

## What is Re-Homing?

Re-homing, is defined by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) as the non-temporary placement or replacement of a child, usually an adopted child, with informal caregivers who are not related to the child or the parents through blood, marriage or adoption. In these situations:

- the parent or guardian of the child knows little or nothing about the replacement caregiver; and
- a home study or court review is usually not completed prior to the placement.

Re-homing can occur in adoptive and birth families, although most identified cases have been of children adopted internationally.

The re-homing cases of particular concern involve placements where parents send their child to the home of a non-relative without appropriate background checks or supervision, and the placement is not intended to be a temporary one. These placements are often arranged by third parties or through informal internet communications (*like message boards or Facebook pages*) and in some cases, the child may have been sent to multiple homes and/or across state lines. You might also hear these cases referred to as unregulated child custody transfers.

## How Does Re-Homing Put Children at Risk?

All parents, including adoptive parents, have a legal responsibility to protect and care for their children. In re-homing placements, the parent is usually giving over responsibility for the child to another person without background checks or assesment of the home.

There is an increased risk for children who have been re-homed to be abused, exploited or trafficked (*exploited for sex or labor*) because there is no one supervising the placement, and these children are extremely vulnerable.

In addition, in some cases a person who uses online re-homing sources to obtain children may do so because they are unable to foster or adopt children through appropriate official means.

## Where Can Adoptive Parents Turn When They Need Help?

Meeting post-adoption needs is a way to prevent re-homing of children. Some places your family can turn to for assistance include:

- Your local department of social services for child preventive or post-adoption services, if available. You may also contact OCFS for information on available post-adoption services. [http://ocfs.ny.gov/adopt/post\\_adoption/](http://ocfs.ny.gov/adopt/post_adoption/)
- Adoptive family support organizations. These organizations provide referral information and support groups.
- A responsible family member may be able to assist in short term care.

If needed, you may be able to receive child preventive services through your local department of social services.

In some cases, a child may be temporarily placed into care until he/she is ready to return home. Your local department of social services can assist with decision making and information in cases where temporary placement may be necessary.

**Remember:** *Asking for support post-adoption is a sign of strength, not weakness.*





**Office of Children  
and Family Services**

**Capital View Office Park**  
52 Washington Street  
Rensselaer, NY 12144  
Visit our website at:  
**ocfs.ny.gov**

**For child care, foster care, and  
adoption information, call:**  
(800) 345-KIDS (5437)  
**<http://ocfs.ny.gov/adopt/>**

**To report child abuse and  
neglect, call:**  
(800) 342-3720

**New York State Vulnerable Persons  
Central Register (VPCR) Hotline at:**  
(855) 373-2122

**For information on the  
Abandoned Infant Protection Act call:**  
(866) 505-SAFE (7233)

*"...promoting the safety, permanency and well-being of our  
children, families and communities."*

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and Family Services**

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*What Do Parents  
Need to Know About  
"Re-Homing"*