



**ADOPTIONS SPECIALIST
EXAM CODE: 8BP15
CLASS CODE: 9423**

Department: DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
Final Filing Date: CONTINUOUS FILING
Exam Type: DEPARTMENTAL OPEN
Salary: MONTHLY SALARY RANGE - \$4,562.00 - \$6,558.00
Location: Statewide

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The State of California is an equal opportunity employer to all, regardless of age, ancestry, color, disability (mental and physical), exercising the right to family care and medical leave, gender, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, marital status, medical condition, military or veteran status, national origin, political affiliation, race, religious creed, sex (includes pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding and related medical conditions(s), and sexual orientation.

DRUG FREE STATEMENT

It is an objective of the State of California to achieve a drug free state work place. Any applicant for state employment will be expected to behave in accordance with this objective because the use of illegal drugs is inconsistent with the law of the state, the rules governing civil service and the special trust place in public servants.

WHO SHOULD APPLY

This is an OPEN examination for the California Department of Social Services. Anyone who meets the minimum qualifications as stated on this examination bulletin may apply. Applications will not be accepted on a promotional basis. Career Credits do not apply. Once you have taken the examination, you may not reapply for twelve (12) months.

FILING INSTRUCTIONS

Applicants must submit both the [State Examination/Employment Application \(Std. 678\)](#), unofficial college transcripts, and Qualifications Assessment found at the end of this examination bulletin, by mail or in person to:

FILE BY MAIL:

California Department of Social Services
Examination Unit
P.O. Box 944243, MS 8-15-58
Sacramento, CA 94244-2430

FILE IN PERSON:

California Department of Social Services
Attention: Examination Unit
744 P Street, OB 8, 15th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM-5:00 PM

NOTE: Only applications with the original signature will be accepted. Facsimile (FAX) or e-mailed applications will not be accepted under any circumstances.

SPECIAL TESTING ARRANGEMENTS

If you require special testing arrangements due to a verified disability, medical condition or religious accommodation, you will be able to request a reasonable accommodation during the exam filing process. Please mark the appropriate box for Question 2 on the State Examination/Employment Application (Std. 678). You will be contacted to make specific arrangements.

ELIGIBLE LIST INFORMATION

An eligible list will be established for use by the California Department of Social Services. The names of successful competitors will be merged onto the eligible list in order of final scores regardless of test date. Eligibility expires twelve (12) months after it is established, unless the needs of the service and conditions of the list(s) warrant a change in this period. Competitors must then retake the examination to re-establish eligibility.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMITTANCE TO THE EXAMINATION

All applicants must meet the experience and/or education requirements for this examination at the time the application is submitted. Your signature on the application indicates that you read, understood, and possess the minimum qualifications required.

Applications must include: "to" and "from" dates (month/day/year), time base, hours per week, civil service or private sector titles, and the duties performed. Applications without this information may be rejected from this examination. If using education to qualify, applicant must include copies of transcripts and/or copy of required degree. College course information must include title, number of semester or quarter units, name of institution, completion dates, and degree (if applicable).

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Completion of an approved two-year graduate curriculum in social work (**Master's Degree in Social Work**). Candidates enrolled in the final semester or quarter of graduate work will be admitted to the examination but will not be appointed until the degree has been conferred.

NOTE: Applicants must submit a copy of their unofficial college transcripts along with the application when using education to meet the entrance requirements for this examination.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

This is the entry, training, and full journey level in the series. At the entry and training level, under close supervision and review, incumbents will perform the more routine adoption investigations and studies, and make decisions on recommendations to the courts in compliance with Federal and State laws, regulations, and policies. Under general supervision, incumbents at the full journey level will perform independently all aspects of adoption investigations, studies, and evaluations and make decisions on recommendations to the courts in compliance with Federal and State laws, regulations, and policies. Incumbents will perform the more difficult adoptions casework tasks, such as set-aside investigations and reclaim cases; work independently with county welfare departments, public and private social services and adoption agencies, public and private attorneys, judges, and other representatives of the court system; serve as lead over a small group of Adoptions Specialists; or serve as a project team leader.

EXAMINATION INFORMATION

Qualifications Assessment Application – Weighted 100%

The examination will consist of a Qualifications Assessment weighted 100%. Candidates must attain an overall minimum score of 70% to be placed on the eligible list. The questionnaire is designed to elicit specific information regarding each candidate's education and experience relative to the testing classification. Responses to the questionnaire will be assessed based on pre-determined rating criteria. **CANDIDATES WHO DO NOT COMPLETE OR SUBMIT THE QUALIFICATIONS ASSESSMENT MAY BE DISQUALIFIED.**

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES

A. Knowledge of:

1. Provisions of State and Federal rules, regulations, and laws relating to adoptions in California.
2. Principles, practices, and techniques used in the administration of adoptions programs, casework theory and practice, child psychology and principles of individual and group behavior, family relationships, and the effect of separation on children and parents.
3. Child welfare casework objectives.
4. Socioeconomic factors which promote stable family security.
5. Casework techniques in working with special needs children who experience adverse parental background, including a history of incest and other sexual abuse, a history of mental or physical illness within the family, or severe neglect or mental or physical abuse by the birth parent(s).
6. Developmental effects upon children exposed to nontraditional lifestyles.
7. Reclaim procedures.
8. Set-aside petition investigations and reports.
9. The group home study process.
10. Crisis intervention techniques in the provision of post adoption services and cases in which a potential disruption requires immediate attention.
11. State and Federal rules, regulations, and laws as they apply to contested termination of parental rights.

B. Skill in:

1. Applying the principles and techniques of social casework.
2. Effectively and efficiently providing casework services to children with special needs.
3. Working independently with local county welfare departments in assessing the adoption potential of children within the child welfare system.
4. Developing and maintaining effective interpersonal relationships while working with county welfare departments, other public and private social services and adoption agencies, public and private attorneys, judges, and other representatives of the court system.
5. Conducting orientation meetings with the public.

C. Ability to:

1. Interpret provisions of the State and Federal rules, regulations, and laws pertaining to adoption programs.

2. Utilize community resources effectively.
3. Analyze problems arising out of the operation of adoptions programs.
4. Reach practical and logical conclusions.
5. Secure accurate social data, record such data systematically, and communicate effectively.
6. Analyze situations accurately and take effective action.
7. Utilize and apply effectively the required technical knowledge.
8. Act independently.
9. Monitor, review, and manage cases of increasing difficulty and protracted legal involvement.
10. Act in a professional manner and represent the Department of Social Services in meetings with other adoptions and child welfare professionals.
11. Articulate casework practice and policy during conferences and legal hearings.

VETERANS' PREFERENCE AND CAREER CREDITS

Veterans' Preference and Career Credits will not be granted for this examination.

SPECIAL PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

Demonstrated capacity for assuming progressively greater responsibility as evidenced by recent employment history and interest in self-development; willingness to travel and to work irregular hours; neat personal appearance; adaptability; tact; good judgment and emotional stability.

CLASSIFICATION SPECIFICATION

Please click on the link below to review the official California Department of Human Resources (CalHR) classification specification.

[ADOPTIONS SPECIALIST](#)

CONTACT INFORMATION

California Department of Social Services
Attention: Examinations Unit
P.O. Box 944243, MS 8-15-58
Sacramento, CA 94244-2430
examinations@dss.ca.gov

California Relay Service for the Deaf or Hearing Impaired from TDD phones call 1-800-735-2929 or from voice phones call 1-800-745-2922.

GENERAL INFORMATION

If you meet the requirements stated on this bulletin, you may take this examination, which is competitive. Possession of the entrance requirement does not assure a place on the eligible list. Your performance in the examination will be compared with the performance of the others who take this test, and all candidates who pass will be ranked according to their scores.

It is the candidate's responsibility to contact the CDSS Examinations Unit at examinations@dss.ca.gov within three weeks after submitting an application if he/she has not received a progress notice.

The Department of Social Services reserves the right to revise the examination plan to better meet the needs of the service, if the circumstances under which this examination was planned change. Such revision will be in accordance with civil service laws and rules and all competitors will be notified.

Applications are available at the CalHR's website at [State Examination/Employment Application \(Std. 678\)](#), Employment Development Department offices and the California Department of Social Services.

Americans with Disabilities Act, Title II: The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) is committed to a strong policy of equal employment opportunity. To this end, CDSS does not discriminate against or exclude any person from participating in the employment process, advancement, benefits of employment, or in the admission and access to programs or activities administered by CDSS on the basis of: race; color; national origin; ancestry; religion; creed; sex; marital status; sexual orientation; pregnancy; age; veteran status; political affiliation; or disability (including AIDS) as required by Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities will be made available upon request.

Candidates needing special testing arrangement due to a disability must mark the appropriate option on the application and/or contact the testing department.

Criminal Record Clearance Information: Some positions within various divisions of the California Department of Social Services are subject to fingerprinting and criminal records check requirements. This check will be completed by the Department of Justice. Applicants will be notified during the hiring process if the position is affected by the criminal records clearance procedure. Criminal record clearance is a condition of employment in positions affected by this procedure.

General Qualifications: Candidates must possess essential personal qualifications including integrity, initiative, dependability, good judgment, and ability to work cooperatively with others; and a state of health consistent with the ability to perform the assigned duties of the class. A medical examination may be required. In open examinations, investigation may be made of employment records and personal history and fingerprinting may be required.

Eligible Lists: Eligible lists established by competitive examination, regardless of date, must be used in the following order: 1) sub-divisional promotional, 2) departmental promotional, 3) multi-departmental promotional, 4) service-wide promotional, 5) departmental open, 6) open. When there are two lists of the same kind, the older must be used first. Eligible lists will expire in one to four years unless otherwise stated on the bulletin.

TAKING THE EXAMINATION

Please take the Qualifications Assessment examination on the following page. Once completed, print, sign and mail it to the address stated in the Filing Instructions section above along with the completed and signed State Application STD. 678. Both documents must be submitted in order to be considered. After receipt of the completed examination, it will be scored and a notification of results letter will be mailed within approximately three weeks.

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES BRANCH
QUALIFICATIONS ASSESSMENT**

ADOPTIONS SPECIALIST

This examination will provide you with an opportunity to demonstrate significant aspects of your qualifications for the ADOPTIONS SPECIALIST classification, with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). The information you provide will be rated based on objective criteria created by Subject Matter Experts. The rating will be used to determine your final score in this examination. If successful, your name will be placed on an eligible list for the classification listed above. The list will be used by CDSS locations/facilities statewide to fill existing vacancies. A "Conditions of Employment" form is included in this examination which will allow you to select the location and time bases you are interested in working. It is **required** that you **personally complete** this examination accurately and without assistance.

You will be evaluated based on your ability to follow directions and read, interpret, and respond appropriately to the questions in this Qualifications Assessment. Candidates who fail to follow the instructions will be eliminated from this examination.

THIS AFFIRMATION MUST BE COMPLETED

I hereby certify that the information provided on this Qualifications Assessment Questionnaire is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and contains no willful misrepresentations or falsifications. I also understand that if it is later discovered that I have made any false representations, I may be removed from the examination and/or the eligible list resulting from this examination, have adverse action taken against me which could result in loss of State employment, and/or suffer loss of right to compete in any future State examinations.

Name (Printed): _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

Home/Work Telephone Number: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Your completed Qualifications Assessment must include your original signature. Print and keep a copy of the completed Qualification Assessment for your records. Applicants must submit the [State Examination/Employment Application \(STD. 678\)](#), Qualifications Assessment and unofficial transcripts by mail or in person to:

FILE BY MAIL:

California Department of Social Services
Examination Unit
P.O. Box 944243, MS 8-15-58
Sacramento, CA 94244-2430

FILE IN PERSON:

California Department of Social Services
Attention: Examination Unit
744 P Street, OB 8, 15th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM-5:00 PM

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT:

If you are successful in this examination(s), your name will be placed on an active employment list and referred to fill vacancies according to the conditions you specify on this form. Therefore, before you mark this form, there are some things you should consider. If you are not planning to relocate or are not willing to travel to a distant job location, do not select locations that are a long way from your residence.

LOCATION(S) YOU ARE WILLING TO WORK

PLEASE MARK THE APPROPRIATE BOX(ES) OF YOUR CHOICE. YOU MAY BE OFFERED A JOB ONLY IN LOCATIONS THAT YOU MARK.

ANYWHERE IN THE STATE – *If this box is marked, no further selection is necessary*

ALAMEDA County

HUMBOLDT County

BUTTE County

LOS ANGELES County

FRESNO County

SACRAMENTO County

TYPE OF APPOINTMENT YOU WILL ACCEPT

PLEASE MARK THE APPROPRIATE BOX(ES) OF YOUR CHOICE.

(D) Permanent Full-Time

(K) Limited-Term Full-Time

(V) Permanent Part-Time

(W) Limited-Term Part-Time

(T) Permanent Intermittent

(X) Limited-Term Intermittent

GENERAL EXAMINATION INSTRUCTIONS:

This process is the entire examination for the ADOPTIONS SPECIALIST classification. Therefore, please be sure to follow the instructions carefully as missing or incomplete information may result in disqualification or a lower score for this examination.

YOUR RESPONSES ARE SUBJECT TO VERIFICATION

Please keep in mind that all information provided on this Qualifications Assessment will be subject to verification at any time during the examination process, hiring process and even after gaining employment. Anyone who misrepresents his/her experience will be subject to adverse consequences, which could include the following action(s):

- Removal from the examination process
- Removal from the eligible list
- Loss of State employment
- Loss of rights to compete in any future State examinations

EXAMINATION INSTRUCTIONS:

This examination is intended to provide candidates the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and experience in a variety of areas. It is not expected that you will have experience in all areas.

Using the rating scale(s) below, you will self-rate your knowledge and experience performing specific job-related actions.

Respond to each of the following statements by indicating how the statement applies to you. You are required to respond to every statement by marking one option for each of the 2 scales provided.

In responding to each statement, you may refer to your FORMAL EDUCATION, FORMAL TRAINING COURSES, and/or WORK EXPERIENCE whether paid or unpaid.

SCALE #1 - KNOWLEDGE RELATED TO PERFORMING THIS ACTION:

Extensive Knowledge

I possess an expert knowledge level to the extent that I have effectively performed tasks related to this knowledge in the most difficult and complex situations **and** I have instructed others on specific aspects of this knowledge.

Moderate Knowledge

I possess an advanced knowledge level to the extent that I could effectively perform this task under the majority of circumstances or situations encountered.

Basic Knowledge

I possess a sufficient knowledge level that would allow me to perform this task successfully in routine situations.

Limited Knowledge

I have some knowledge of how to perform this task, but I may require additional instruction to apply my knowledge effectively.

No Knowledge

I have no knowledge of how to perform this task or what it may entail.

SCALE #2 - EXPERIENCE RELATED TO PERFORMING THIS ACTION:

Extensive Experience

I have more than 3 years of experience in performing this action.

Moderate Experience

I have more than 2 years, but less than 3 years of experience in performing this action.

Basic Experience

I have more than 1 year, but less than 2 years of experience in performing this action.

Limited Experience

I have less than 1 year of experience in performing this action.

No Experience

I have never performed this action.

1. Perform routine adoption investigations.

Knowledge related to performing this action

- Extensive Knowledge
- Moderate Knowledge
- Basic Knowledge
- Limited Knowledge
- No Knowledge

Experience related to performing this action

- Extensive Experience
- Moderate Experience
- Basic Experience
- Limited Experience
- No Experience

2. Prepare full, factual reports to the court.

Knowledge related to performing this action

- Extensive Knowledge
- Moderate Knowledge
- Basic Knowledge
- Limited Knowledge
- No Knowledge

Experience related to performing this action

- Extensive Experience
- Moderate Experience
- Basic Experience
- Limited Experience
- No Experience

3. Prepare adoption assessment.

Knowledge related to performing this action

- Extensive Knowledge
- Moderate Knowledge
- Basic Knowledge
- Limited Knowledge
- No Knowledge

Experience related to performing this action

- Extensive Experience
- Moderate Experience
- Basic Experience
- Limited Experience
- No Experience

4. Conduct set-aside investigations and reclaim cases.

Knowledge related to performing this action

- Extensive Knowledge
- Moderate Knowledge
- Basic Knowledge
- Limited Knowledge
- No Knowledge

Experience related to performing this action

- Extensive Experience
- Moderate Experience
- Basic Experience
- Limited Experience
- No Experience

5. Collaborate with county welfare departments, public and private social services and adoption agencies.

Knowledge related to performing this action

- Extensive Knowledge
- Moderate Knowledge
- Basic Knowledge
- Limited Knowledge
- No Knowledge

Experience related to performing this action

- Extensive Experience
- Moderate Experience
- Basic Experience
- Limited Experience
- No Experience

6. Communicate with public and private attorneys and other representatives of the court system.

Knowledge related to performing this action

- Extensive Knowledge
- Moderate Knowledge
- Basic Knowledge
- Limited Knowledge
- No Knowledge

Experience related to performing this action

- Extensive Experience
- Moderate Experience
- Basic Experience
- Limited Experience
- No Experience

7. Serve as lead over a small group.

Knowledge related to performing this action

- Extensive Knowledge
- Moderate Knowledge
- Basic Knowledge
- Limited Knowledge
- No Knowledge

Experience related to performing this action

- Extensive Experience
- Moderate Experience
- Basic Experience
- Limited Experience
- No Experience

8. Conduct investigations for independent adoptions.

Knowledge related to performing this action

- Extensive Knowledge
- Moderate Knowledge
- Basic Knowledge
- Limited Knowledge
- No Knowledge

Experience related to performing this action

- Extensive Experience
- Moderate Experience
- Basic Experience
- Limited Experience
- No Experience

9. Interview clients individually, in families, or in groups.

Knowledge related to performing this action

- Extensive Knowledge
- Moderate Knowledge
- Basic Knowledge
- Limited Knowledge
- No Knowledge

Experience related to performing this action

- Extensive Experience
- Moderate Experience
- Basic Experience
- Limited Experience
- No Experience

10. Provide casework services.

Knowledge related to performing this action

- Extensive Knowledge
- Moderate Knowledge
- Basic Knowledge
- Limited Knowledge
- No Knowledge

Experience related to performing this action

- Extensive Experience
- Moderate Experience
- Basic Experience
- Limited Experience
- No Experience

11. Engage with and support children.

Knowledge related to performing this action

- Extensive Knowledge
- Moderate Knowledge
- Basic Knowledge
- Limited Knowledge
- No Knowledge

Experience related to performing this action

- Extensive Experience
- Moderate Experience
- Basic Experience
- Limited Experience
- No Experience

12. Provide general educational activities and resources to families.

Knowledge related to performing this action

- Extensive Knowledge
- Moderate Knowledge
- Basic Knowledge
- Limited Knowledge
- No Knowledge

Experience related to performing this action

- Extensive Experience
- Moderate Experience
- Basic Experience
- Limited Experience
- No Experience

13. Provide supervision of adoptive homes.

Knowledge related to performing this action

- Extensive Knowledge
- Moderate Knowledge
- Basic Knowledge
- Limited Knowledge
- No Knowledge

Experience related to performing this action

- Extensive Experience
- Moderate Experience
- Basic Experience
- Limited Experience
- No Experience

14. Participate in Resource Family matching events and activities.

Knowledge related to performing this action

- Extensive Knowledge
- Moderate Knowledge
- Basic Knowledge
- Limited Knowledge
- No Knowledge

Experience related to performing this action

- Extensive Experience
- Moderate Experience
- Basic Experience
- Limited Experience
- No Experience

15. Conduct preplacement assessments of potential adoptive families.

Knowledge related to performing this action

- Extensive Knowledge
- Moderate Knowledge
- Basic Knowledge
- Limited Knowledge
- No Knowledge

Experience related to performing this action

- Extensive Experience
- Moderate Experience
- Basic Experience
- Limited Experience
- No Experience

16. Provide consultative services to other public and private social service agencies.

Knowledge related to performing this action

- Extensive Knowledge
- Moderate Knowledge
- Basic Knowledge
- Limited Knowledge
- No Knowledge

Experience related to performing this action

- Extensive Experience
- Moderate Experience
- Basic Experience
- Limited Experience
- No Experience

17. Interpret child welfare and adoption codes/regulations.

Knowledge related to performing this action

- Extensive Knowledge
- Moderate Knowledge
- Basic Knowledge
- Limited Knowledge
- No Knowledge

Experience related to performing this action

- Extensive Experience
- Moderate Experience
- Basic Experience
- Limited Experience
- No Experience

18. Conduct family assessments.

Knowledge related to performing this action

- Extensive Knowledge
- Moderate Knowledge
- Basic Knowledge
- Limited Knowledge
- No Knowledge

Experience related to performing this action

- Extensive Experience
- Moderate Experience
- Basic Experience
- Limited Experience
- No Experience

19. Document case work.

Knowledge related to performing this action

- Extensive Knowledge
- Moderate Knowledge
- Basic Knowledge
- Limited Knowledge
- No Knowledge

Experience related to performing this action

- Extensive Experience
- Moderate Experience
- Basic Experience
- Limited Experience
- No Experience

20. Operate various office machines/equipment to complete assigned duties.

Knowledge related to performing this action

- Extensive Knowledge
- Moderate Knowledge
- Basic Knowledge
- Limited Knowledge
- No Knowledge

Experience related to performing this action

- Extensive Experience
- Moderate Experience
- Basic Experience
- Limited Experience
- No Experience

**THIS CONCLUDES THE QUALIFICATIONS ASSESSMENT FOR THE
ADOPTION SPECIALIST**

Please refer to first page for filing/mailling instructions.