



State of South Carolina

Department of Social Services

Child Welfare Policies and Procedures: Chapter 7

Subject:	Registering and Maintaining Status of Children on AdoptUSKids (AUK)
Authority:	SC Code of Law: 63-9-1510
Standards:	South Carolina Practice Model: Guiding Principles and Standards (GPS)
Application:	Regional Adoption Staff & State Office Adoption Staff
Purpose:	To recruit nationally for legally free children who do not have an identified adoptive resource.
Policy Statement:	All children and youth in full guardianship of the South Carolina Department of Social Services (SCDSS) who are legally free and who do not have an identified adoptive family will be registered on AdoptUSKids (AUK). A profile narrative and photo listing will be maintained to reflect the most current information about the child including the child's status in the adoption process. In limited situations, a child may not be registered on the AUK website if it is deemed not in the child's best interest.
Definitions:	AdoptUSKids (AUK): The nation's only federally funded photo listing service that connects waiting children and families. Children from all over the nation are featured on this page. This is South Carolina Department of Social Service's partner website provided through the Children's Bureau. Private Narrative: A summary of the child's needs in regards to on-going therapy and care (not open to the general public to read). Public Narrative: A summary of the child that presents a strengths-based, positive depiction of the child and help the prospective adoptive parents make an emotional connection with the child open to the general public to read). Worker Workspace: An online recruitment database run by the South Carolina Department of Social Services (SCDSS) that features all of the children in SCDSS custody that have a permanency plan of adoption and no identified adoptive resource.
Procedures:	

Original Effective Date:

Current Effective Date: 1/01/2022

A. Required Information for Registering a Child Profile and Narrative Information on AUK	1. Regional Adoption Specialist will create a public narrative that is appropriate for all viewers, including the child and its peers. a. Required information in the public narrative should include the following: i. Narrative must be a minimum of 100 words ii. Information in the public narrative reflects the child's strengths, positive personality traits, hobby/interest and favorite activities iii. Narrative provides an accurate description of the child/youth, their needs and desired family characteristics, traits and composition iv. A current photo of the child. Consideration is given to the child's dress, body language and clarity of the picture when choosing a photo for registration. The child's clothes or any other item in the photo, should not include any identifying information (i.e. name of child, school, city). b. Information that should not be included in the child's public narrative: i. The child's age or grade level ii. Identifying Information iii. Information about abuse and neglect iv. Placement Information v. Intellectual ability or educational challenges vi. Sexual orientation or gender identity vii. Medical or mental health diagnosis, medication or treatment, including whether the child is attending therapy or counseling viii. Behavioral challenges ix. Potentially painful or embarrassing information such as reference to the child's anxieties or fears, trouble making friends, slow to warm up to people, problems in school or need for extra assistance. x. Limits on the type of family who needs to be considered or whether the child needs to remain in South Carolina should not be in the public narrative but can be in the private narrative so that only register families and professionals can review. 2. Regional Adoption Specialist can create a private narrative. The private narrative is accessible to home studied families who are registered on AUK. All families registered on AUK do not have home studies and can only view the photo listing and public narrative.
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	a. Private narratives may include the following information: - The type of family that would be best suited for the child. - The child's desire to maintain contact with biological relatives or other connections. - General information about the child's needs of on-going therapy and care without disclosing specific diagnosis or information. This information is shared with prospective adoptive families during the full disclosure process when families are matched with children in foster care as a potential adoptive placement. 3. The State Office Adoption Program Coordinator confirms that all required information submitted by the Regional Adoption Specialist to register a child/youth on AUK is current, completed thoroughly and presents the child in the best possible light. 4. State Office Adoptions Program Coordinator submits the child's profile, photo listing, and narrative information to AUK and DSS' statewide recruitment.
B. Maintaining Children on AdoptUSKids (AUK)	1. The regional adoption specialist updates the child's narrative and pictures at least annually and provide to the State Office Adoptions Program Coordinator. 2. Maintaining the child's profile and narrative information on AUK is the responsibility of the Program Coordinator within the State Office Adoptions Unit. 3. The State Office Adoption Program Coordinator provides updates to narratives and photos at least on an annual basis and as the child's status changes. It is the responsibility of the Regional Adoption Specialist to notify the State Office Program Coordinator when there is a change in the child's status through worker workspace. A change in the child's status constitutes one of the following: - When the child become available for adoption - When the child's profile should be placed on hold - When the child is placed for adoption - When the child has been adopted - When the child has exited foster care - When the child's plan no longer includes adoption 4. On an annual basis State Office Adoptions Program Coordinator submits the updated child's profile, photo listing,

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	and narrative information to AUK and DSS' statewide recruitment.
C. Exemptions to not registering a child on AUK	1. In limited circumstances, a child/youth may not be registered on AUK if it is deemed to not be in the child's best interest. Those situations may include: • The child/youth's refusal to be adopted. • The child/youth's refusal to be photo listed. • The child/youth's refusal to leave the state of South Carolina. This applies to any child not wanting to leave the state in order to preserve contacts with siblings and relatives. The child does not have to be at the age of consent to request remaining in the state. • The child/youth is court ordered to remain in South Carolina.
1. Forms:	Not Applicable
2. Resources:	Not Applicable
3. Related Management Reports:	