



**Andy Beshear**  
GOVERNOR

**CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES  
DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES**

275 East Main Street, 3W-A  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40621  
Phone: (502) 564-3703  
Fax: (502) 564-6907

**Steven Stack, MD**  
SECRETARY

**Lesia Dennis**  
COMMISSIONER

**PROTECTION AND PERMANENCY INFORMATION MEMORANDUM 25-04**

**TO:** Service Region Administrators  
Service Region Administrator Associates  
Service Region Clinical Associates  
Regional Program Specialists  
Family Services Office Supervisors

**FROM:** Kelli Root, Assistant Director II  
Division of Protection and Permanency

**DATE:** July 25, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Unmarried Couples Adopting

The purpose of this information memorandum is to provide an update on the Kentucky Supreme Court's decision regarding unmarried couples adopting. It has been longstanding policy of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) that unmarried couples could not adopt together. However, in June 2025, the Kentucky Supreme Court issued an opinion reversing this policy.

This change does not directly impact any standard of practice (SOP). As outlined in [SOP C13.21, Petition for Adoption](#), the Adoption Services Branch will continue to receive all adoption petitions filed in KY and review them for thoroughness and accuracy. The case will then be assigned to a local recruitment and certification (R&C) worker for completion of the court report as applicable. Staff should expect to be assigned court reports for these situations in the future.

When questions arise concerning the legality of any phase of the adoption proceedings, please direct individuals to the Adoption Services Branch. The Adoption Services Branch will consult with Office of Legal Services as needed.

[G.G. and T.S. vs Cabinet for Health and Family Services; A.L.V., A MINOR CHILD; and C.L.](#)

If you have any questions regarding this memorandum, please contact:

Veronica Sears, Adoption Branch Manager

[veronicaj.sears@ky.gov](mailto:veronicaj.sears@ky.gov)

(502) 564-2147