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AP
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ADMINISTRATIVE
HEARINGS

STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

THOMAS and TAMARA HARRINGTON,

Petitioner,

CASE NO. 00-4825
RENDITION NO. DCF-01-125-PO
(Licensure Denied)

v.

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND
FAMILY SERVICES,
(DISTRICT 4)

FILED

Respondent.

JUL 25 2001

DCF Department Clerk

**FINAL ORDER ADOPTING RECOMMENDED ORDER AND GRANTING REQUEST
TO BE QUALIFIED AS PROSPECTIVE ADOPTIVE PARENTS**

THIS CAUSE is before me as the result of the attached Recommended Order that was issued by an Administrative Law Judge who had been assigned to hear the case by the Division of Administrative Hearings. I agree that the petitioners are qualified to serve as adoptive parents. I disagree, however, with the inference created in paragraph 10 of the Recommended Order regarding whether one is ever "entitled" to such a designation.

The Recommended Order is attached to an incorporated herein by reference. Except as noted, I adopt its findings of fact and conclusions of law.

It is hereby ORDERED that the petitioner's request is granted in Case No. 00-4825.

DONE and ORDERED on this 17th day of July, 2001 in
Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida.

Kathleen A. Kearney
KATHLEEN A. KEARNEY, Secretary
Department of Children and Family Services

Copies of this Final Order are being furnished to:

Robin Whipple-Hunter
District 4 Legal Counsel
Department of Children and Family Services
P.O. Box 2417
Jacksonville, FL 32231-0083


Keith G. Andrews, Esquire
337 East Bay Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

A party who is adversely affected by this final order is entitled to judicial review. To initiate judicial review, the party seeking it must file one copy of a "Notice of Appeal" with the Agency Clerk. The party seeking judicial review must also file another copy of the "Notice of Appeal," accompanied by the filing fee required by law, with the First District Court of Appeal in Tallahassee, Florida, or with the District Court of Appeal in the district where the party resides. The Notices must be filed within thirty (30) days of the rendition of this final order.¹

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true copy of the foregoing FINAL ORDER has been sent by U.S. Mail or hand delivery to each of the persons named above on this 25th day of July, 2001.


Virginia Daire, Agency Clerk
Department of Children and Family Services
1317 Winewood Blvd. Bldg. 2, Room 202B
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0700
(850) 488-2381

¹The date of the "rendition" of this Final Order is the date that is stamped on its first page. The Notices of Appeal must be received on or before the thirtieth day after that date.