



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, as well as staff from the Department of Human Services (DHS); SWAN; the SWAN Helpline; the Pennsylvania Adoption Exchange (PAE) and the SWAN prime contractor, Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries, in partnership with Voce.

What is the purpose of a matching reception?

The purpose of a matching reception is to allow prospective adoptive families to meet and interact with the people working directly with Pennsylvania's children in need of permanency. This is an opportunity for prospective adoptive families to speak to workers about the children they work with, whether or not a specific child could be a match for them and additional questions they may have about adopting a 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. No one is required to attend.

Will there be children in need of permanency at the Matching Reception?

A child may be featured via a video or in-person presentation during the opening. However, this event is intended solely for prospective adoptive families to interact with the county and affiliate workers who work directly with Pennsylvania's children in need of permanency, not with the children themselves.

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 children in need of permanency. Additionally, staff from SWAN will be present (wearing black shirts bearing the SWAN logo) to provide assistance before and during the matching reception.

How do we identify the children who interest us?

Children are typically assigned Pennsylvania Adoption Exchange (PAE) ID numbers. You can share that number with your family worker, and they can follow up with the child's worker. We will also have an electronic method that you can use to denote your interest in particular children. The advantage to this is that it provides built-in follow-up from SWAN. Further details will be provided at the event by staff, including members of the SWAN Helpline.

Where can families find assistance after the matching reception?

After the event is over, if you want to learn more about a child presented at the matching reception, you should work with your family worker who 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, you should contact the SWAN Helpline at 1-800-585-SWAN or by email at swanhelpline@diakon-swan.org, who will be happy to help you.