



## Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997

- ASFA amended existing laws on adoption to put more emphasis on continuity of care and preservation of families.
- The purpose of ASFA is to promote permanency and stability for children in the child welfare system.

### Goals of ASFA

- Promote the safety of children first and foremost.
  - Health and safety are paramount and must be included in case plan
  - Requires criminal history background checks on all prospective foster and adoptive parents—amended by Adam Walsh act of 2016
- Decrease the time it takes to achieve permanency for children
  - Requires permanency planning hearings at 12 months of out of home care
  - Sets timeframes to file termination of parental rights and compelling reasons established to permit TPR sooner
- Promote adoption & other permanency options
  - Established the adoption support program
  - Requires concurrent planning
- Enhance state capacity and accountability for both safety and permanency
  - Created standards of quality services that if not done, states are ineligible for federal funding
  - Created adoption incentive bonus' to states
  - Required notice to caregivers to be heard at court hearings.
- To Achieve:
  - Children returned home in 12 months
  - Children achieving permanency within 2 years of out of home care
  - Removing foster care drift