	<b>Division/Section</b>	Child Welfare
	<b>Chapter No./Name</b>	7 - Louisiana Adoption Resources Exchange
	<b>Part No./Name</b>	1 - Introduction
	<b>Section No./Name</b>	Introduction
	<b>Document No./Name</b>	7-110 Statutory Basis and Requirements for LARE
	<b>Effective Date</b>	January 1, 2015

## I. STATEMENT OF POLICY

The Louisiana Adoption Resource Exchange (LARE) is a legally mandated system for managing information related to children available for adoption in Louisiana and families certified as \* foster/ \*\* adoptive homes. \* LARE \*\* is authorized by the Louisiana Children's Code, Articles 1041 and 1145; \* it \*\* is a state exchange located within the \* Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services. \*\* Organizationally, it is managed as part of the \* Adoption/ \*\* Home Development Section with a State Office LARE \* Child Welfare Consultant. \*\* Each \* DCFS \*\* region and Louisiana licensed private adoption agency is a member of the Louisiana Adoption Resource Exchange \*\*\*. \*\*\*

LARE was established to:

- identify and publicize children available for adoption to agencies, other exchanges, and organizations which come into contact with prospective adoptive parents;
- \*\*\* provide support services to help adoption agencies link waiting children and families;
- \*\*\* through the TIPS/LARE Sub-System, enables the department to suggest possible matches between available children and families; \* and \*\*
- \*\*\*
- \* Primarily \*\* bring families and children together.


### \* A. LARE STATUTORY BASES AND REQUIREMENTS \*\*

Act 429 of the 1981 Louisiana Legislature (LA R.S. 13:1606, B.) first mandated that Louisiana child placing agencies register all children on LARE who are not in "permanent placement" within ninety (90) days of a voluntary or involuntary termination of parental rights. It further mandated that the department maintain a list of registered children, update it quarterly and make it available to all licensed child-placing agencies in Louisiana. Also, subject to the confidentiality requirements, the department was required to utilize every reasonable method of effecting a permanent placement. Media presentations and other means of public solicitation were authorized for the purpose of matching potential adoptive parents with children who are difficult to place.

In 1991 the provisions of Act 429 were incorporated into the Louisiana Children's Code, Articles 1041 and 1145. \* DCFS \*\* policy mandates that state agencies also register waiting families with LARE, making it possible for LARE to match waiting children with waiting families.

Under Louisiana Children's Code, \* Article 603, \*\* "Permanent Placement" means:

- \* a. \*\* Return of the legal custody of a child to his parent(s).
- \* b. \*\* Placement of the child with adoptive parents pursuant to a final decree of adoption.
- \* c. \*\* Placement of the child under a guardianship of the person.

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Because of this definition, all minor children in the custody of Louisiana child placing agencies that are legally available for adoption and not in **\* a \*\*** permanent placement shall be registered with LARE, whether or not their goal is adoption. However, only children legally available with a goal of adoption who are not matched with a prospective adoptive family will be publicized by LARE as available for adoption.

## II. PROCEDURES

### **\* A. CONFIDENTIALITY IN RECRUITMENT \*\***

LARE has provided safeguards to ensure the confidentiality of children, their birth families, and their foster/ **\* adoptive \*\*** families. Any publicity or information given to an inquiring family about a specific child shall be what the child's agency wants the exchange to share and precludes any information that is restricted from publicity. To protect the child's dignity and privacy and the agency's liability, publicity shall not contain the child's last name nor information on incest, abuse, sexual activity or other details relating to reasons for removal from previous caretakers. LARE will disclose information from the child's photolisting that personalizes the child and accurately describes the child's personality, interests, skills, functioning, any needs and circumstances that may require special placement considerations and the type of family being sought. Families will be referred to the responsible agency for disclosure of additional information as is appropriate. Additional information about the child in the LARE registration shall be released only to other licensed agencies, exchanges and other appropriate governmental bodies.

## III. FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS

**\* There are no forms associated with this policy. \*\***

## IV. REFERENCES

**\* Louisiana Children's Code, Articles 603, 1041 and 1145 \*\***