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Assessor Training



ASSESSOR COURSE AND CONTENT

Providing the Right Training for
the Right People
at the Right Time

Ohio Child Welfare Training Program

Assessor training is required for all social workers providing adoption services in Ohio. An Assessor must be one of the following:

- A professional counselor, social worker, or marriage and family therapist (licensed under Chapter 4757 of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC))
- A psychologist (licensed under Chapter 4732 of the ORC)
- A student working to earn a four-year, post-secondary, or higher degree in a social or behavior science, or both, and who conducts assessor duties under the supervision of a professional counselor, social worker, marriage and family therapist, or psychologist: As of July 1, 2009, a student is eligible under this division only if the supervising professional has completed assessor training in accordance with the rules of the ORC
- A civil service employee engaging in social work without a license (See ORC 4757.41 (A) (5))
- A former employee of a public children services agency who, while so employed, conducted the duties of an assessor

Assessors must complete all Tier I workshops before taking Tier II training. Workshops are offered through the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program (OCWTP); registration information is available from the eight Regional Training Centers (see back panel) and five private agencies.

A statewide training calendar with dates, sites, and contact information can be accessed on the Internet at www.ocwtp.com (Assessor Training).

Credits for the Ohio Counselor and Social Worker Boards are given to both counselors and social workers.

For complete information about Assessor requirements, visit our website:
www.ocwtp.net/Requirements.htm#Assessor



Tier I Assessor Training

Tier I Training is required for all social workers providing foster care or adoption services in Ohio, and includes six workshops (36 hours of training). Only persons who are employed by or under contract to a licensed foster care or adoption agency are eligible to receive this training. Individuals have six months from the date of hire to complete Tier I. Participants must keep records of their attendance at the workshops and include a completed ODJFS form #1680 in their personnel records certifying they have completed the training and meet the educational and employment qualifications to be Assessors.

Tier I Workshops

201-A1-S: Family and Child Assessment 12 hours

This workshop covers strategies to assess, with families, their readiness to be adoptive resources for children; and, to assess the social and emotional functioning of children, their developmental needs, and their readiness for adoptive placements.

201-A2-S: Birth Parent Services 6 hours

Covers adoption planning with birth parents and their families; and, counseling issues and methods in pre-placement, placement, and post placement phases of adoption.

201-A3-S: Post-Finalization Adoption Services

6 hours

Overview of the need for post-adoption services, lifelong issues of adoption impacting the adopted person and the adoptive family, the components of post-adoption services, and strategies for implementation of such services.

201-A4-S: Adoption Assistance

3 hours

Overview of the value of subsidies to families, children, and the child welfare system, including information regarding rules and procedures for accessing adoption subsidies, and strategies to maximize resources for adoptive families.

201-A5-S: Placement Strategies

3 hours

Covers placement strategies to maximize success and minimize trauma to the child, foster family, and adoptive family. Trainees will learn pre-placement visitation rationale and methodology.

201-A6-S: Pre-Finalization Adoption Services

6 hours

Covers strategies for assessing the adjustment and attachment for the child and family prior to finalization. Trainees will learn to recognize stages of adoption disruption and strategies to avoid disruption. This workshop identifies strategies and techniques to strengthen the adoptive placement.

Tier II Assessor Training

Tier II Training is an advanced series of four workshops, 36 hours of training, required for all social workers who provide foster care and/or adoption services in Ohio, and who have completed Tier I Training.

Assessors have three years following the completion of Tier I to complete the second tier of training. Assessors who take Tier II workshops must have completed all six days of Tier I. Participants must keep records of their attendance, including a completed ODJFS form #1680 in their personnel records, certifying that they have completed the advanced training and meet the educational and employment qualifications to be Assessors.

Tier II Workshops

201-A7-S: Achieving Permanency Through Interagency Collaboration 6 hours

Builds knowledge and skills of workers in collaborative efforts, facilitating permanency for children. Provides information about system transformation as well as the ingredients and stages of successful collaboration.

201-A8-S: Cultural Issues in Permanency Planning 12 hours

Cultural continuity in permanency planning includes identification and preservation of the child's cultural identity, and strategies to identify, engage, and assess prospective adoptive families within their cultural context.

201-A9-S: Openness in Adoption 12 hours

Explores the continuum of openness and the various kinds of adoption that can occur along the continuum. Trainees learn about the advantages and liabilities of openness, and strategies to maximize advantages while minimizing liabilities. Participants also learn techniques to open adoptions that were finalized as closed, and to cope with conflict in open adoptive relationships.

201-A10-S: Gathering and Documenting Background Information 6 hours

This workshop covers the importance of honesty in disclosure of information to adoptive families, as well as the ethical and legal consequences of wrongful adoption. Participants learn what information adoptive families need and creative ways to access this information. Participants also learn how and when to effectively share information with adoptive parents.

Assessor Refresher

201-A11-S: Assessor Refresher 12 hours

This workshop reinforces the information learned during the Assessor series, and updates Assessors on changes in policies and practice. This is required for individuals who completed both Tiers of Assessor, but have been out of the field for three years or more, as well as those who do not maintain Assessor qualifications by completing six hours of adoption-related training every two years.