



Licensed Child Caring Agency Site Visit Report Adoption Agency

Licensee: Tree of Life Adoption Center

Date of site visit: May 11, 2022

Board Chairperson: Rachel Aron

Executive Director: Daniel Stinea, LPC, CADC III

Licensing Coordinator: Tom Heidt with Holly Ivey

Other regulatory or accrediting agencies:

Tree of Life has a contract to provide SNAC adoptions through DHS.
Tree of Life is also licensed in the State of Washington.

Program Compliance:

The program was found to be compliant or will be compliant with:

[OAR 413-215-0001 to 0136](#) Licensing Umbrella rules

[OAR 413-215-0401 to 0481](#) Licensing Adoption Agencies

Personnel records were reviewed and compliance with required background checks was documented for the employees in the program.

Type of Adoptions provided:Domestic (Indy/Private) XSNAC (DHS Foster Adopt) XInternational (Hague) X**Program Description:**

The Tree of Life Adoption Center has been licensed since 1998. The Executive Director and lone employee, Daniel Stinea, has been with the agency since November of 1999. He is a licensed mental health counselor and certified alcohol and drug counselor. Mr. Stinea recently become accredited to provide psychotherapy. Tree of Life has historically provided a full array of adoption services and has placed approximately 1,200 children in adoptive homes. Due to the collapse of international adoptions, the primary focus is now on home studies. The agency has an annual budget of close to \$25,000. The mission of the agency is to provide loving and permanent homes for the world's orphaned and abandoned children. The agency primarily provides adoption home studies to individuals or families who wish to adopt children. The Executive Director educates, trains, counsels and prepares the prospective parents for the challenges of parenting adopted children.

Disruptions/dissolutions in the last review period:

None.

Average daily population served – number of families currently serving:

Tree of Life is currently serving two families.

Number of placements in each of the last two years:

Zero. The last placement Tree of Life did was in December of 2017. Tree of Life let their Hague accreditation expire in June of 2018. There were nearly 23,000 intercountry adoptions by U.S. families in 2004 and that number has dropped every single year with just 1,622 adoptions in 2020.

Program Strengths:

- The Executive Director still has a passion for this work. He gets to know his families very well. Being the only employee, Mr. Stinea prides himself with being personable and approachable.
- The home studies are very detailed and well written. The reader is able to get a clear picture of the family, which makes it easy to determine if they would be the right match for a child.
- The Executive Director has over twenty years of experience and is very well organized. He has a tremendous understanding of the rules. The electronic files were extremely easy to navigate.
- Mr. Stinea is always trying to gain more knowledge to help his clients. Since becoming the Executive Director, Mr. Stinea has continued his education. In addition to speaking four languages, Mr. Stinea has become a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor, earned a Bachelor Degree in Human Services and Management, a Masters of Science Degree in Mental Health Counseling, and is now a licensed counselor
- Tree of Life has very minimal overhead costs which has helped the agency adapt and survive.

Program Challenges:

- Executive Director shared that he feels a great responsibility with every adoption and knows there is always a risk of things not working out as planned.
- The Executive Director has not taken a salary in ten years.

Changes that have occurred in the last 2 years:

There have been no significant changes over the last two years.

Lawsuits:

None.

Grievances and complaints filed in the last two years:

None.

Corrective Actions and Timeframes: Please submit the following to verify compliance.
This review did not result in any corrective actions.

Recommendations:

The header of each home study references “State Offices to Children and Families.” This should be deleted. The existing reference to the Oregon Department of Human Services is sufficient.

Exceptions:

None.

Changes in License:

None.

Summary of Review					
Program and Services 413-215-0011(2)	Yes	No	N/A	Corrective Actions/Comments	Corrective Action Completed
Program and services are in scope of license	X				
Governance of the Agency 413-215-0021	Yes	No	N/A	Corrective Actions/Comments	Corrective Action Completed
(1)(a) Minimum of 5 board members	X				
(2)(f) Formally evaluate the exec. Director's performance annually	X				
(2)(g) Approves annual budget	X				
(2)(h) Obtain and review an annual independent financial review or audit of financial records.			X		
(2)(k) Written quality improvement program	X				
(2)(l) Meeting minutes	X				
Executive Director or Program Director 413-215-0021	Yes	No	N/A	Corrective Actions/Comments	Corrective Action Completed
(3)(a) knowledge of requirements for providing care and treatment appropriate to programs	X				
(3)(g) Approval from BCU	X				
Contractors (if applicable) 413-215-0061(6)	Yes	No	N/A	Corrective Actions/Comments	Corrective Action Completed
(a) Agency ensures the contractor meets the requirements of this rule and Chapter 413 division 215			X		
(b)(B) Contract includes the following: (i) Services provided (ii) Contractor fees (iii) Disclosure of information from contractor to agency (iv) Lines of authority (v) Adherence to rules, including background check (vi) Any liability of the agency for acts of the contractor, rights of indemnity and limitations on liability			X		

Supplemental Information Provided by CCA	Yes	No	N/A	Corrective Actions/Comments	Corrective Action Completed
Documents as indicated on the form titled "Renewal Licensing Required Documents"	X				
Documents as indicated on form titled "Required Financial Documents and Information"	X				
All required policies and procedures as identified in the "Umbrella Rules"	X				
All required policies and procedures as identified in "Agency Type Specific Rules"	X				
Physical Plant	Yes	No	N/A	Corrective Actions/Comments	Corrective Action Completed
413-215-0051(1) Sufficient safe space, equipment, and office equipment	X				
413-215-0091(12) License is posted in common area at each facility	X				

Personnel Files 413-215-0061	Yes	No	N/A	Corrective Actions/Comments	Corrective Action Completed
Staff Name	X				
Position	X				
(3)(g) Date of Hire	X				
(3)(a) record of education, training and previous employment	X				
(1)(b) & (3)(b) reference checks completed and documented	N/A				
(1)(a) & (3)(c) Background check completed and documented	X				
(3)(d) Annual performance evaluations	X				
(3)(f) Record of personnel actions			X		
(3)(g) Termination date, reason for termination			X		
(3)(h) Current job description (1)(c) Employee meets minimum qualifications stated in current job description	X				
Meets the qualifications in 413-215-0416	X				

New Employee Orientation – Umbrella Requirements (30 days) 413-215-0061(4)	Yes	No	N/A	Corrective Actions/Comments	Corrective Action Completed
(a) Agency policies and procedures			X		
(b) Ethical and professional guidelines			X		
(c) Organizational lines of authority			X		
(d) Attributes of population served			X		
(e) & (5)(a) to (c) Mandatory reporting that includes: (a) legal definition of child abuse ORS 419B.005, Oregon Laws 2016, chapter 106, section 36 (b) legal responsibility to immediately report (c) legal responsibility to report is personal to the employee			X		
(f) Privacy laws			X		
(g) Emergency procedures			X		
Ongoing Training 413-215-0421	Yes	No	N/A	Corrective Actions/Comments	Corrective Action Completed
(2) Social services staff and contracted providers complete 10 hours minimum training on issues related to adoption	X				
(3) Social services staff and those who provide adoption services complete training in all of the following areas:	X				
(3)(a) Potential short and long term effects of prenatal exposure to alcohol, drugs, and poor nutrition	X				
(3)(b) Potential effects of separation and loss	X				
(3)(c) Process of developing emotional ties to an adoptive family	X				
(3)(d) Normal child and adolescent development	X				
(3)(e) Potential effects of physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, and institutionalization on the development of the child	X				
(3)(f) Potential issues of race, culture, and identity; issues of acculturation and assimilation; and if applicable, the effects of having been adopted internationally	X				

(3)(g) Emotional adjustment of adopted children and their families	X				
(3)(h) Open adoption	X				
413-215-0061(5) Mandatory reporting that includes: (a) legal definition of child abuse ORS 419B.005, Oregon Laws 2016, chapter 106, section 36 (b) legal responsibility to immediately report (c) legal responsibility to report is personal to the employee	X				
<i>Intercountry Adoptions</i> 413-215-0476(1)(d) Employees and volunteers are trained about the adoption laws and procedures of sending country.	X				
Comments: The Executive Director is the lone employee and he has been with the agency for over twenty years.					

Adoption Files Compliance	Yes	No	N/A	Corrective Actions/Comments	Corrective Action Completed
413-215-0431(3) Adoption records are permanently retained and stored in a fire-retardant, locked location.	X				
Name of Family	X				
Orientation (before approving of home study) 413-215-0446(2)	Yes	No	N/A	Corrective Actions/Comments	Corrective Action Completed
(a) Adoption program, policies and procedures	X				
(b) Needs and characteristics of children available	X				
(c) Attachment, separation, and loss issues	X				
(d) Importance of cultural and ethnic identity to the child	X				
(e) Effects of adoption on child and family	X				
(f) Adoption process	X				
(g) Rights and responsibilities of adoptive family and agency	X				
(h) Information on potential risks and challenges	X				
(i) Pre-placement, placement, and post-legal adoption services and resources	X				

Training	Yes	No	N/A	Corrective Actions/Comments	Corrective Action Completed
413-215-0451(3)(a) 6 hour minimum pre-adoptive training and education before home study	X				
413-215-0456(1) 10 hours documented orientation and training independent of home study and covers the following:					
(a) Possible short and long term effects of prenatal exposure to alcohol, drugs and poor nutrition	X				
(b) Effects of separation and loss	X				
(c) Process of developing emotional ties to an adoptive family	X				
(d) Normal child and adolescent development	X				
(e) Research on potential effect on child's development from physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, institutionalization, and multiple caregivers	X				
(f) Issues related to race, culture, and identity	X				
(g) Acculturation, assimilation, and if applicable, effects of international adoption	X				
(h) Emotional adjustment of adopted children and their families	X				
(i) Intercountry adoption (if applicable)	X				
(2) Documented reasonable efforts to prepare prospective parents for each child under consideration <i>before</i> the earliest of the following; (a) child is placed (b) travel to child's country for purpose of adoption	X				
(3) Appropriate methods of training used	X				
(4)(a) Agency provided detailed written information on the following subjects:					
(A) Resources for financial support	X				
(B) Medical assistance availability	X				
(C) Support services	X				
(D) Identification of organization or individual who will be involved in proposed placement	X				
(E) Potential ramifications of a failure of birth	X				

Home Study 413-215-0451	Yes	No	N/A	Corrective Actions/Comments	Corrective Action Completed
(1)(a) Individual interviews completed with each household member	X				
(1)(b) Joint interview with couple (if applicable)	X				
(1)(c) On-site evaluation of home and compliance with CF979	X				
(2)Written Home Study includes all of the following:					
(a) Dates and places of interviews	X				
(b) Identity of each child to be considered for placement (if known)	X				
(c) Motivation for adoption	X				
(d) Family's plan for honoring ethnic and cultural heritage	X				
(e) Education or training needs	X				
(f) Need for support services and description of current support system	X				
(g) Life experiences and challenges	X				
(h) Marriage status or relationship	X				
(i) Names and ages of children in home	X				
(j) Names and ages of children not living in the home	X				
(k) Parenting skills and values	X				
(l) Lifestyle	X				
(m) Home and community	X				
(n) Health	X				
(o) Religion or spiritual beliefs	X				
(p) Employment and finances	X				
(q) Safety information and safety issues	X				
(r) Minimum 4 references - not related	X				
(s) Compliance with background check rules	X				
(t) Release of information	X				
(u) Background check from every state lived in for last 5 years	X				
(v) Background check from every country lived in last 5 years	X				
(w) Assessment of all information gathered and recommendations	X				

(x) Signed approval or denial by social services supervisor to use home for adoption	X				
413-215-0461 Pre-placement evaluation			X		
Comments: The orientation and training of adoptive parents is extremely well documented. The home studies are well written.					

Adoption Finalization 413-215-0471	Yes	No	N/A	Corrective Actions/Comments	Corrective Action Completed
(1) Documents required for filing with court are promptly provided to adoptive family or attorney	X				
(2) Agency promptly files all required documents with the court	X				

Records and Documentation 413-215-0071	Yes	No	N/A	Corrective Actions/Comments	Corrective Action Completed
(1) Stored safely	X				
(2) Permanent, legible, dated, and signed	X				
(3)&(4) Uniform in organization, readily identifiable and accessible, current, and complete, containing all required info. No eraser tape or white out.	X				
(7) Permanent registry of each child	X				

Licensing Coordinator's Signature: Tom Heidt

Date: _____

Manager Review: HL Gil

Date: 5-12-2022