

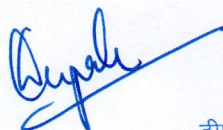
**Central Adoption Resource Authority**  
Ministry of Women & Child Development  
Government of India  
R.K. Puram, New Delhi

**Minutes for the 8th Meeting of the Steering Committee of Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) held on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at 10.30 a.m. in Conference Hall of CARA at West Block - 8, Wing - 4, 1st Floor, R K Puram, New Delhi.**

The 8th Meeting of the Steering Committee of Central Adoption Resource Authority was chaired by Shri Rakesh Srivastava, Secretary, MWCD (Chairperson of Steering Committee of CARA) on 29 Jun 2017 at 10:30 AM in the Conference Hall of CARA at West Block - VIII, Wing - IV, 1st Floor, R.K. Puram, New Delhi.

The Chairperson and following members were present in the Meeting:-

- (a) Shri Rakesh Srivastava, Secretary, Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India - Chairperson (Ex-officio).
- (b) Ms. Aastha Saxena Khatwani, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi - Member (Ex-officio).
- (c) Ms. Meera Ranjan Tshering, Joint Secretary and Finance Advisor, Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi - Member (Ex-officio).



- (d) Shri Lahuraj Mali, Commissioner, Women and Child Development Government of Maharashtra (Representing State Adoption Resource Agency, Maharashtra) - Member
- (e) Ms. Gitashree Adhikari, Karuna WB Women and Children Welfare Society, Howrah, West Bengal (Representing Specialised Adoption Agency) - Member.
- (f) Shri Avinash Kumar, R.K. Puram, New Delhi (Adoptive Parent) - Member.
- (g) Ms. Samiha Grewal, Saket, New Delhi (Adoptee) - Member.
- (h) Smt. Kiran Singh, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh (Advocate) - Member.
- (i) Shri Deepak Kumar, Chief Executive Officer - Member Secretary (Ex-officio) .

2 . At the outset, Chairperson, Steering Committee welcomed all the Members of the Committee and asked CEO and Member Secretary, CARA to present the Action Taken Report of the last Meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2017 and 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 and the Agenda Items of the current meeting.

3 . CEO (CARA) informed about approval of accounts of CARA for the year 2015-16 through circulation by the Steering Committee as it had to be approved again. He informed that previously CARA was an Autonomous Body which became a Statutory Body w.e.f. 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2016 after the enactment of the JJ Act, 2015. Hence as per advice of C&AG, CARA had to split the accounts statements of 2015-16 into

two parts, i.e. from 01 Apr 2015 to 14 Jan 2016 as an autonomous body and from 15 Jan 2016 to 31 Mar 2016 as a Statutory Body. Thus the agenda item was circulated to all members (as 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Steering Committee of CARA through circulation) for approval, due to paucity of time.

4. CEO (CARA) informed that 06 Consultants have been appointed on contract basis and would be joining CARA from 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2017. In addition, 05 more Consultants have been approved by the Ministry. He also informed that the vacancy of the Legal Consultant for CARA would also be advertised soon as suitable candidate couldn't be found for selection in the previous advertisement.

5. Concern about delays in the adoption process at various level, particularly at the judiciary was discussed. Since the time frame for Court Procedure of two months as per Section 61 (2) of the JJ Act, 2015 is not being adhered to in most of the cases, most of the Members were of the view to explore the possibility of taking recourse to Judicial intervention by way of a petition/PIL in the Apex Court with the relevant facts and figures.

6. Commissioner (WCD), Government of Maharashtra informed that if there is a delay on the part of CWC, any person can go for appeal to District Magistrate. CEO (CARA) informed that a letter has already been issued from Ministry to all DMs/DCs in the country and the same is available at CARA website as well.

7. Member representing the SAA suggested if Birth Certificate could be issued on the basis of pre-adoption foster care affidavit to enable the PAPs in

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seeking admission and other benefits for the child being adopted, as there are delays in getting the adoption order from the Court. However, it would have entailed changing the regulation and moreover the Birth Certificates in the name of the adoptive parents can't be issued before the completion of the adoption legally.

8. Chairperson, Steering Committee of CARA directed that the meeting should be held every month and the agenda items should be sent to all members a week before.

**Action Taken Report of the Meeting held on 31st March, 2017 and 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 :**

9. Decisions of the Steering Committee of CARA taken in the meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2017 and 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 were read out and confirmed by the Committee Members.

Ser No	Decisions of Steering Committee Meeting held on 31/03/2017 & 13/04/2017	Action Taken Report
1.	Draft Rules & Regulations of CARA	Draft Rules & Regulations of CARA to be forwarded to Ministry on file without delay.
2.	Draft SOP for setting up Counselling Centre	Was again placed as agenda in the Meeting scheduled on 29 Jun 2017.
3.	Review of CARA	The actions taken so

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		far were informed.
4.	Activities related expanding adoption base through SAA-CCI linkage	The same shall be forwarded to Ministry.
5.	Suggestions given by Mr. Avinash Kumar Member of the Steering Committee	Suggestions from the public can be sought on seeking amendment to the JJ Act 2015 particularly to the adoption related issues through "suggestion box".
6.	Unauthorised intrusion in CARA website	Ministry has already initiated action in this regard. A letter has been written to Secretary MEITY
7.	Details of Regional/State level Orientation Programme conducted by CARA	Information shared. The Members expressed satisfaction about the on-going activities. CEO (CARA) informed that Orientation Programmes on Adoption are being conducted at State Level and Regional level. Sensitization Programmes on Adoption are also being held for Judicial Officers. Secretary (WCD) informed that Hon'ble Justice Madan B Lokur of Supreme

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		Court is also taking keen interest in holding such programmes for Judges in Judicial Academies.
8.	Online system for foster care children.	Discussed and has been again discussed as Item No. in this meeting.
9.	Review of adoption system and role of CARA	This was only for information of the Steering Committee.
10.	Review of manpower and extension of short-term requirement approved earlier.	This was only for information of the Steering Committee.
11.	Information reg. details of Child Line survey	This was only for information of the Steering Committee.
12.	Advisory Committee Meeting	Another Meeting of the Committee may be held in the Ministry.
13.	Restarting quarterly issue of CARA News letter	The quarterly e-newsletter should be bilingual and some of the copies could be printed
14.	Ex-post facto Approval for expenditure of Rs.2,44,810/- towards procurement of Modular furniture for	This was approved. Chairperson directed that the renovation of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor should be completed at the earliest.

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	CARA through Limited Tender process.	
15.	Approval of Budget 2017-18	Information shared to the Steering Committee.
16.	Proposal of setting up Regional Office	Information shared to the Steering Committee.
17.	Ex-post facto approval for the payment of honorarium to the Resource Persons for CARA's Programme on Adoption for Judicial Officers at National Judicial Academy (NJA), Bhopal on 08th & 09th April 2017 as per the prescribed rates of NJA	The same to be moved on file to Ministry.

## Agenda Items and Decisions :

### Administration & Accounts Matters

#### **Item No. 1 : Approval of head wise allocation of BE for the year 2017-18.**

10. *CARA has been allotted budget of Rs. 10.5 Crore for the year 2017-18. A tentative budget for the financial year 2017-18 was earlier prepared in different heads i.e Salary, Non Salary and Plan activities. It was decided by the Steering Committee of CARA in its*

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meeting held on 31-03-2017 and 13-04-2017, that the Budget Proposal of the allocated fund of CARA would be reviewed subsequently as the same was not circulated to the members earlier. However, the same would have been perused by the members by now.

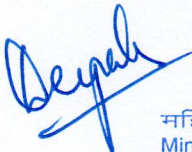
11. As per Section 69 (3) (b) of JJ Act, 2015, the Steering Committee of CARA has to approve the annual budget, annual accounts and audit reports as well as Action Plan and Annual Report of the Authority. Accordingly, the proposed budget for the year 2017-18 was placed at **Annexure A** for approval of the Steering Committee.

**Decision :**

12. After discussion, the head-wise allocation of the Budget Estimate for the year 2017-18 was approved.

**Item No. 2 : Approval of Accounts for the Financial Year 2016-17.**

13. Section 69 (3) (b) of the J. J. Act, 2015 mandates that the Steering Committee of CARA is required to approve the Annual Accounts which shall be produced before the C&AG for audit and subsequent laying before the Parliament. The Financial Statement for the Financial Year 2016-17 has been prepared and was placed at **Annexure B** for approval of Steering Committee. On approval of the same, it will be placed before the C&AG for Audit. The revised Financial Statement for the Financial Year 2015-16, with the accounts being closed as an autonomous body (Central Adoption Resource Agency) and assets & liabilities forwarded to the statutory body (Central Adoption Resource Authority) was approved through circulation and has been submitted for audit of C&AG.



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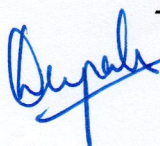
## Decision :

14. The agenda was approved. Further, it was emphasized that the Accounts Officer must pursue to get the sanction of the additional funds required for payment towards gratuity and leave salary (Rs.79.00 lakh as on 31 Mar 2017) without delay. The Committee was of the view that necessary steps should be taken to improve the status of the Balance Sheet (Making provisions for leave salary & gratuity) and Ministry should be requested for additional fund required for this purpose with detailed Liabilities & Shortfall of funds. Action Taken Report should be put up in the next Steering Committee Meeting.

## Item No. 3 : Approval of the SOP for Counselling Centres and request for payment of Arrears of Honorarium to Counsellors for 2016-17.

15. A Counselling Centre at CARA was inaugurated by Ms. Leena Nair, the then Secretary (WCD) & Chairperson of the Authority on 01 Jul 2016. Three counsellors were initially nominated for this purpose, pending empanelment of counsellors through selection. Applications were received for selection of counsellors after it was advertised last year however selection for empanelment wasn't undertaken pending approval of the SOP for Counselling Centres. The Steering Committee vide its meeting held on 31 Mar & 13 Apr 2017 has approved the payment of Honorarium @ Rs. 2,000/- per session for the Counsellors at CARA wef 01 Apr 2017 as proposed in the draft SOP (**Annexure C**).

16. It was further decided in the meeting that the members may submit comments on the draft SOP on Counselling, within a period of seven days, and thereafter CARA may submit the file for approval (Para 11 of the Minutes of the Sixth Steering Committee



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Meeting refers). However, no comments have been received from the members and hence the SOP may be approved by the Steering Committee.

17. Further, the request and appointment for counselling is taken online through CARINGS for both in-person & tele-counselling. Several PAPs have been counselled through this facility. Extension of counselling facilities at the State & District levels through the respective State Governments has been proposed and incorporated in the SOP approved. The same has been circulated to the States.

18. Now, a representation (placed at **Annexure D**) has been received from one of the nominated counsellors, to make the payment of Honorarium wef July 2016, i.e. since the counselling session started at CARA. Decision on the issue may be taken as it would involve an approximate financial implication of Rs two lakhs, which can be paid out of Counselling Centers Sub Head of the BE allocated for FY 2017-18.

### **Decision :**

19. After discussion, the following decision were taken:-

- (a) The Counselling Centre, which started in July 2016 at CARA, should be formalised and the arrears may be paid to all Counsellors @ Rs 2000/- per session as decided in the Sixth Steering Committee Meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2017 and 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2017;
- (b) An advertisement may be released about the counselling service at CARA in the local newspaper and the same should also be advocated through social media;
- (c) The PAPs may be given an e- message on

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- the counselling facility as part of the acknowledgement on registering;
- (d) It was decided to first make the Counselling Centre established at CARA Stable with optimal functioning.
- (e) The SOP may be reviewed to ensure that facilities must be strengthened at Delhi first and then expanded. Since provisioning of counselling facilities for adoption is a statutory obligation, we must have a firm proposal defining the scope of service and its functioning within the existing infrastructure available at the district level, to begin with. The draft may be submitted to the Ministry;
- (f) Circulars may be issued to the SAA/SARA to fix one particular day of the week for the purpose of adoption counselling by the Counsellor of the DCPU located at the district level.

**Item No. 4 : Review of norms for approval posts of consultants and Programme Support Staff.**

20. *Recently Ministry has come out with common guidelines for engagement of consultants in under mentioned categories:-*

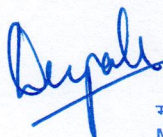
- (a) *Young Professional (remuneration Rs. 30,000 per month)*
- (b) *Junior Consultant (remuneration Rs. 60,000 per month)*
- (c) *Senior Consultant (remuneration Rs. 80,000 per month)*
- (d) *Retired Government Employees: up to 65 year (remuneration limited to last pay drawn minus pension being drawn per month)*

*Deepak*

21. CARA already has Young Professionals employed as Program Support Staff/State Coordinators/Operational Manager (CARINGS) with fixed remuneration of Rs 25000 per month. They are proposed to be hired through outsourcing as is being done for all CARINGS staff. Details are placed as **Annexure E**. It is proposed that their remuneration and eligibility criteria be also aligned with the norms of the Young Professionals given in the Ministry's guidelines. However, age eligibility may be relaxed to upto 35 years.

22. Presently there are 11 Consultants approved and hired on annual contract. They are being paid monthly remuneration of either Rs. 50,000/- or Rs. 40,000/- based on their qualification & experience as laid down in the TsOR. Fresh selection for replacing the six Consultants who are finishing their term on 30 Jun 2017 has been done and they are joining from 03 Jul 2017 as per the existing norms. Suitable candidate for appointment of Consultant (Legal) couldn't be found.

23. Additional five consultants posts have also been approved for an year apart from the continuation of the existing eleven consultant posts for which the TsOR may be aligned with that of the Ministry's guidelines. However, age eligibility for Junior Consultants may be relaxed to upto 45 years in the revised TsOR. Also the unfilled post of Consultant (Legal) may be advertised as per the revised TsOR in line with the Ministry's guidelines. Hence, it is proposed that we have eleven posts of Junior Consultants & five posts of Senior Consultants (if not available these may be filled by candidates meeting the norms of Junior Consultant) as per the latest guidelines of the Ministry except for relaxed age eligibility criteria for the Junior Consultants & Young Professionals. List of proposed eleven Junior & five Senior Consultants posts is placed as **Annexure F**.



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## Decision :

24. In principle it was decided that Sr Consultants, Jr Consultants and the young professionals could be engaged strictly as per the Ministry's guideline. It should be ensured that adequate safeguards in terms of GOI OM'S should be taken by CARA if proposing extension. Further, it was decided to move the proposal in file to Ministry.

### **Item No. 5 : Decision regarding employer's EPF Contribution to contractual and outsourced manpower employed in CARA.**

25. Presently, CARA has four categories of employees - (i) regular staff, (ii) contractual staff (Consultants & against regular vacant posts) and (iii) outsourced staff.

26. For regular staff, EPF contributions from the salaries of the regular employees are deposited with equal share of employer to EPFO. In case of Contractual/outsourced staff, consolidated amount is being paid after deduction of TDS.

27. For the purpose of the EPF, the EPF and Misc. Provision Act does not differentiate between casual, contractual and regular employees (**Annexure G**). The Principal Employer (in our case CARA) should ensure that the contractor is registered with EPFO before awarding any contract which has already been ensured. Payments due to the contractor should be made only after verifying that the statutory EPF payments for the previous month have been made to EPFO for all the staff. As per the said Act, the Principal Employer is liable to deduct EPF contributions in respect of the employees engaged by or through contractors. Hence, it is recommended that EPF must be implemented for all

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*contractual and outsourced staff as being decided for the staff, being contracted by the Ministry in the latest guidelines.*

28. *This social security measure will result in morale boosting exercise of the employees and to arrest their unusual turnover*

**Decision :**

29. Consultants are engaged for a limited purpose on lump sum basis. Their engagements does not invite reference to EPF etc, as they are not employees of CARA.

**Programme Matters**

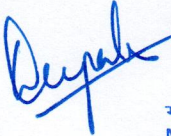
**Item No. 6 : Eligibility Criteria for member of Adoption Advisory Committee.**

30. *Ministry has constituted an advisory committee for promotion of adoption in the country. It has been felt necessary to formulate the eligibility criteria for being nominated as the Chairperson & members of the Advisory Committee. Their role and tasks have been approved in by the Steering Committee (Minutes of the para 47 refers). Draft Eligibility Criteria for the Chairperson & members of the Advisory Committee is placed at **Annexure H** for discussion & approval of the Steering Committee.*

**Decision :**

31. It was decided that the issue should be submitted on file to the Ministry.

**Item No. 7 : Nomination of a Standing Appellate Committee of the Authority under regulation 59**

  
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## **of Adoption Regulations, 2017.**

32. Regulation 59 of Adoption Regulations, 2017 provides for Appeal to the Authority and the sub-regulations are as under:-

(1) Any prospective adoptive parents or child or any person on his behalf, aggrieved due to non-selection for adoption because of the opinion of Specialised Adoption Agency or issues related to eligibility of the prospective adoptive parents or of the child to be adopted or regarding the documentation relating to the prospective adoptive parents or the child, such as, Home Study Report or health status of the prospective adoptive parents, the Child Study Report and Medical Examination Report, may approach the Authority.

(2) The application referred to in sub-regulation (1) shall be made by the aggrieved within seven days from the date of opinion or decision.

**(3) The decision of the Authority shall be taken by a committee constituted by the Chairperson of its Steering Committee.**

(4) The Authority shall take decision on the application within thirty days from the date of receipt of the application and the same shall be communicated to the applicant in writing within three working days of the decision.

(5) The decision of the Authority shall be binding on all concerned.

(6) The Authority may decide, on the merits of

  
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*each case, whether the child concerned can be blocked from further referral to any other prospective adoptive parents for adoption.*

34. *In view of the above Chairperson of the Steering Committee may constitute a standing appellate committee of the authority for taking expeditious decision on each appeal?*

**Decision :**

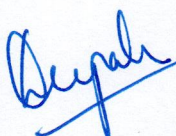
35. Chairperson CARA decided that the Appellate Committee shall consist of JS (ASK), JS & FA and the Legal Member and shall expeditiously dispose of such applications. CEO (CARA) would provide necessary assistance for the same.

**Item No. 8 : Expansion of adoption programme through SAA-CCI linkage.**

36. Linkage between Specialised Adoption Agencies (SAAs) and all the Child Care Institutions (CCIs) has to be established in order to reach every child without parental care. This has been provisioned in Section 48 of the JJ Act, 2015 & regulation 58 of the Adoption Regulations, 2017. So far, 1284 children from 215 CCIs have been linked for their rehabilitation through adoption. Based on the decision of the Steering Committee, CARA had undertaken sample surveys in the States of Bihar, Orissa and Puducherry for expanding adoption base through SAA-CCI linkage based on the data provided by CIF. In this regard, one report has been prepared and it is placed at **Annexure I** for information and further discussion.

**Decision :**

37. The report prepared by CARA shall be

  
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submitted to Ministry.

**Item No. 9 : Strengthening of SARA at state level.**

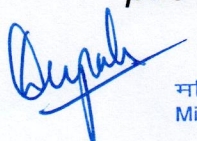
38. Adoption programme is not expanding as envisaged due to non-involvement of States/UTs, despite rigorous efforts having been made by the Ministry and CARA during last few years. It has been noticed that the states have not even recruited the staff as required under ICPS in SARA and DCPUs. As per the JJ Act, 2015 and Adoption Regulations, 2017, both SARA and DCPUs have delegated responsibilities of facilitating each case of adoption and play proactive role in expanding adoption programme in their respective states. However, the support from the State Govt is lacking and the status report is placed at **Annexure J**.

**Decision :**

39. The States should be informed to fill up the vacant positions without delay.

**Item No. 10 : Pre-accreditation in cases of Specialised Adoption Agencies (SAAs) to ensure quality of services in Adoptions.**

40. It is proposed to initiate a pre-accreditation process in cases of Specialised Adoption Agencies (presently 430 SAAs are registered) in order to eliminate non-performing institutions and ensure standardization and quality in the adoption process. As India has ratified 'The Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Inter-country Adoption' in the year 2003 and CARA being the designated Central Authority in the matter of adoptions, is mandated to determine the standard of the adoption agencies as provided under Articles 10 and 11 of the Convention.



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Since Accreditation process is time-consuming (some countries hire quality assurance agencies for accreditation), it is proposed to initiate pre-accreditation process based on standard criteria and in this regard, one self-contained note is placed at **Annexure K** for further discussion and decision of the Steering Committee.

### **Decision :**

41. It was agreed in principle that the quality of services must be reviewed by the respective State Adoption Resource Agencies and they must be asked to enhance the capacity of the adoption agencies. Further, the recognition of the non performing agencies and those unable to function in a professional manner should be revoked as per Adoption Regulations, 2017.

### **Item No. 11: Reconsideration of issue related to Adoption Fee.**

42. Based on the review meeting held on 08 Jun 2017 in CARA's conference hall, chaired by Secretary WCD (Chairperson-CARA), it has been decided to review the earlier proposal of adoption fee decided by the Steering Committee held on 27 Dec 2016 (**Annexure L**). Details pertaining to the Adoption Fees are as mentioned underneath:-

(a) Adoption Regulations, 2017 has been notified and is effective wef 16 Jan 2017. This has been framed by CARA as mandated under Section 68 (c) of the JJ Act 2015. Section 56 (1) of the JJ Act 2015 states that "**Adoption shall be resorted to for ensuring right to family for the orphan, abandoned and surrendered children, as per the provisions of this Act,**

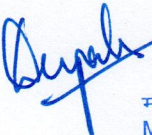
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**the rules made thereunder and the adoption regulations framed by the Authority."**

(b) As per Adoption Regulations, 2017, "adoption fee" means the fee as prescribed by the authority to be received from the prospective adoptive parents directly, in case they are living in India and through Authorised Foreign Adoption Agency or Central Authority or the Government Department, as the case may be, in cases of inter-country adoptions. Regulation 46 (2) states **"The Specialised Adoption Agency and the Authority may receive adoption fee from the prospective adoptive parent and utilise the funds in accordance with the norms prescribed by the Authority from time to time"**. It may be mentioned that in the Adoption Guidelines of 2011 & 2015, the nomenclature of the charges levied from the PAPs was Child Care Corpus (CCC). In the Adoption Regulations, 2017, CCC has been renamed as 'adoption fee'. In the light of the Ministry of Finance OM dated 04 Oct 2016, the Adoption Fees may include the service charges levied by the SAAs as well as CARA.

(c) Further Section 61 (c) of the Act mandates the court to satisfy itself that the adoption does not involve **"any payment or reward in consideration of the adoption, except as permitted under the adoption regulations framed by the Authority towards the adoption fees or service charge or child care corpus"**. Section 61 (1) (c) permits the Authority to revise and fix the adoption fees or service charges or CCC which has to be prescribed by the Authority (CARA) from time to time.

(d) Based on the Ministry of Finance OM dated

  
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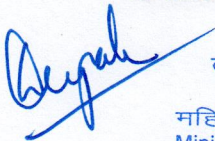
04 Oct 2016 and OM issued by Budget Division of the Ministry dated 27 Oct 2016, proposal for levying of service charges as part of Adoption Fees by CARA was forwarded to the Ministry.

(e) Section 69 of the JJ Act 2015 says that **“the Authority shall have a Steering Committee”**. As per Section 69 (3) (c) of the JJ Act 2015, **“the Steering Committee shall adopt the recruitment rules, service rules, financial rules of Authority as well as the other regulations for the exercise of the administrative and programmatic powers within the organisation, with the prior approval of the Central Government”**. Hence, the Steering Committee of CARA in its meeting held on 27 Dec 2016 had approved the proposed OM for the Adoption Fee. The same is under consideration with the Government.

(g) In the above mentioned proposal, Service Charge (10% of the total adoption fees) to be levied by CARA has been incorporated in the Adoption Fees based on the recommendations of the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, issued vide their OM 26(4)-EMC Cell/2016 dated 04 Oct 2016. Further the term ‘child care corpus’ has been renamed as ‘adoption fee’ in Adoption Regulations, 2017. Further, it has been proposed that the amount generated shall be utilized for plan activities like capacity building, awareness, IT application etc.

43. The proposed Adoption Fees under consideration may be reviewed again by the Steering Committee.

#### Decision :



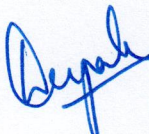
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44. It was agreed that there is no need to increase adoption fee at present. JS (FA) advised that Adoption Fee should not be enhanced as there are many poor PAPs also who are unable to pay the Adoption Fee but are ready to adopt a child. Ms. Gitashree Adhikari, Member informed that the SAA have to incur huge amount on medical treatment/tests of children and the SAA doesn't get adequate funds. Further, CEO (CARA) informed that many SAAs in Maharashtra and other states are not getting grants under ICPS. Chairperson, advised that the matter may be examined by the Ministry and the States can be advised to make the grant available to the SAAs.

**Item No. 12 : Online system for children eligible for being placed in Foster Care and for foster parents' registration.**

45. *Based on the review meeting held on 08 Jun 2017 in CARA's conference hall chaired by Secretary WCD (Chairperson-CARA), it was decided to further move the proposal of online foster care registration in the next Steering Committee. There is a need to introduce online system in view of Rule 44 of the Model JJ Rules, 2016. Rule 44 of the Rules provisions for placing the children in foster care with registered foster parents for those children who are not being adopted after being declared legally free for adoption. As per Rule 44 (1), the following categories of children may be considered for Foster Care:-*

(i) *Children in the age group of 0 to 6 years who are being considered by the Committee as legally free for adoption and those who have been declared legally free for adoption shall not as far as possible be considered for placement in foster care. Such children shall be provided a permanent family through adoption as per*

  
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## *Adoption Regulations.*

*(ii) If adoptable children between the age of 6 to 8 years do not get a family either in in-country adoption or in inter-country adoption within a period of two years after they are declared legally free for adoption by Child Welfare Committee, such children to be eligible to be placed in family foster care or group foster care, as the case may be, by the Committee on the recommendation of Specialised adoption agency or specialised adoption agency.*

*(iii) Children in the age group of 8 to 18 years, who are legally free for adoption but have not been selected by any Prospective Adoptive Parent (PAP) for one year to be eligible to be placed in family foster care or group foster care, as the case may be, by the Committee on the recommendation of Specialised adoption agency or Specialised Adoption Agency.*

*(iv) Children with special needs, irrespective of the age, who do not get a family either in in-country adoption or in inter-country adoption within a period of one year after they are declared legally free for adoption by Child Welfare Committee, such children to be eligible to be placed in family foster care or group foster care, as the case may be, by the Committee on the recommendation of Specialised adoption agency or specialised adoption agency, provided the Home Study Report of the foster family supports their fitness and group setting has facilities for care of such children.*

*(v) Where the child has remained with a foster family for a minimum of five years other*

*Deepak*

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*than in pre-adoption foster care, the foster family may apply for adoption and shall be given preference to adopt the child after the child has been declared legally free for adoption and after registering in Child Adoption Resource Information and Guidance System and according to procedures laid down in Adoption Regulations.*

46. *In view of the above, it is proposed to set up a Committee consisting of at least three members, one each from Ministry, CARA and NIC, to develop online registration system as that of CARINGS. Foster care programme is presently under the CW Section of the Ministry.*

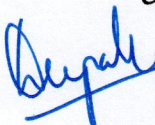
**Decision :**

47. The priority for adoption in case of an older child placed in Foster Care for over five years as per the Foster Care Guidelines of 2016 shall arise only after few years. Hence, it was decided that this issue can be taken up at a later date.

**Item No. 13 : Considering a specific category of children as children having special needs for their early de-institutionalisation.**

48. *As per regulation 48 (1) of the Adoption Regulations 2017, the adoption process for children with special needs shall be completed as expeditiously as possible by the agencies or authorities concerned. These children shall be available for adoption by Resident Indians and Non-Resident Indians from the date they are declared legally free for adoption by the Child Welfare Committee.*

49. *Children having special needs mostly find families abroad. Adoption Regulations, 2017 (Schedule 18) have*

  
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defined certain category of children as having special needs (SN) for their fast-tracking and early placement. Such children are only shown to Indian PAPs for a period of 15 days and there after the children can be placed in inter-country adoption. It has been observed that children having sickle cells, HIV positive turned negative, biological mother carrying HIV virus, Thalassemia traits are normally not accepted by Indian parents, despite being categorised as normal children and they continue to remain in the institutions for long. Thus it is submitted for consideration before the Steering Committee for taking a decision in the light of Regulation 60 of the Adoption Regulations, 2017 which provisions for power to relax and interpretation as under:-

(1) The power of relaxation and grant exception to any provision of these regulations in respect of a case or class of cases shall be vested with the Relaxation Committee of the Authority.

(2) Relaxation Committee of the Authority shall be chaired by the chairperson of Steering Committee of the Authority and two members consisting of its Chief Executive Officer and a member of Steering Committee having experience in law as members.

50. In view of the above and in the best interests of children, the Steering Committee may approve considering children with medical conditions as mentioned at Para 17 above to be included in the Special Needs Category.

### **Decision :**

51. It was decided that for taking a final decision on the above, an opinion be sought from the Ministry of Health.

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**Item No. 14 : Giving Priority in Adoption to Single Woman having stable financial condition.**

52. *Many single women have successfully built their families by adopting children from CARA registered adoption agencies. Many of them have common characteristics. They are highly educated and accomplished professionals. Women who cannot bear children often endure great physical and emotional pain for years to have their 'own' biological children. These single mothers shake many pillars of social conventions and re-define belonging as something that can transcend the human obsession with procreation. Adoption by single mother is increasing by the passing day and those in their forties having stable financial condition may be considered for giving priority in adoption.*

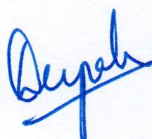
53. *Hon'ble Minister has desired to examine if such class of cases, i.e. single prospective adoptive mothers, can be given some priority under Regulation 60 of the Adoption Regulations, 2017.*

**Decision :**

54. It was decided to consider giving priority of six months antedate seniority to single female PAPs above forty years of age as a class of case for initially for a period of three months. Thereafter, this arrangement may be reviewed again based on the total number of such female PAPs benefitted and the feedback from the stakeholders.

**Item No. 15 : Rewards for promoting the cause of adoption.**

55. *Best interest of children, citizen centric approach*

  
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*enabling PAPs to take informed decision, online registration, referral based on seniority, reservation & matching system, transparency and no scope for offline matching etc. are essential features of the new adoption regime. Each stakeholder has its own defined role and responsibilities. At a time when maximum adoptions are happening outside the formal system and further since the adoption agencies are neither showing keen interest nor taking ownership, it is felt necessary to encourage the stakeholders by rewarding them. This will give a fillip to the cause of adoption and hence it is recommended to institute awards for acknowledging their good work and best practices. Overall assessment can be made on the basis of CARINGS data, timeline followed and other criteria as may be decided.*

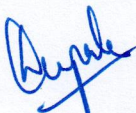
#### **Decision :**

56. It was advised to evolve proper criteria for the same.

#### **Item No. 16 : Agenda with the permission of the Chair**

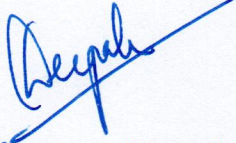
57. It was suggested to appoint a suitable Brand Ambassador for advocating Adoption (such as Ms. Sushmita Sen, Ms. Shilpa Shetty, Ms. Sakshi Tanwar and other famous personalities) for advocacy campaign. It was also advised to contact NFDC to make a film/ documentary on adoption related issues which should be shown in theatres.

58. As November is an Adoption Awareness Month, Secretary (WCD) advised Shri Avinash Kumar to suggest activities to be initiated for celebrating adoption awareness in November 2017. He also advised Shri Avinash Kumar to draft a list of Dos and Don'ts which could be displayed on CARA website.

  
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59. It was also decided to explore the possibility to design a tableau of the Ministry based on Adoption Theme for participating in the Republic Day Parade 2018.

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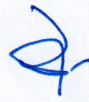
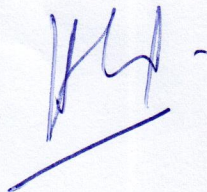


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**Central Adoption Resource Authority**  
Ministry of Women & Child Development,  
Government of India,  
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**Eighth (8th) Meeting of the Steering Committee of Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) held on 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 at 10:30 a.m. in the Conference Hall of CARA at West Block - 8, Wing - 4, 1st Floor, R.K. Puram, New Delhi.**

**ATTENDANCE SHEET**

S.No.	Name & Designation	Position	Signature
1.	<b>Shri Rakesh Srivastava</b> Secretary, Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi	Chairperson (Ex-officio)	 29-6-17
2.	<b>Ms. Aastha Saxena Khatwani</b> Joint Secretary, Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi	Member (Ex-officio)	 29.6.17
3.	<b>Ms. Meera Ranjan Tshering</b> Joint Secretary & Finance Advisor Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi	Member (Ex-officio)	
4.	<b>Shri Lahuraj Mali</b> Commissioner, Women and Child Development, Government of Maharashtra, Pune, Maharashtra (Representing SARA, Maharashtra)	Member	

5.	<b>Smt. Viziendira Boyi</b> Director, Women Development & Child Welfare, Government of Telangana, Hyderabad, Telangana (Representing Sishu Griha, a SAA run by WCD Deptt., Government of Telangana)	Member	
6.	<b>Ms. Gitashree Adhikari</b> Karuna W.B. Women and Children Welfare Society, Howrah, West Bengal (Representing SAA recognized by Government of West Bengal)	Member	Citahua Asinani
7.	<b>Shri Avinash Kumar</b> O-51, Nivedita Kunj, Sector - 10, R.K. Puram, New Delhi (Adoptive Parent)	Member	85
8.	<b>Ms. Samiha Grewal</b> J-231, 1st Floor, Saket, New Delhi (Adoptee)	Member	29/06/2017
9.	<b>Smt. Kiran Singh</b> 201-A, Dell Block, 1/2, Vaibhav Khand, Indira Puram, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh (Advocate)	Member	29/06/2017
10.	<b>Shri Deepak Kumar</b> Chief Executive Officer / Secretary, Central Adoption Resource Authority West Block - 8, R.K. Puram, New Delhi	Member Secretary	Deepak 29 Jun 2017