

THE INTEGRATED CHILD PROTECTION SCHEME (ICPS) Specialised Adoption Agency (SAA)

2.2. Specialised Adoption Agency (SAA)

The latest amendment to the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2000 (as amended in 2006) provides that the State Government shall recognise **one or more of its institutions or voluntary organisations in each district as specialised adoption agencies** in such manner, as may be prescribed, for the placement of orphaned, abandoned or surrendered children for adoption in accordance with the provisions of the various guidelines for adoption issued from time to time, by the State Government, or the Central Adoption Resource Agency and notified by the Central Government. All SAAs shall be registered under Section 34(34) of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2000 (as amended in 2006) as well as the Societies Registration Act, 1860 and shall adhere to the guidelines or rules laid down by the State Government/Central Government governing in-country/inter-country adoption from time to time. The SAA shall function within the ambit of law and comply with all relevant legislations, rules and guidelines.

The specific roles and responsibilities of these SAAs shall include:

1. Child related functions:

- Admission and registration of orphaned, abandoned and surrendered children;
- Reporting the arrival of a child to the CWC;
- Post CWC order, report registration of the child to DCPS, ACA and SARA;
- Maintaining an online⁶ database of all children admitted;
- Preparation of child study report and physical examination report;
- Assist CWC in enquiry as and when required;
- Pre and Post adoption counselling to children;
- Matching of the child;
- Facilitate placement of the child either in adoption or in pre adoption foster care with the help of District Placement Committee chaired by DCPO with two members respectively from the respective SAA and Protection Officer – Non-institutional Services;
- Court process for adoption or placement of a child;
- Obtaining birth certificate of the child;
- Post adoption follow up;
- Archiving relevant records of birth parents, their medical/case history, case records of the child, birth parents and adoptive parents;
- Maintaining Minimum Standards of Care;
- Submitting a quarterly progress report to DCPS and SARA for indicating the rehabilitation plan for each child admitted in the SAA.

2. Prospective Adoptive Parents (PAPs) related functions

- Registration of prospective adoptive parents;
- Reporting the registration of PAPs to the DCPS and SARA;

⁶ This online database will be a part of the Child Tracking System and will have restricted accessibility to agencies such as DCPS, SARA and CARA

- Maintaining an online⁷ database of PAPs registered with the current status of their application;
- Counselling of biological parents/unwed mother surrendering the child and for prevention of abandonment and rehabilitation of child;
- Carrying out Home Study Report;
- Matching of the child with PAPs;
- Facilitating placement of the child in pre adoption foster care;
- Pre and post adoption counseling to all PAPs;
- Carrying out court procedures for adoption or placement of a child;
- Carrying out post adoption follow up.

Staff Strength of SAA

In order to develop the adoption programme and to extend it to the every district of the country, the scheme shall provide support grant to encourage NGOs:

Sl. No.	Particular of Staff	Number	Remuneration per month (In Rs.)	Annual Expenditure Consolidated (In Rs.)
1.	Manager/Coordinator	1	10,000/-	1,20,000/-
2.	Social Worker cum Early Childhood Educator	1	8,000/-	96,000/-
3.	Nurse	1	5,000/-	60,000/-
4.	Doctor (Part time)	1	3,000/-	36,000/-
5.	Ayabs	6	2,000/-	1,44,000/-
6.	Chowkidar	1	2,000/-	24,000/-
	Total	11		4,80,000/-

Estimated Cost for a single unit of 10 children:

Sl. No.	Item	Amount (in Rs.)
B. Non-recurring Expenditure		
6.	One Computer with UPS and Web Cam @Rs.35000/- and One printer cum scanner @Rs.10000/-	45,000/-
7.	Furniture including 10 Cradles	1,00,000/-
8.	Equipments for kitchen (Gas stove with connection, utensils, water filter, etc.)	20,000/-
	Total	1,65,000/-
A. Recurring Expenditures		
1.	Staff Salary	4,80,000/-
2.	Maintenance grant for ten (10) children @Rs.1,000/- per child per month* to cover expenses on food, milk powder, feeding bottles, clothing, soap, oil, medicines, play materials, etc.	1,20,000/-
3.	Rent (up to Rs.7,000/- p.m.)**	84,000/-
4.	Payment of legal expenses to the advocate engaged in adoption case @ Rs.1500/- per child in case the adoptive Indian parents are not in a position to pay subject to a maximum of 10 children. The sanction will be based on actual number of adoptions and production of Lawyer's receipt.	15,000/-
5.	Contingency (water, electricity, telephone, stationary, photocopy, postage, etc.) @Rs.3000/- per month	36,000/-
	Total	7,35,000/-
	Total Expenditure (A+B)	9,00,000/-
	Less 10% Organisational Share	90,000/-
	Net Grant-in-aid (90%)	8,10,000/-

* Per child maintenance cost of infants is higher than that of children due to their special care and nutrition needs

** Maintenance charges up to a maximum of Rs.30,000/- per annum for a self owned building subject to production of receipts

⁷ This online database will have restricted accessibility to agencies such as DCPS, SARA and CARA

2.3. Cradle Baby Reception Centre

The DCPS shall nominate one SAA in the district as the Cradle Baby Reception Centre. This Reception Centre shall be run by the SAA from its premises and shall be equipped with all basic facilities for infants. The primary objective of these Reception Centres shall be to rescue the abandoned children and look after them with due care and affection till s/he is given in adoption. Each SAA shall install one cradle at the doorstep to receive such babies.

Besides SAA, Cradle Points to receive babies will also be placed at all the Primary Health Care Centres (PHCs), Hospitals/Nursing Homes, Short-stay homes, Swadhar units/Swadhar reception centres and the office of the DCPS, which would serve as the Cradle Points. Once the Cradle Baby Reception Centre receives a child from the Cradle Point, it should make the following arrangements for rehabilitation of the child:

- Provide for proper medical treatment and food as per the advice of the Medical Officer;
- Report the arrival of the child to the Child Welfare Committee;
- Provide for all basic needs of the child;
- Provide care and protection to the child;
- Register the birth of the child with the competent authority;
- Explore possibilities of placing the child in a family through adoption.

The DCPS shall facilitate procurement of the cradles for the cradle points.

PHC's will designate one ANM as in-charge of the cradle placed with them. On receipt of a child, the ANM will arrange immediate medical attention to the child and inform the SAA cum Reception Centre for collecting the child. The ANM shall enter the particulars of the child in a Register and accordingly the medical officer shall issue a certificate of transfer at the time of handing over the child to reception center. The concerned Secretary dealing with ICPS programme at State level shall liaison with the State Health Secretary to incorporate the abovementioned function of the ANM as part of their job description.

In the event of death of a child in the reception center, the center shall perform the last rituals of the child. The expenditure may be met from the contingency funds.