

Big Bend Community Based Care Policy & Procedure

Series:	200: Placement Services	
Policy Name:	Compliance with Multi-Ethnic Placement Act (MEPA)	
Policy Number:	206	
Origination Date:	3/9/2009	Revised: Board Meeting of 12/13/2018
Regulations:	65C-28.004(2), F.A.C. P.L. 103-3821 P.L. 140-108	

Policy

It is the policy of Big Bend Community Based Care, Inc. (BBCBC), to ensure compliance with the Multi-Ethnic Placement Act (MEPA) in order to:

1. Decrease the length of time children wait to be adopted;
2. Prevent discrimination in the placement of children on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, or national origin;
3. Identify and recruit foster and adoptive families regardless of race, ethnicity, color, or national origin.

Procedure

- A. Placement of a child is done through a Placement Information Form to determine the needs and best possible placement for the child.
- B. The following are the BBCBC guidelines:
 1. If race is a consideration, reasons for selections should be documented by the CPI, DCM or BBCBC Intake Placement Specialist to the fullest extent.
 2. The assessment of potential families will be in depth, identifying their unique qualities. Race cannot be used as a determining factor for placement.
 3. Religion is not covered by MEPA unless a particular religion discriminates based on race, color or national origin.
 4. MEPA does not prohibit kinship or relative care placement preferences.
 5. Language can be used as a deciding factor in the placement of a child.
 - a. Communication is necessary to meet the needs of a child.
 - b. However, in meeting the needs of a child, limiting a needed language to race, color or national origin is not allowable.
 - c. All races speak various languages.
 - d. Language can only be looked at as one factor.
 6. Culture cannot be used as a determining factor for placement, but can be used to expand the pool of potential placements for a child.

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7. Targeting a community for families that meet the needs of children in a particular community is viewed as positive.