

***SWAN/IL MATCHING RECEPTION: A GUIDE FOR FAMILIES***

***Who attends a matching reception?***

Prospective adoptive families, county children and youth workers and SWAN affiliate agency workers attend matching receptions. Also in attendance and providing support are staff from the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the SWAN prime contractor, including the SWAN Helpline and the Pennsylvania Adoption Exchange (PAE).

***What is the purpose of a matching reception?***

The purpose of a matching reception is to allow prospective adoptive families to meet and talk with caseworkers about children who are available, whether or not a specific child would be suitable for them and additional questions they may have about adopting a waiting Pennsylvania child.

***Are prospective adoptive families required
to attend the matching reception?***

No, families are under no obligation to attend. The matching reception is just another method offered to prospective adoptive families to find a child.

***Will there be waiting children at the matching reception?***

Yes. Some older youth will attend the matching reception. These youth will be featured during the presentation portion of the matching reception. They will highlight their own unique and special qualities. Feel free to interact with the youth and their caseworkers after their presentations, but we ask that you refrain from talking to them about adoption or becoming a part of your family at this event.

***Where can families find help during the matching reception?***

Staff from county children and youth agencies and SWAN affiliate agencies will be present at their agency displays to answer any questions families may have about Pennsylvania’s waiting children. Additionally, staff from the SWAN prime contract will be present (wearing black shirts bearing the SWAN logo) to provide assistance prior to and during the matching reception.

***How do we identify the children who interest us?***

Children are typically assigned PAE ID numbers. Please make note of the child’s first name and PAE ID number, the agency working with the child and the caseworker’s name so staff can assist you in obtaining additional information about specific children during and after the event.

***Where can families find assistance after the matching reception?***

After the event is over, if you want to obtain more information about a child presented at the matching reception, you can contact the county agency with custody of the child or the affiliate agency working with the child. If you do not have their contact information, or are in need of additional information or services, please contact the SWAN Helpline at 800-585-SWAN.

This event is sponsored by the Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network (SWAN), a program of the

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The SWAN prime contractor is Diakon-SWAN, LLC in partnership with Family Design Resources.