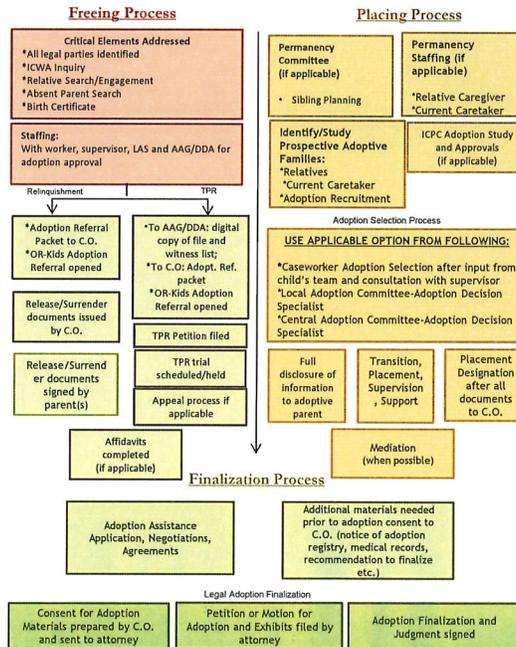


# Adoptions from Beginning to End

Gail Schelle and Amy Durbin

CRB Conference 2019

Adoption Process Flowchart



## Freeing Process

### **Critical Elements Addressed**

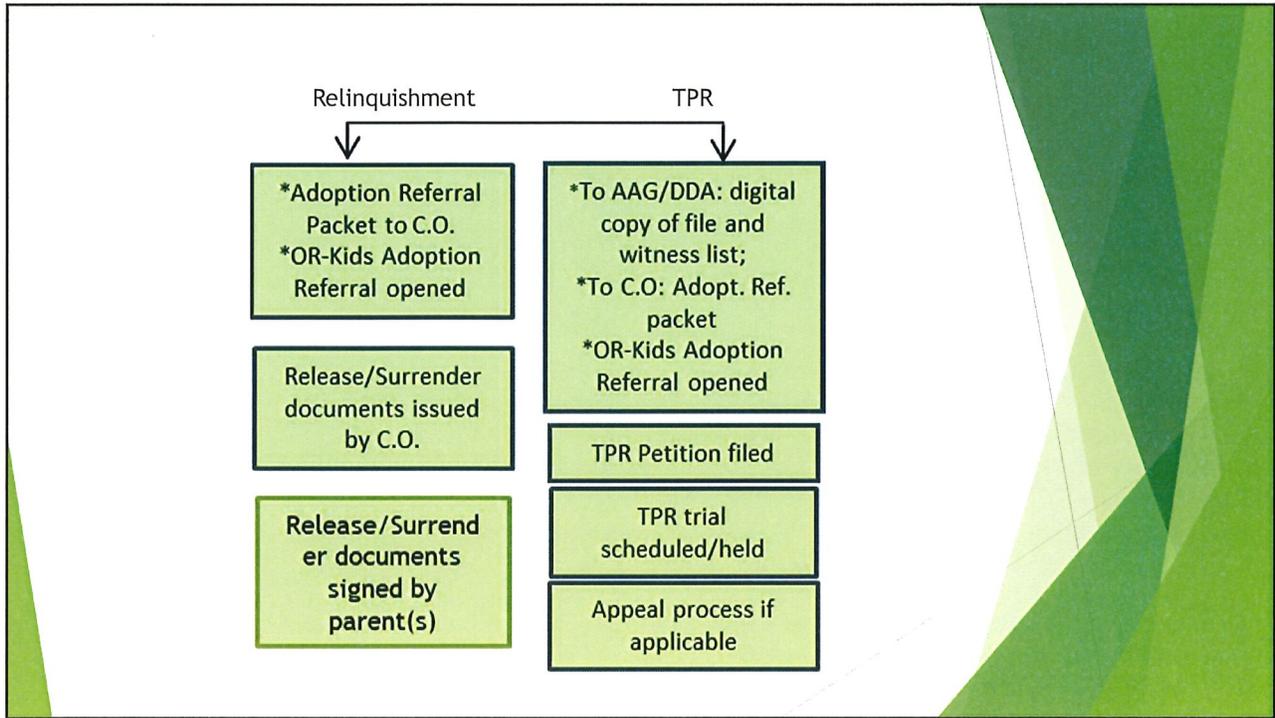
- \*All legal parties identified
- \*ICWA Inquiry
- \*Relative Search/Engagement
- \*Absent Parent Search
- \*Birth Certificate

### **Staffing:**

With worker, supervisor, LAS and AAG/DDA for adoption approval

## Questions to Ask

- ▶ Does the agency have a copy of the child's original birth certificate?
- ▶ Has a Father(s) Questionnaire been completed by the birth mother in order to provide paternity information?
- ▶ Have all parents with legal rights/standing been identified, located, and engaged? If any parent's whereabouts are unknown, has an absent parent search occurred?
- ▶ How has ICWA applicability been determined?
  - ▶ If ICWA applies, has the tribe been contacted and engaged? Does the child's placement comply with placement preferences under the ICWA?
- ▶ What ongoing efforts have been made to identify, locate and contact/engage relatives?



## Questions to Ask

- ▶ Has the plan been changed to adoption?
  - ▶ If not, what are the barriers, if any, and how are they being addressed/resolved?
  
- ▶ If the plan was changed to adoption, where is the case at in the process:
  - ▶ Are any of the parents willing to, or have they already, voluntarily relinquished parental rights?
  - ▶ Have termination of parental rights (TPR) petitions been filed?
  - ▶ Have the parents been served with the TPR petitions? Is an absent parent search underway or concluded, if the parents whereabouts are unknown?
  - ▶ Has the TPR trial been scheduled/held?
  - ▶ Have any appeals of the TPR decision been filed? If so, what's the status?

## Placing Process

### **Permanency Committee (if applicable)**

- Sibling Planning

### **Permanency Staffing (if applicable)**

- \*Relative Caregiver
- \*Current Caretaker

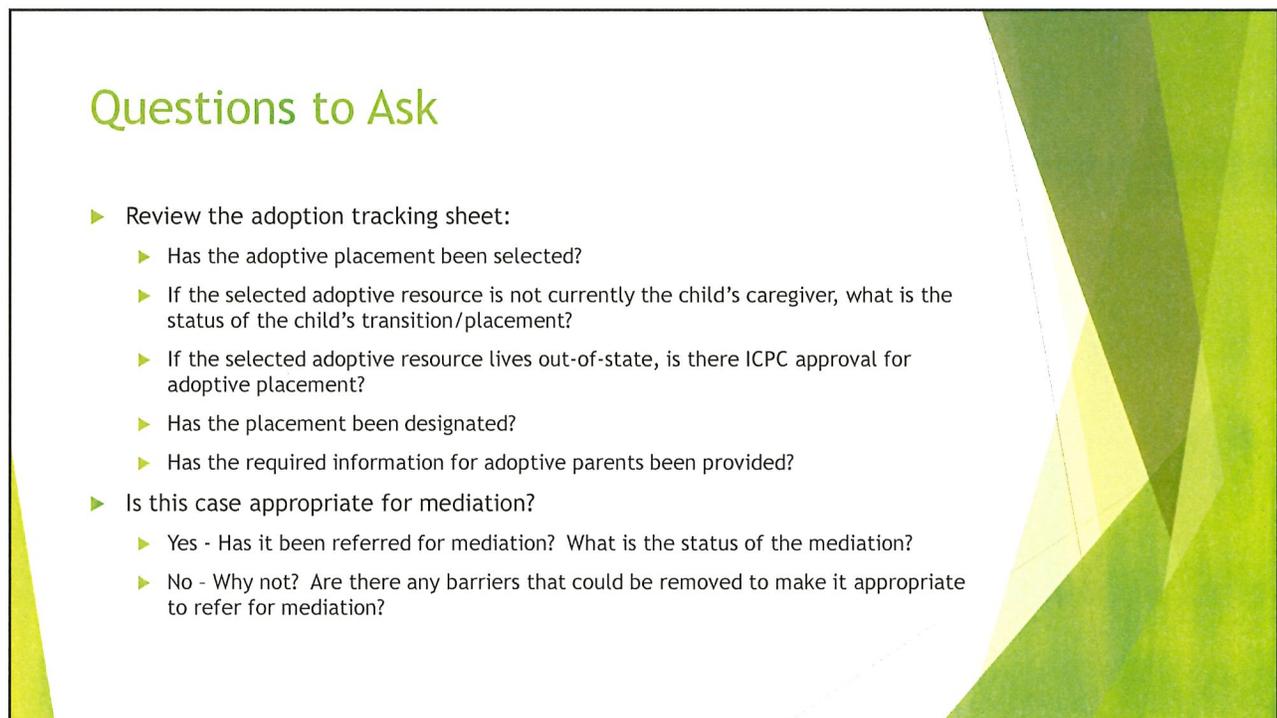
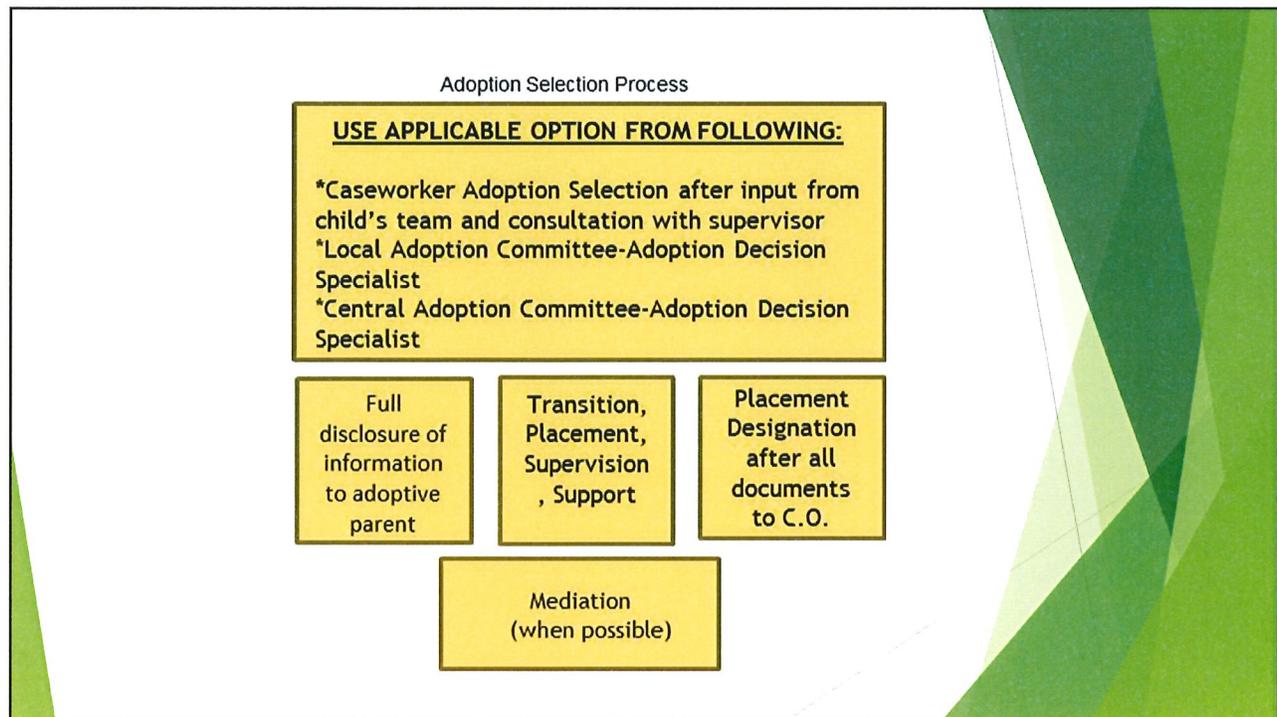
### **Identify/Study Prospective Adoptive Families:**

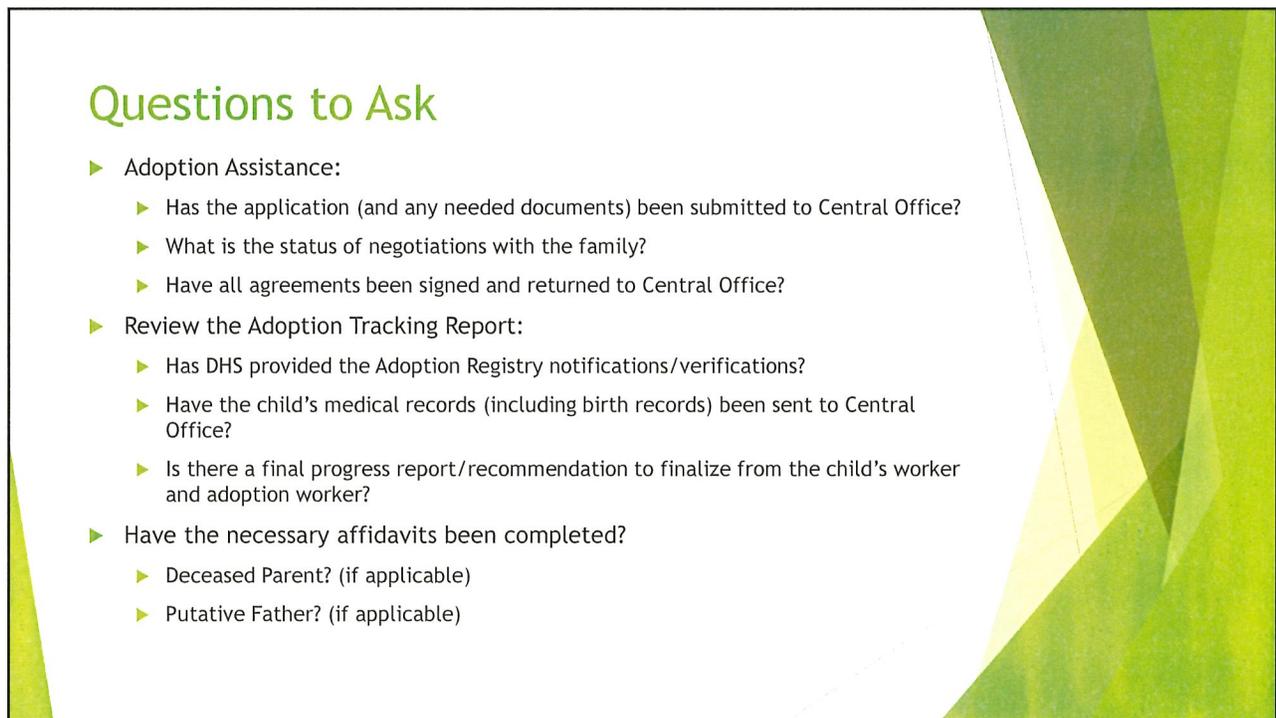
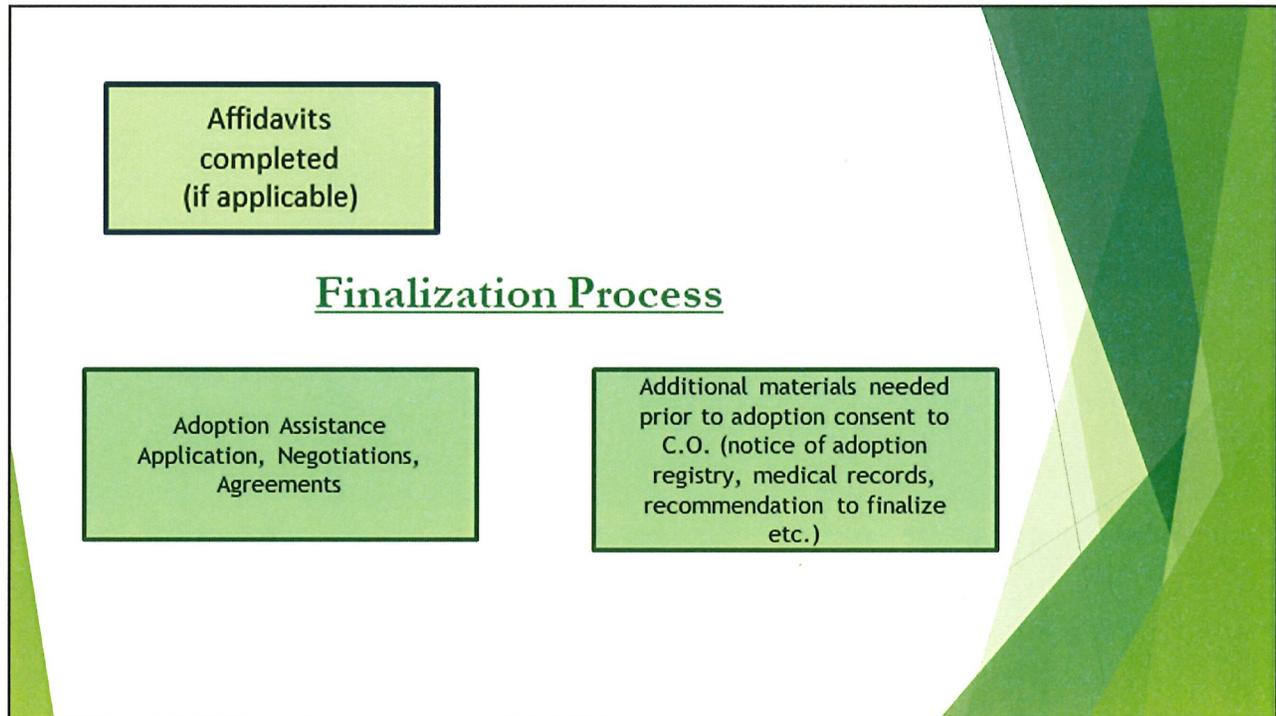
- \*Relatives
- \*Current Caretaker
- \*Adoption Recruitment

### **ICPC Adoption Study and Approvals (if applicable)**

## Questions to Ask

- ▶ Is adoption placement planning happening at the same time as the legally freeing process? If not, what are the barriers to doing so and what's being done to address/resolve the issues?
- ▶ Are all siblings for whom adoption is being planned placed together? If not:
  - ▶ Are they visiting?
  - ▶ What efforts are being made to place them together?
  - ▶ Has a Permanency Committee (Sibling Planning) been held if there are concerns about the children being placed together for adoption? Was approval given to place the children separately for adoption?
- ▶ What is the status of efforts to identify, locate, and contact/engage relatives?
- ▶ Are there any identified potential adoptive resources?
  - ▶ Yes - Have home studies for each potential resource been initiated (Permanency Staffing if relative caregiver or current caretaker? ICPC referral if out-of-state?) What is the status?
  - ▶ No - Has general recruitment been started? What is the extent and status of recruitment?
  - ▶ If the child is an Indian Child - Does the potential adoptive resource meet the placement preference under the ICWA? What is the tribe's input/recommendation regarding adoption with the potential adoptive resource?





## Legal Adoption Finalization

Consent for Adoption  
Materials prepared by C.O.  
and sent to attorney

Petition or Motion for  
Adoption and Exhibits filed by  
attorney

Adoption Finalization and  
Judgment signed

## Questions to Ask

- ▶ Has DHS Central Office sent the consent for adoption packet to the attorney selected to finalize the adoption?
- ▶ Did the adoptive resource request an adoption ceremony? If so, has it been scheduled?
- ▶ What is the status of the adoption judgment being signed?