



## WESLEY SPECTRUM FAMILY SERVICES ADOPTION SERVICES

Children and families with education, mental health and family support needs are searching for a better quality of life. Wesley Spectrum Services helps them to become independent, responsible and caring members of the community by providing an array of high quality special education, mental health and family services. These services give children and families the strength to learn, to live and to love, resulting in stronger families and stronger communities.

### Philosophy and Purpose

About 14,000 children in Pennsylvania who are in the foster care system — particularly males, African-American children, youth over age 8 and sibling groups — are in need of permanent families. While foster homes provide a good alternative for many youth and children, most children desire a permanent family, where they can build long lasting relationships, learn and grow.

Wesley Spectrum Adoption Services works hard to recruit and prepare adoptive parents, and connect them to their “forever children”. We provide supportive services and advocate counselors that help children make the transition and thrive in their new families. We recruit adoptive parents who have intensive, ongoing training so they can understand and help these children. Their diversity allows us to encourage each child’s cultural identity. We can help medically needy children and tap into a range of mental health and family support services that help children and families.

### Eligibility

We place children from birth to age 18 who are in custody of Children, Youth and Families or juvenile court. We are licensed for medically needy children and also place older children and sibling groups for adoption in Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Somerset, Washington and Westmoreland counties.

### Availability

We are always in need of adoptive families and a child’s desires and preferences are considered when possible. If space is not available, a child will be referred to another agency. All eligible children and families are treated equally without favoritism.

### Referral

All children are in custody of a child welfare agency and referred through Children, Youth and Families and other children’s agencies. Anyone who feels a child should be removed from a family should contact their county agency.

### Intake

Our master’s level intake coordinator will reviews the child’s situation, gathering information from foster parents, advocate

counselors, doctors, courts and parents, to determine the child’s needs. An advocate counselor and supervisor will take over the placement.

### Funding

Funding for adoption related services are provided either through a contract with the local county children and youth agency, the Pennsylvania Statewide Adoption Network (SWAN), or a combination of the two. There are no fees charged to adoptive families for services provided by Wesley Spectrum Services.

### Accreditation and Licensure

Wesley Spectrum is accredited through the Council on Accreditation. We are a member of SWAN and licensed by the Department of Public Welfare. We partner with Children, Youth and Families agencies in various counties. Most of our therapists are credentialed with master or bachelor degrees, and all supervisors are master’s level. Our culturally diverse, highly experienced staff receives continuous training and supervision in order to insure that they deliver services in a manner that is respectful and sensitive to cultural differences.

### Treatment Approach

Wesley Spectrum Adoption Program achieves the best outcomes for each child by basing our decisions – every step of the way – on what is best for this individual child. We call this Kid-Centered Decision Making and it encompasses Kid-Centered Planning, a Kid-Centered Environment and Kid-Centered Measurement.

Wesley Spectrum identifies children’s needs and finds parents who have the strengths and abilities to meet those needs. A Kid Centered Plan calls for comprehensive training that allows adoptive parents to prepare for an individual child, to keep them safe and nurture their development.

When decisions center on the child, each child ends up in a Kid-Centered Environment, a stable home, focused on a child’s needs where his or her personal and cultural identity is nurtured.

Kid-Centered Measurement requires that we set academic, social and behavioral goals for each adopted child, and then measure his or her progress toward those goals within the new family.



# Strength to learn, to live, to love

## Services

Adoptive parents are matched with waiting children by various methods, including detailed written profiles, photographs of waiting children, pre-placement visits and specialized websites. Wesley Spectrum is a member of SWAN, Pennsylvania's Statewide Adoption Network. We provide child profiles, family profiles, child preparation services, child specific recruitment, placement services, finalization services, and post permanency services to children and families. The design of the services permits Wesley Spectrum to become involved with a child prior to having an identified family, preparing the child and/or family towards permanency, working with the child and identified permanency family towards finalization of the child's adoption, and providing supportive after-care services once the child is legally secured.

Adoptive families are supported by the child's "Permanency Team," supported by Wesley Spectrum staff advocates, birth parents (if suitable) and others to counsel the child in transition, easing fears and helping to prepare for a permanent family. Wesley Spectrum permanency and adoption specialists, and advocate counselors form long-lasting relationships, helping the child, birth parents and adoptive parents feel valued and supported.

This therapy continues post-permanency to help the child thrive in his or her new family. Adoptive families benefit from the many services, including support groups, case management and SWAN Post-Permanency Services, which Wesley Spectrum can offer to promote family stability.

## Adoptive Parent Training

Wesley Spectrum's Foster Care program is dependent on caring, fully certified adoptive parents. They receive an initial 40 hours of training over three months, along with 18 hours a year of ongoing to maintain current state certifications. Those who care for special needs children receive an additional 7 hours training in therapeutic skills.

## Outcomes

Only when they have a safe place to live and strong family bonds, can children grow and learn to their full potential, becoming productive individuals who contribute to their communities. The desired outcomes of this program are to help children find permanent loving homes and to keep these new families in tack.

Some of the process and outcome indicators we measure are: percent of adoptive families that complete the approval process; percentage of adoptive families that are matched with a child within the first year of approval; percentage of adoptive placements that are finalized; percentage of SWAN profiles that are completed within the benchmark time frame; percentage of SWAN services that are withdrawn (not completed).

At the completion of services we also conduct satisfaction surveys with the child, and the adoptive families, to determine if the child's quality of life has improved. We then aggregate this data across adoption cases and use that information to monitor and improve the quality of our services and our adoptive parent recruitment and training.

## Discharge

Our services do not end when an adoption is approved. We work with the child and birth family through this transition, easing fears and helping to prepare for permanence. Adoptive families can benefit from the many services that Wesley Spectrum can offer to promote family stability.

## After Care and Follow Up

Our services do not end when an adoption is approved. We work with the child and birth family through this transition, easing fears and helping to prepare for permanence. Adoptive families can benefit from the many post adoption services that Wesley Spectrum can offer to promote family stability providing supportive after-care services once the child is legally secured.

## Contact Information

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