

## **ADOPTION AND BIRTH PARENT SERVICES**

**South Carolina Department of Social Services  
Post Office Box 1520, Columbia SC 29202-1520  
Telephone 803-734-6095; Toll Free in SC 1-80-922-2504**

### **Partial Expenses for Adoption Services**

#### South Carolina Law

The legislation that merged the South Carolina Children's Bureau and the South Carolina Department of Social Services {Act 564 (Section 20-7-2340)} states that: (1) The Department shall establish charges for certain adoption and related services, (2) Any charges should be based on an income scale with no family denied services because of an inability to pay, (3) No charges should be made for the placement of special needs children and (4) 75% of any monies collected must be used to pay medical and maternity expenses of Birth Parent Services clients who have no other means of paying those expenses.

#### Effective Date

Partial Expenses for Adoption services shall be charged effective March 16, 1988. No charges are retroactive. No charges will be made for component services initiated prior to March 16, 1988. And, again no charges will be made at any time for placement services associated with special needs children.

#### No Charges for Services to Families Adopting Special Needs Children

It is the Department's philosophy to place all waiting children in a nurturing home. In keeping with this philosophy, the Department has not established expenses for the adoption of special needs children.

Special needs children are: (1) a white child who is 10 years or older, (2) a black child who is 6 years or older, (4) a physically, mentally or emotionally handicapped child, (5) a white sibling group of 3 children being placed together, one of whom is at least 6 years old or a sibling group of 4 or more of any age, and (6) a black sibling group of 2 children being placed together, one of who is at least 6 years old or a sibling group of 3 or more of any age.