

## Foster Care & Adoption

### Frequently Asked Questions regarding WACAP's merger with Holt

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1. **What are the factors that led WACAP to make this decision?** We considered several factors as we made the decision to merge with Holt International Children's Services, including the following data and trends: due to a wide array of reasons, international adoptions have declined by almost 80% since 2004. Much of this was due to celebratory factors, including a decline in corruption and increased efforts in areas of family preservation, reunification, and domestic adoption in many countries. Some, however, was in response to unfortunate circumstances, including several countries closing to international adoption, changing family eligibility rules and process guidelines in various countries, as well as increased costs for adoption in response to ever-changing regulatory oversight and the political climate in the United States.

Ultimately, WACAP made the decision to join forces with another organization, in order to more offer services more efficiently, expand our reach, and accomplish our shared mission. Together, WACAP and Holt International Children's Services will continue international adoptions and grow domestic programs as well. Under the Holt umbrella, we can transform the lives of vulnerable children, no matter where they live. ([return to top](#))

2. **Will I be working with the same staff as I have been?** For the vast majority of our families, the answer is 'yes.' Though some families in Oregon or Southern Washington will begin working with different staff in April, our full foster care and adoption team in Western Washington will transition to the Holt organization and continue services without interruption. Those families who will begin to work with a new staff member, your existing WACAP contact will ultimately make introductions and ensure that the transition has no negative impact on your case. ([return to top](#))
3. **Will my fees change again?** No. WACAP recently reduced our fees related to foster care and adoption, and there will be no change to these fees after our merger is complete (estimated March 31, 2019) ([return to top](#))
4. **Should I expect any delays or changes to my case?** You should always expect the unexpected when providing care to a child in the foster care system. However, any delays or changes to your case should not be a result of this merger. We have been working diligently with state officials to ensure this transition is seamless. ([return to top](#))
5. **I recently submitted an application to the Foster Care & Adoption program. What will happen to that application?** Your application will be processed in our Renton offices as usual. Someone from our foster care and adoption team will soon reach out to you to begin the home study and licensing process. ([return to top](#))
6. **I am currently in the home study process. Will I be able to continue?** Absolutely, and we certainly want you to continue. ([return to top](#))
7. **I have completed my home study and am working to obtain my Foster Care License. How will this impact me?** This merge shouldn't impact your licensing process at all. ([return to top](#))
8. **My home study has been submitted for a specific child, or I have been matched with a child for placement. Will this delay placement?** WACAP's merger with Holt should not delay placement at all. Any placements that occur on or before March 31<sup>st</sup> will occur under the WACAP contract with DCYF. On April 1<sup>st</sup>, all placements will be transferred to a Holt contract, managed by the staff you know at WACAP. ([return to top](#))

9. **Given Holt's Christian heritage and mission statement, will my family be welcome in this new organization if I am not Christian?** Yes. We have been in conversation with Holt about this issue since the beginning of our discussions. When Harry and Bertha Holt began services in 1955, their Christian faith was the motivation for their efforts to help children. This motivation remains. However, the Christian faith is never used as a barrier for foster families, adoptive families, employees, or clients of any sort. We want reassure you that all types of families are welcome now and in the future. Holt currently works, and has previously worked, with LGBTQ families, cohabitating couples, and families of differing religious or faith backgrounds. ([return to top](#))
  
10. **Who should I contact if I have already finalized my adoption and need support?** We hope you will contact us! As we continue to design our strategy to offer support to adoptees and families, we are working to implement a trauma-informed approach and plan to offer various avenues to help all members of the adoption triad. Regardless of the specific services that are ultimately identified, we hope that you will call us when you are in need. As we join the Holt organization, families will now have access to a broader network of post adoption professionals and services. ([return to top](#))
  
11. **What will happen to my file once the merger is complete?** We will maintain all files for foster care & adoption from foster care here in our Renton offices and will be available for questions as they arise. ([return to top](#))
  
12. **What is the best way to reach out to WACAP if I need information or assistance in the future?** We advise families to check the Holt website: [www.holtinternational.org](http://www.holtinternational.org) where you can find the most up-to-date contact information. You will continue to find program-specific information at [www.wacap.org](http://www.wacap.org) for the foreseeable future. ([return to top](#))