Protection Society, Assam and UNICEF, Assam in collaboration with District Administration, Sonitpur held at Tezpur University, Sonitpur on dated 17th February 2018

"Every child deserves a safe, loving permanent home. That's a basic human need" - Secretary Clinton

Status Report on the functioning of the Juvenile Justice Boards and Child Welfare Committees in Assam for the month of January 2018

Sl. No.	Districts	Juvenile Justice Boards			Child Welfare Committees		
		No. of cases instituted	No. of cases disposed	Total cases pending	No. of cases instituted	No. of cases disposed	Total cases pending
1	BAKSA	Cases are jointly dealt with Nalbari JJB			0	0	0
2	BONGAIGAON	2	0	18	3	5	17
3	BARPETA	1	13	123	12	5	187
4	CACHAR	3	3	14	6	3	15
5	CHIRANG	1	2	27	4	5	10
6	DARRANG	8	6	69	0	4	18
7	DHEMAJI	4	2	18	2	2	3
8	DHUBRI	2	18	92	3	2	11
9	DIBRUGARH	4	0	36	7	7	4
10	DIMA HASAO	5	0	21	0	0	9
11	GOALPARA	8	6	63	3	3	16
12	GOLAGHAT	4	5	11	10	7	12
13	HAILAKANDI	4	2	15	2	5	1
14	JORHAT	2	5	41	9	7	15
15	KAMRUP (M)	20	5	87	90	78	238
16	KAMRUP (R)	0	4	35	15	12	50
17	KARBI ANGLONG	1	0	29	2	2	2
18	KARIMGANJ	4	2	40	2	1	13
19	KOKRAJHAR	1	2	150	2	2	19
20	LAKHIMPUR	10	9	30	5	10	4
21	MORIGAON	12	4	38	7	7	16
22	NAGAON	2	2	187	23	17	13
23	NALBARI	3	2	15	3	7	74
24	SONITPUR	3	7	64	9	7	34
25	SIBSAGAR	0	1	30	15	29	20
26	TINSUKIA	4	4	74	8	4	56
27	UDALGURI	0	2	9	5	8	36
	Total	108	106	1336	247	239	893

For any feedback, write to :

Chairperson, Editorial Board,

State Child Protection Society, Assam

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DSW, Government of Assam