

**CHAPTER 131****ADOPTION ASSISTANCE AND CHILD WELFARE  
ACT OF 1980 REQUIREMENTS****Authority**

N.J.S.A. 30:4C-4 and 30:1-12.

**Source and Effective Date**

R.1997 d.449, effective September 26, 1997.

See: 29 N.J.R. 2768(a), 29 N.J.R. 4459(b).

**Chapter Expiration Date**

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:14B-5.1c, Chapter 131, Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980 Requirements, expires on March 24, 2003. See: 34 N.J.R. 961(a).

**Chapter Historical Note**

Chapter 131, Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980 Requirements, was adopted as R.1982 d.317, effective September 20, 1982. See: 14 N.J.R. 744(a), 14 N.J.R. 1057(b). Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 131 expired on September 20, 1987.

Chapter 131, Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980 Requirements, was adopted as new rules by R.1987 d.317, effective December 7, 1987. See: 19 N.J.R. 1285(a), 19 N.J.R. 2301(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 131 was readopted as R.1992 d.437, effective October 7, 1992. See 24 N.J.R. 2522(a), 24 N.J.R. 4055(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 131 was readopted as R.1997 d.449, effective September 26, 1997. See: Source and Effective Date. As a part of R.1997 d.449, effective October 20, 1997, Subchapter 1, Title IV-B State Plan: Child Welfare Services, was renamed Comprehensive Child and Family Services Plan. See, also, section annotations.

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**SUBCHAPTER 1. COMPREHENSIVE CHILD AND  
FAMILY SERVICES PLAN****10:131-1.1 Comprehensive Child and Family Services Plan**

New Jersey develops an annual Comprehensive Child and Family Services Plan. Copies of the Comprehensive Child and Family Services Plan may be obtained from:

Division of Youth and Family Services  
Office of Fiscal and Budget Operations  
50 East State Street  
PO Box 717  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0717

Amended by R.1992 d.437, effective November 2, 1992.

See: 24 N.J.R. 2522(a), 24 N.J.R. 4055(a).

Address of DYFS office changed.

Amended by R.1997 d.449, effective October 20, 1997.

See: 29 N.J.R. 2768(a), 29 N.J.R. 4459(b).

Amended the Division's address; and substituted "Comprehensive Child and Family Services" for "State Child Welfare Services" throughout the section.

**SUBCHAPTER 2. GOALS FOR CHILDREN  
REMAINING IN FOSTER CARE IN EXCESS  
OF 24 MONTHS****10:131-2.1 State child welfare services permanency  
planning**

The Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980 (P.L. 96-272) mandates that specific goals be established by State law before October 1st for each fiscal year as to the maximum number of Title IV-E eligible children who will remain in foster care for more than 24 months. This requirement is consistent with the intent of the legislation to improve services provided to children and their families, therefore reducing the number of children removed from their families and increasing the number of children returned to their families from out-of-home placement. This requirement is also consistent with the goal of the Division of Youth and Family Services, under N.J.S.A. 30:4C-1 et seq., to provide all children with permanency planning, therefore minimizing the number of children in temporary out-of-home placement.

**10:131-2.2 State child welfare services goals**

New Jersey has established that no more than 2,150 Title IV-E eligible children will remain in foster care for more than 24 months during Federal fiscal year 1983 and thereafter. The Division of Youth and Family Services will make every effort within available resources to ensure that services are provided to maintain children in their own homes and to reunify children in out-of-home placement with their families as quickly as possible.