

SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Kenneth H. Rumsey, *Interim State Director
of Social Services*

Joyce T. Mitchell, *Deputy Director*

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The Social Services Administration began as the Board of State Aid and Charities in 1900 (Chapter 679, Acts of 1900). In 1939, the Board was replaced by the State Department of Public Welfare (Chapter 99, Acts of 1939). The Department was renamed the State Department of Social Services in 1968 (Chapter 702, Acts of 1968). In 1970, it became the Social Services Administration (Chapter 96, Acts of 1970).

The Social Services Administration coordinates and directs all social services in the State (Code 1957, Art. 41, sec. 6-106). These include adoption, foster care, protective services to children and families, and services to families with children. It also determines what factors contribute to social and family problems and recommends ways to address those problems.

The Administration supervises all public and private institutions that have the care, custody, or control of dependent, abandoned or neglected children, except those placed under supervision of another agency. It licenses agencies and institutions having the care and custody of minors.

The State Director of Social Services is appointed by the Secretary of Human Resources with the Governor's approval (Code 1957, Art. 88A, sec. 2).

In Baltimore City and each county, the director of the local department of social services administers programs subject to the supervision, direction, and control of the Social Services Administration.

Each county department of social services has a nine-member board of social services. Board members are appointed to three-year terms by the local governing authority. One member serves ex officio. In Baltimore City, the board is called the social services commission. The Mayor appoints its members to six-year terms and two serve ex officio (Code 1957, Art. 88A, secs. 1, 2, 4, 14, 14A).

The Social Services Administration is organized into six offices: Child-Placement Resources; Executive Management and Support Services; Family and Children's Services; Federal Funding Initiatives; Planning and Projects Management; and Program Review and Monitoring.

OFFICE OF CHILD-PLACEMENT RESOURCES

Jean E. Clarren, *Director*
(410) 767-7676

Functions of the Office of Child-Placement Resources started in 1927 when the Board of State Aid and Charities began to license institutions, associations, agencies and individuals having the

care, custody, and control of children (Chapter 632, Acts of 1927). By 1954, the Bureau of Child Welfare was part of the State Department of Public Welfare (Chapter 519, Acts of 1953). In 1965, the Bureau was reorganized as the Bureau of Family and Child Welfare Services (Chapter 817, Acts of 1965). The Bureau, by 1980, functioned as the Office of Child Welfare Services under the Social Services Administration. The Office received its present name in 1991.

The Office finds and approves residences for children who are in crisis or who have been removed from their parents' home.

**OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT
& SUPPORT SERVICES**

Nancy D. Monseaux, *Acting Director*
(410) 767-7095

In 1980, the Office of Executive Management and Support Services formed as the Office of Administrative Support Services. It received its present name in 1991. To support the operation of Department programs, the Office provides essential services, including contracts and procurements, training, forms management, and budgeting.

OFFICE OF FAMILY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES

M. Fern Blake, *Acting Director*
(410) 767-7026

The Office of Family and Children's Services originated as the Office of Family and Child Development Services in 1980 and was reorganized under its present name in 1991.

The Office sets policy and standards for four programs: Adoptions; Child Protective Services; Family Services; and Foster Care. The Office also is responsible for Maryland's part in the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children, the Maryland Adoption Resource Exchange, and the Mutual-Consent Voluntary Adoption Registry.

ADOPTIONS

Cassandra E. Fallin, *Manager*
(410) 767-7423

MARYLAND ADOPTION RESOURCE EXCHANGE

Sharon A. Hackett, *Administrator*
(410) 767-7372

The Maryland Adoption Resource Exchange was formed during the 1960s to register and match children with adoptive families.

**MUTUAL-CONSENT VOLUNTARY
ADOPTION REGISTRY**

Sharon A. Hackett, *Administrator*
(410) 767-7372

The Mutual-Consent Voluntary Adoption Registry was formed in 1986. The Registry registers