

**PERTINENT PORTION OF BUTLER COUNTY
PRE-ADOPTIVE MATCHING PROCEDURE**

- (10) Butler County Children Services strongly supports adoption. The purpose of adoption is not to provide children for adults who want them, but to provide for children families that give them the experience of intact married family life as much as possible. Notwithstanding this, Butler County Children Services recognizes that we do not have a sufficient number of adoptive families and anyone who meets the state criteria is welcomed and encouraged to become an adoptive parent.
- (11) Regardless of geographic location, the following preferential order shall be given when considering families in the matching process:
- (a) All adult relatives of the child; a relative or non-relative that the birth mother has indicated by name as a potential resource to adopt her child. The identified relative or non-relative must have, at a minimum, a signed JFS 1691 "Application for Child Placement" or other signed adoption application on file with another state, five days prior to the matching conference. The resource must meet all relevant state child protection standards unless the agency determines that the placement is not in the best interest of the child.
 - (b) Married mother and father as long as such are available unless the agency determines that the placement is not in the best interest of the child.
 - (c) The child's foster caregiver who is approved to adopt or who has completed the "Application for Child Placement" prior to the placement decision or matching conference unless the agency determines that the placement is not in the best interest of the child.
 - (d) Other suitable approved adoptive families accepting of the child's characteristics.