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## CIRCULAR

Date.....

Facilitating Adoption of Siblings & their separation for Adoption if it is in their best interest.

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No.....

All Specialised Adoption Agencies (SAAs)

At present the siblings are being placed together for adoption based on the provisions of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and Adoption Regulation, 2017.

2. There is a provision for the PAPs to choose siblings for adoption. However, they are prepared to take only two children and that too if they happen to be in their preferred age group which seldom is possible. It has been observed that it is difficult to place siblings for adoption, especially if they are three or more in number, as the parents are not prepared to take the responsibilities of more than two children. Siblings who are three or more in number have been placed in the 'Immediate Placement' category, being hard to place.

3. In earlier few occasions, where one of the siblings was willing to go in adoption while the other was unwilling, siblings have been placed in adoption after taking approval of the Relaxation Committee of CARA, in the best interest of the child. However, this was only after receipt of request from the PAPs and the SAA. The above is not possible in many of the cases and the siblings continue to remain in the child care institutions/adoption agencies.

4. To ensure facilitation of siblings being placed in adoption, keeping in mind the best interest of the children, the Steering Committee CARA has decided that the decision to separate the siblings be taken on a case to case basis, the prime consideration of keeping the best interests of children shall be kept in mind as per General Principles stipulated in Section 3 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015. 5. Consent of the older children as well as inputs from the agency/CWC may be forwarded to the Authority considering their separation.

6. Certain considerations (not exhaustive) which may merit the separation of siblings are as under:-

- (a) If age difference of the siblings are far apart.
- (b) If one of the siblings is a special needs child.
- (c) If one of the siblings is unwilling to go in adoption.

eepak Kumar

(Dee मुनिस् सि <u>USerretary</u> CARA महिला एवं बाला विकास मंत्रालय (CEO) (CARA) Child Development भारत सरकार/ Government of India <sup>1</sup>, <sup>9</sup>चमी खण्ड–8, विंग–4, प्रथम तल, आर. के. पुरम West Block-8, Wing-4, Ist Floor, R. K. Puram नई दिल्ली/New Delhi-110066

## Copy to:-

- 1. All State Adoption Resource Agencies (SARAs) to ensure compliance and circulation to the Child Welfare Agencies (CWCs) and District Child Protection Unit (DCPUs)
- 2. CW-II, MWCD for information please.