



## AGENCY ADOPTION

### **Adoption Choice Offices to Serve You**

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**\*\*Adoption Counselors also available  
in CENTRAL WISCONSIN**

### **HOW OUR AGENCY INFANT ADOPTION PROGRAM WORKS**

REGISTRATION: Registration for the Agency Infant Program is limited to those individuals and couples who attend an informational session, either alone or in a group session, and who have a current completed home study by Adoption Choice, Inc. (or a licensed agency in your state if you are not from Wisconsin).

Anyone who wishes to register must submit a registration form and three copies of their Parent Profile. Families may withdraw from the Parent Profile Listing at any time by calling or writing the agency informing us of their desire to have their materials withdrawn. Anyone having a child referral must go on "hold" until that adoption is completed or fails. Anyone completing an adoptive placement of a child through any program must withdraw from the Parent Profile Listing. Your adoption must be finalized and a new home study done by ACI to register again.

YOUR SUBMITTED PROFILE CANNOT BE RETURNED TO YOU

The agency cannot guarantee the number of selections or the number of birthparents reviewing your materials in one year. We cannot guarantee the registration procedure will remain the same after you register.

Our policies and procedures are established in order to provide the most equitable way to serve both birthparents and adoptive families who wish to work

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with our agencies. It is important for you to remember this is NOT A WAITING LIST, but a pool for selection by birthparent(s) and/or the agency if a birthparent requests the agency to select a family.

SELECTION FOR ADOPTION PLANNING: Our agency policy is to allow birthparents to select or help them select a family for their child. If they do not desire to do this, we will select a family randomly from the pool of registered families. Selection is completed under the following conditions:

- 1) We work together with birthparents who have firmly committed to adoption to select a family who is appropriate and ready for a permanent adoption.
- 2) One family at a time will be selected and matched with the expected child. All families registered are available for selection except those who are inappropriate due to requests of the birthparent, such as wanting a family with a sibling already, or living in a rural or urban area, etc. These requests will be honored by the agency and families who meet these requirements will all be available for the selection.
- 3) Selection will be done by the birthparent and/or staffing committee of the agency and their decision that the selection meets the needs of both the child and the family shall be regarded as binding. The birthparent's adoption counselor will also make suggestions for selection.
- 4) Once a family is selected, they will be contacted and have an opportunity to become involved in a plan for placement of the child they are matched with. Their completed ACI home study must be current by the time the family takes the child into a legal risk placement or ACI guardianship of the child. The aim of the agencies shall be to place the child with the family either after taking legal guardianship of the child and termination of the parental rights of the birthparent(s), or directly from the hospital under a legal risk agreement, whichever the birthparent(s) and adoptive family have agreed upon.
- 5) The State of Wisconsin allows the adoption agency to place a child in the adoptive home directly from the hospital (before the birthparents' rights have been legally terminated and the agency has legal guardianship of the child) under a legal risk agreement by issuing a foster home license to the adoptive parents.
- 6) A family will be required to pay the fees for the Agency as designated in the current contract BEFORE placement of the child. Our program fee is \$17,900, paid as follows: 1) \$5,000 match fee (non-refundable) due upon selection, to be submitted to ACI within five days with a signed and notarized contract, and 2) \$12,900 placement fee due five days prior to the TPR hearing. Bridge care, guardianship, and post placement fees are NOT included and are described

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in your contract, as are medical, birthparent, and legal expenses. A contract must be signed by both adoptive parents and a deposit made within five days of accepting the match/adoption plan.

- 7) Any family wishing further explanation regarding the fees is encouraged to have this clarified with an adoption counselor before signing. Fees are not refundable and the contracts are considered binding. It is important to the agency and the family that the charges are fully understood. Fees must be paid at each stage of the adoption as described in the contract.
- 8) The agency cannot guarantee approval or placement. Questions are welcome and the agency desires an informed and positive atmosphere focusing on preparing the family for the placement and assessing the appropriateness and preparedness of the family for this adoptive placement at this particular time. Out-of-State families must have a current study in their home state.
- 9) A family will be approved by the agency upon review of your home study and Parent Profile application, or informed if not approved. Any family not approved has the right to appeal to the agency Board of Directors. YOUR HOME STUDY MUST BE CURRENT OR UPDATED TO CURRENT STATUS BY ACI ONLY (NOT ANOTHER AGENCY, UNLESS YOU ARE OUT-OF-STATE) IF YOU WISH TO BECOME PART OF OUR AGENCY PROGRAM.

PLACEMENT: The agency will arrange for placement of the child with the family when it is appropriate and in the best interests of the child. The following factors affect placement:

- 1) In agency adoption, the agency reserves the right to select and retain appropriate legal counsel for the termination of parental rights. All legal fees are paid by the adoptive family including any birthparent desiring or needing their own attorney and/or guardian ad litem(s). The agency's attorney may contract directly with the family regarding expenses. A deposit may be requested by the attorney when legal work begins.
- 2) If bridge care is part of the adoption plan, bridge care is arranged by the agency unless the adoptive family will be acting as the bridge care parents. Bridge care is charged at \$35 per day, per child, plus mileage and/or other expenses. DIAPERS AND FORMULA ARE ALSO PAID FOR BY THE ADOPTIVE FAMILY. Guidelines for bridge care are printed and available to you. A deposit of \$1,000 toward bridge care is due before you visit in the bridge home. If the adoptive family is the bridge family and takes the baby home

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from the hospital, a LEGAL RISK AGREEMENT MUST be signed and NO bridge care deposit is required.

- 3) The placement of a child into the adoptive home is intended by the agency to be permanent. However, this remains a voluntary legal risk placement until the birthparents' rights are terminated in court. The best interests of the child are of foremost importance to the agency as the legal guardian of the child. The agency also views itself as the advocate for the entire adoptive family and will do everything they can to be supportive and helpful during the months of supervision and integration of the child into the family. In the event of a disruption in the placement, it is the agency's legal guardianship responsibility to place the child's best interests first. If a placement disrupts, another placement is not guaranteed to the family. If for any reason the end result of the placement is not the integration of the child and finalization of the placement in court, the agency cannot guarantee another placement.
- 4) Sometimes a birthparent wants an agency adoption and also needs medical expenses paid. The agency will inform the family being considered of this situation whenever we are made aware of this need. The family will have the option of being considered for selection or of withdrawing from this case. This is voluntary and up to each family to decide. If the family agrees to pay medical expenses, they must be prepared to pay these in full within 30 days of placement. The agency does not pay any medical expenses and cannot guarantee the amount of expenses.
- 5) Post placement visits will be provided following placement and are not included in the program fees. These are charged at the rates current at the time of post placement visits. Current hourly rates are \$125 per hour for professional time, \$50 per hour for travel time, and 55.5 cents per mile.
- 6) Any legal fees to arrange for the finalization of the adoption are paid by the adoptive family. The agency will provide any required reports and documents needed in court from the legal guardian, but is seldom required to be present in court after submitting their report and recommendation for transfer of legal guardianship to the adoptive family. This includes agency work to close your case with the State of Wisconsin.
- 7) Printed copies of this information will be given by the agency to all persons wishing to register. Those entering the program will be asked to sign copies indicating that they have read and understand how the program works before they become involved in the program and a copy will be retained by them and the agency indicating agreement to these terms regarding the program. Anyone having questions is encouraged to raise them with the agency before signing the program statement and before signing your contract. Signed copies of the statement and the contracts are considered by the agency as

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agreement to the program terms and fees. Remember: no one is registered without a current, completed home study done by Adoption Choice, Inc. Out-of-State families need to send a notarized, current home study from your licensed agency and a copy of your foster home license.

- 8) If there is no termination of birthparents' rights, the agency will inform the family immediately that we cannot proceed or continue with an adoptive placement. The family will not be required to pay the placement or post placement portions of the fees. Previous fee payments for application, home study, birth parent counseling and/or bridge care are not refundable. The family's current home study is good for one year. If the family is caring for the child as the bridge parents, the child is returned to the birthparent as soon as possible.
- 9) It is the intent of our agency to provide quality and personal service at every level. We want to be instrumental in helping you build your family. If you have questions or problems, we encourage you to share them with us.

**AGENCY ADOPTION FEES\***

**PHASE 1 – TO BEGIN**

Application .....	\$ 500
Home Study.....	\$ 2,700
Register in Parent Profile Listing .....	\$ 300
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$ 3,500</b>

**PHASE 2 – WHEN SELECTED/MATCHED**

Match Fee (with contract, within 5 days) .....	\$ 5,000
Placement Fee (due 5 days before TPR) .....	\$12,900
Guardianship (due when agency receives guardianship) .....	\$ 600
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$ 18,500</b>

**PHASE 3 – AFTER ADOPTIVE PLACEMENT IS MADE**

Post Placement Fees/Finalization (per child).....	\$ 1,300
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$ 1,300</b>

**TOTAL AGENCY ADOPTION FEES\* ..... \$ 23,300**

**OTHER EXPENSES\***

Background Checks .....	\$ 40 - \$ 80 per person
Case Worker Travel Time .....	\$ 50/hr.
Case Worker Mileage.....	\$ .55/mile
Birthparent Living Expenses (if needed).....	\$ 5,000 (maximum)
Birthparent Medical Expenses (if needed).....	\$ 500 - \$5,000
Additional Birthparent Services .....	\$ 50 - \$1,000
Typical Legal Expenses.....	\$ 2,000 - \$5,000
Bridge Care Deposit (\$35/day, if needed).....	\$ 1,000

\*All fees and expenses listed are for reference, only, and subject to change without notice.