

Frequently Asked Question	Permanent Guardianship	Adoption
Will the caregivers receive monthly payments from the state to help support the children after the case is closed?	If the caregivers are relatives, as defined by law (includes relatives of half-siblings who are also in this placement) and if the relatives live in Florida, they will receive a monthly payment for each child, called relative caregiver benefits. Non-relatives may also qualify for Non-relative Caregiver Financial Assistance as funds are available and eligibility is met. There is no monthly payment for relative/non-relative caregivers who live out of state, or who move out of state paid by the State of Florida, however relatives may inquire in their state of residence to determine if any such benefits are available from their own state.	Yes. Most children adopted through DCF qualify for a monthly payment called an adoption subsidy.
How much are the monthly payments?	The payments are in accordance with 65C-28.008. 0-5 \$242 per month 6-12 \$249 per month 13-17 \$298 per month *Non-Relative Caregiver funds are subject to availability.	The standard amount negotiated for adoption subsidy is \$417 per month. For children who require a medical or therapeutic foster board rate, an enhanced rate may be available upon the recommendation of the CBC and approval of DCF.
Can the caregiver get more than the standard payment?	No	The monthly subsidy amount may be increased under certain circumstances, such as for children who require a medical or therapeutic foster board rate. In such instances, an enhanced adoption subsidy rate may be available upon the recommendation of the CBC and approval of DCF.
Can the monthly payment be increased after the case is closed?	No	Yes. Adoptive parents may request an increase in the monthly adoption subsidy payment to address a change in the child's needs or a change in the family's circumstances.
Can assistance be sought toward extraordinary medical expenses or other expenses after the case is closed?	No	The adoptive parents may request post-adoption services or medical subsidy to assist with the cost of counseling, evaluations, or other medical expenses if the expenses are related to a physical or mental condition of the child that was identified prior to the adoption and if there are no other benefits available to pay for the services, such as Medicaid, health insurance, or school programs. Prior approval of the CBC is required before services are rendered.

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Will the children be eligible for Medicaid after the case is closed?	Yes, the children will be eligible for Medicaid, regardless of the permanent guardian's income.	Yes, children who qualify for the adoption subsidy will also be eligible for Medicaid until they are 18, regardless of the adoptive parent's income. Children who are IV-E eligible can continue to receive Medicaid even if the family moves out-of-state. If a child is non-IVE eligible, limitations on Medicaid eligibility outside of Florida may apply.
Will the children be eligible for private health insurance?	Yes, the children should be eligible if the permanent guardians have a health insurance plan that includes their children.	Yes, if the adoptive parents have a health insurance plan that includes their children.
Will the children be eligible for Social Security benefits?	<p>If the child was receiving SSI, the child may continue to be eligible, however, the relative cannot receive relative caregiver benefits or non-relative caregiver financial assistance funds and SSI for the child.</p> <p>If the child was receiving survivor's benefits for a deceased parent, the child will continue to receive those benefits.</p> <p>The child will not generally be eligible to receive disability benefits or survivor's benefits if the permanent guardian dies or becomes disabled, however, if the permanent guardian is a grandparent, the child may be eligible for these benefits under certain, very limited circumstances.</p>	<p>If the child was receiving SSI, the child can continue to receive those benefits if the adoptive parents qualify financially, however, the SSI benefits will be reduced by the amount of the adoption subsidy if the child's adoption subsidy is classified as IV-E.</p> <p>If the child was receiving survivor's benefits for a deceased parent, the child will continue to receive those benefits without any impact from the adoption.</p> <p>The child will also be eligible to receive disability benefits or survivor's benefits if the adoptive parent dies or becomes disabled.</p>
Will the children be eligible for subsidized daycare after the case is closed?	Children in permanent guardianship with relatives will retain their eligibility for subsidized daycare and their priority status so long as the permanent guardians are receiving relative caregiver funds.	Eligibility will be based on the adoptive parent's income and if eligible, participation may be dependent upon availability and wait listing.
Will the children be eligible for free college tuition?	<p>Children who meet one of these criteria are eligible for a college tuition and fee exemption:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He or she is or was at the time of reaching age 18 in the custody of a relative under s. 39.5085, F.S.; • He or she is or was at the time of reaching age 18 in the custody of a non-relative under s. 39.5085, F.S.; • He or she was placed in a guardianship by the court after spending at least 6 months in the custody of the department after reaching 16 years of age. 	Yes. Adopted children are eligible for free tuition and waiver of fees at Florida's public universities, public community colleges and public vocational schools until the age of 28.

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Will the children be eligible for Post-Secondary Educational Support (PES) benefits to assist with expenses after the age of 18?	If the young adult was at least 16 years of age and placed with a court approved dependency guardian after spending at least 6 months in licensed care within the 12 months immediately preceding the placement; has earned a standard high school diploma; and is enrolled as a full-time student or its equivalent in an eligible postsecondary educational institution, the adopted young adult may be eligible for financial assistance in the amount of \$1256 monthly until attaining the age of 23.	If the adopted young adult was at least 16 years of age and was adopted from foster care after spending at least 6 months in licensed care within the 12 months immediately preceding the placement or adoption; has earned a standard high school diploma; and is enrolled as a full-time student or its equivalent in an eligible postsecondary educational institution, the adopted young adult may be eligible for financial assistance in the amount of \$1256 monthly until attaining the age of 23.
Will the caregiver be eligible for a tax credit?	No	Currently there is no adoption tax credit in Florida.
Will the adoptive parent have to pay the costs of the adoption?	Not applicable	No. The state will pay the costs of the adoption, up to \$1000.00, which generally covers the full amount of court costs and legal fees.
Are the biological parents obligated to pay child support?	Yes, the parents will still have a legal obligation to pay child support and can be court ordered to pay child support.	No.
Can the biological parents regain custody?	The children are intended to remain in the custody of the permanent guardians until they are 18 years old. However, it is possible, but not likely, that one or both of the parents could regain custody. It is also possible that one or both parents could get expanded visitation rights.	No.
Can the biological parents visit the children after the case is closed?	In most cases, the parents will have visitation rights. There will be a court order that explains the parents' visitation rights and explains any restrictions on the visitation, such as whether the visits have to be supervised. The permanent guardians cannot change the parents' visitation without going back to court to ask for the court order to be changed.	It will be up to the adoptive parents to decide whether the parents can have any contact with the children or any information about the children. If the adoptive parents decide to allow contact, it will be up to the adoptive parents to decide how that contact will take place.
Can the biological parents make decisions about the children's medical treatment or school attendance after the case is closed?	Not unless the permanent guardians want to include the parents in the decisions. The permanent guardians will be given full legal authority to make these decisions on their own.	No.