

JANUARY 27, 2015

## TAX TIME

### Federal Tax Benefits for Foster, Adoptive and Kinship Caregivers

[2013 FEDERAL TAX GUIDE](#) (The 2013 Federal Tax Guide is available to view for free through the National Foster Parent Association [website](#). You must be a paid member of NFPA to view the 2014 Tax Year information.)

### IRS - Publication 501

[EXEMPTIONS, STANDARD DEDUCTION, AND FILING INFORMATION \(2014 RETURNS\)](#)

### Tax Issues Related to Adoption and Adoption Assistance

Adoptive parents often ask whether adoption assistance (adoption subsidy) payments are taxable. Many also wonder about claiming their child as a dependent and using the child tax credit. The North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC) reviewed related IRS publications, and they offer their interpretation of these issues. [VIEW FACTSHEET](#)

### Claiming the Federal Adoption Tax Credit

For adoptions finalized in 2014, there is a federal adoption tax credit of up to \$13,190 per child. The 2014 adoption tax credit is NOT a refundable credit, which means taxpayers can only get the credit refunded if they have federal income tax liability. The credit is paid one time for each adopted child, and should be claimed when taxpayers file taxes for 2014 (typically in early 2015). [MORE INFORMATION](#)

### Adoption Taxpayer Identification Number

An ATIN is an Adoption Taxpayer Identification Number issued by the Internal Revenue Service as a temporary taxpayer identification number for the child in a domestic adoption where the adopting taxpayers do not have and/or are unable to obtain the child's Social Security Number (SSN). The ATIN is to be used by the adopting taxpayers on their Federal Income Tax return to identify the child while final domestic adoption is pending. [MORE INFORMATION](#)

## UPCOMING IFAPA CLASSES

### FORT DODGE

#### Law and Order: Foster Care

Saturday, Feb. 7 (9am-12:15pm)

#### CPR & First Aid

Saturday, Feb. 7 (1:15pm-5:30pm)  
(COST: \$40 per person / [REGISTER HERE](#))

### COUNCIL BLUFFS

#### Doctors Speak a Foreign Language

Saturday, Feb. 14 (9am-12:15pm)

#### Is Mental Health Puzzling You?

Saturday, Feb. 14 (1:15pm-5:30pm)

### CEDAR RAPIDS

#### Putting the Myths and Misunderstandings on Sleep Disorders to Bed

Saturday, Feb. 14 (9am-4:30pm)

TO REGISTER FOR A CLASS,  
CALL 800-277-8145 OR [REGISTER ONLINE](#)

## FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID NOW AVAILABLE

January 1 marks the availability of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the 2015-16 academic year. The FAFSA is a standardized application used to determine eligibility for federal grants, loans and work-study funds from the federal government. In addition, many colleges and states, including Iowa, use FAFSA information when determining eligibility for institutional and state financial aid programs.

[FIND APPLICATION](#) | [OTHER RESOURCES](#)



## Will You Be Madisen's FOREVER FAMILY?

Madisen (age 12) is a funny, helpful girl who has been blossoming this past year. She enjoys animals, coloring, board games, singing, and reading books. She loves experiencing new things, and looks forward to outdoor adventures with her future family, especially parks, drawing with sidewalk chalk, and waterslides! Most importantly, Madisen hopes for a family who thinks she is a special person, will love her and be her support system forever.

A two-parent or a single female parent household with consistent structure and routine would be ideal for Madisen. It would also be best if Madisen were the youngest or only child in the household, as she gets along best with older children she can look up to. Currently, Madisen's DHS worker will consider families residing in Iowa and states bordering Iowa in order to maintain relationships with her relatives.

**Madisen is a little girl who hasn't had many chances in her short life.** She deserves a loving family who will accept her as their own—a family who will stand by her forever. Will you be Madisen's forever family? [LEARN MORE](#)

# Please don't say "ALL KIDS DO THAT" to adoptive and foster families...

Written By: Shannon Dingle

Children cry. Children have meltdowns. Children sometimes push or shove or hit. Kids act out from time to time. Some kids shut down when disciplined or even simply when an adult talks directly to them at all. I could go on, but you get the picture. Many behaviors or responses are common for kids.

But behavior is always a form of communication. Who we are, where we've been, and what we want others to know all direct our responses. While all children act out or shut down or lose tempers or cry from time to time, what each one is communicating with that behavior might be different.

While all children display certain behaviors, not all children have lost their parents to death or abandonment or addiction or disease. Not all children have been uprooted from the home or country or familiar voices in the womb to live out the rest of their days in a different home and maybe a different country and with a different mother. Not all children have witnessed or experienced abuse or neglect or malnutrition. Not all kids have permanent structural changes to their brains due to early childhood trauma. Not all kids have learned that adults aren't always trustworthy, home isn't always safe, and family isn't always forever. [CONTINUE READING](#)

## Spring Conference

Friday & Saturday - March 6 & 7, 2015 | Adventureland Inn - Altoona

### Friday Workshop Spotlight

#### **C6 - You Can't Push My Buttons Anymore: Resolving Your Own Trauma So You Can Effectively Parent Traumatized Children**

All of us carry unresolved trauma from childhood into our adult lives. Often we don't realize it still impacts us until we discover our kids can push our buttons like never before. In this class we look at the parts of the brain and how memories are formed. We will also explore how unresolved trauma negatively affects our responses and how to respond in positive ways. **This workshop is approved for Social Work CEUs and will be taught by Jolene Philo.**

[VIEW CONFERENCE BROCHURE](#) | [REGISTER ONLINE](#)

**Registration deadline is Tuesday, February 17, 2015**