

South Carolina Department of Social Services
ASSURANCE OF COMPLIANCE
WITH THE MULTIETHNIC PLACEMENT ACT OF 1994 (MEPA)

The Multiethnic Placement Act of 1994 ("MEPA"), 42 U.S.C. § 515a, as amended by Section 1808 (c) of the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996, 42 U.S.C. § 620 is a federal law. MEPA prohibits agencies like SCDSS from denying prospective adoptive placements the opportunity to adopt on the basis of race, color, or national origin, and from delaying or denying the placement of children on the basis of race, color, or national origin. MEPA also prohibits agencies like SCDSS from treating children and families differently on the basis of race, color or national origin in making adoption placement decisions.

SCDSS is required to assure that any agency that contracts with SCDSS and receives federal funds for adoption and/or foster care placement services, including performing home studies, complies fully with MEPA. If you will be receiving federal funds from SCDSS for such services, you are subject to MEPA's requirements. If you enter into a contract with SCDSS, you must agree to meet federal requirements.

If your agency becomes licensed and receive federal funds, your agency must designate a representative that will provide training to your staff. Your agency also must establish a complaint process that would allow any person who feels that a decision has been made or that an action has been taken in his or her case which was racially motivated discrimination to file a complaint. The individual is entitled to file a complaint with DSS, using the Civil Rights Discrimination Form, available in DSS offices as well as on-line at this address:
<http://www.state/sc/us/dss/forms/files/2601.pdf>

The form can be mailed to: Director, Office of Civil Rights, South Carolina Department of Social Services, P. O. Box 1520, Columbia, SC 29202. The individual may also file a complaint with the US DHHS, sending the same form to either the main office at this address: Office for Civil Rights, Department of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20201, or Telephone Number 1-877-696-6775; or to this regional address: Office for Civil Rights, Region IV, 61 Forsyth Street, S.W. Atlanta Federal Center, Suite 3B70, Atlanta, GA 30303-8909. Additionally, the individual may have a private right of action under Section 1808 (c) and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

By my signature below on behalf of _____ agency, I acknowledge receipt of the written Assurance of Compliance with the Multiethnic Placement Act (MEPA) and the DSS Brochure 30234 (SEP 07).

Typed Name of Authorized Official

Name of Agency

Signature of Authorized Official

Date of Signature