

MARE's Role in the Adoption Process

MARE (Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange) collaborates with **DCF (formerly DSS) and other child welfare agencies** to serve children and teenagers waiting for adoption as well as current and prospective adoptive families.

Step 1

Contact MARE to learn about the adoption process and to get information about DCF and agencies that contract with DCF for adoption services

Step 2

Participate in MAPP training with DCF or a contracted agency

Step 3

Work with social worker from DCF or contracted agency to complete homestudy and to be approved as a pre-adoptive home

Step 4

Families work with social worker from DCF or contracted agency to be matched with child/ren

Homestudied families can register with MARE and participate in online matching to help find the right child or teenager for their family.

Prospective adoptive families are welcome to attend MARE adoption parties, read MARE photolistings, view the Heart Gallery, and watch MARE media recruitment to learn about waiting children and teenagers.

www.mareinc.org

Call MARE with questions at anytime in the process!

617 542-3678

1

MARE has the capacity to conduct large scale recruitment of families and collaborates with **DCF and other contracted agencies** in the adoption process by providing media exposure of waiting children, organizing events, and using a variety of other public education and awareness initiatives through its expansive website. MARE provides information and referrals on a wide variety of adoption issues.

2

MAPP (Massachusetts Approach to Partnerships in Parenting) is the course that all families interested in foster care or adoption must complete. MAPP is designed to help families gain the best possible understanding of, and preparation for, parenting an adopted child or teenager.

3

The homestudy process entails a series of in-home interviews with a social worker to gather family information and to explore the type of child or teenager you would like to adopt. From these meetings, the social worker will write a narrative about your family which is called the homestudy.

4

All families can access MARE services throughout the adoption process. These services include online matching in which families sign up on the MARE website and enter their criteria for the children or teenagers they would like to adopt. The system will notify the family of children or teenagers that meet their criteria and the family can then choose to submit an inquiry. Homestudied families, are eligible to register with MARE. Once families are registered, their criteria will be compared with the needs of the children registered with MARE. If a potential match is identified, MARE will forward the family's homestudy to the child's social worker. Follow-up on such referrals is at the discretion of the child's social worker