

<b>15.7 Consent to Adoption of Child Fourteen (14) Years of Age or Older</b>	
<b>Application:</b> To All Department of Children's Services Permanency Specialist Staff and Tennessee Licensed Child Placing Agency Staff.	
<b>Authority:</b> TCA 37-5-105; TCA 37-5-112; TCA 36-1-117(6)(i)(1); TCA 36-1-117(6)(i)(2)	<b>Standards: COA:</b> PA-AS 8.06
<b>Commissioner:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
Original Effective Date: 04/01/98 Current Effective Date: 03/01/08	Supersedes: DSC 15.7 04/01/98 Last Review Date: 03/01/08
<b>Glossary:</b> None	

**Policy Statement:**

All children placed for adoption who is 14 years of age and older must consent to their adoption.

**Purpose:**

The Department of Children's Services recognizes that children age fourteen (14) and older have the right to consent to their own adoption. If the child is mentally incapable of making such a decision, a guardian ad litem will make a determination as to whether adoption is in the child's best interest.

**Procedures:**

**A. Able to Consent**

1. Child must sign a sworn written consent to the adoption.
2. The consent is to be filed with the Petition to Adopt and the consent of the minor is to be recited in the Order of Adoption.

**B. Unable to Consent**

When the child age 14 or older does not have the ability to consent, a guardian ad litem for the child shall be appointed by the court.

**C. Guardian ad Litem**

The guardian ad litem must investigate the appropriateness of the proposed adoption and give or withhold consent on behalf of the child.

**D. Fees**

Guardian ad litem fee may be considered and included in the non-recurring expenses for a child who is eligible for adoption assistance.

**Forms:**

[\*CS- 0646, Consent to Adoption by Minor Who is Fourteen Years of Age or Older\*](#)

[\*CS- 0647, Consent by Guardian Ad Litem to Adoption of Mentally Disabled Minor Who is Fourteen Years of Age or Older\*](#)

**Collateral Documents:**

None