



Adoption
Associates



GROWING FAMILIES THROUGH ADOPTION

Adoption Associates - A leading infant adoption agency in Michigan



WELCOME TO ADOPTION ASSOCIATES

We're thrilled that you're exploring adoption! When you choose to work with Adoption Associates, you can be sure that making the best placement possible for each and every child we serve is our highest priority.

Since 1990 we've been helping expectant parents who are planning adoption find permanent adoptive families for their children. Adoption Associates has assisted with thousands of adoptions right here in the United States. *In addition to agency matched adoptions, Adoption Associates can help if you've already established a relationship with an expectant parent on your own.*

As a licensed child-placing agency in the state of Michigan, we are specialists at providing professional adoption services. We're proud of our excellent home study services, personalized attention throughout the entire adoption process, and ongoing support after your adoption is complete.

We're passionate about our service to expectant parents too. When birth parents choose adoption, we believe this to be a tremendous act of love for their babies. We take our responsibility seriously – providing them with adoptive families who offer love, stability, and security. At the same time, we walk alongside birth parents so they can move forward with their lives, knowing they made the best decision possible.

We look forward to meeting you! Please review this packet, but then give us a call! We'll be happy to answer all of your questions, and help you along as you explore adoption.

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CENTRAL MICHIGAN


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115 S. Main Street
Suite 2B
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WHY CHOOSE ADOPTION ASSOCIATES?

- Adoption Associates has specialized in private adoptions since 1990.
- Adoption Associates is the leading private adoption agency in the state of Michigan.
- Each client is matched with their own personal caseworker.
- Adoption Associates guides you through every step and detail of the adoption process.
- Expectant parent needs are personally attended to, including counseling, financial support, transportation, and medical care.
- Fees for adoptive couples are reasonable, transparent, and predictable.
- Adoption Associates can handle the legal work; most private adoptions do not require an attorney.
- Adoption Associates offers ongoing support and encouragement for all clients, even well after the adoptive placement.
- Open adoption that is unique to your desires and needs is expertly facilitated by Adoption Associates.



TYPES OF INFANT ADOPTION

OPEN ADOPTION

While there are varying degrees of openness, most private adoptions are considered open. Typically, this means that there has been some exchange of information between the birth parents and the adoptive parents. Often, there is also some ongoing contact during the adoption planning as well as after the adoption is complete. Adoption Associates has a wealth of experience with open adoption and will help to establish a plan that is unique to your case.

CLOSED ADOPTION

Occasionally, birth parents will request a closed adoption. The agency will then choose the best adoptive parents for the baby from among the approved and waiting families. In a closed adoption there is typically little or no information exchanged.

ANONYMOUS SURRENDER

In Michigan, the Safe Delivery of Newborns law allows for anonymous surrender of a newborn by his or her parent. Most often, the baby goes immediately to an already-approved adoptive family in Michigan. This law is meant to provide safety for a baby who might otherwise be abandoned.



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MORE ON OPENNESS IN ADOPTION

Research has supported that open adoptions are generally good for adopted children, birth parents, and adoptive parents.

There is no single, easily defined idea of an open adoption. It typically includes the opportunity for birth and adoptive families to meet and make a plan for ongoing contact throughout the child's life.

At Adoption Associates, we most commonly arrange semi-open adoptions, which involve meeting in person, possible continued contact throughout the pregnancy, and an agreement to exchange pictures and letters. This communication can be facilitated by the agency, done through non-identifying emails, or can be more direct, such as texting or messaging.

A more open adoption might include exchanging identifying information and planning for regular visits. Families communicate directly and plan visits together as the child grows up.

ADVANTAGES FOR THE CHILD

- ▶ More access to information about the birth family, including health and background information
- ▶ The adoptive family is better able to answer the child's questions about their adoption and history
- ▶ The opportunity to have ongoing contact with birth parents provides adopted children with a greater sense of identity, as well as an understanding of their adoption story
- ▶ With direct contact, the child does not have to wonder about their birth parents but instead knows true and accurate information about them

ADVANTAGES FOR BIRTH PARENTS

- ▶ By choosing and meeting the adoptive parents, there is a greater sense of security for the birth parents in making their adoption plan
- ▶ Receiving pictures and letters provides reassurance to the birth parents and confidence that the child is being well cared for in the adoptive family
- ▶ Choosing the adoptive family is empowering to birth parents in their adoption process
- ▶ By seeing the child grow and develop, as well as the opportunities the adoptive family is able to provide, birth parents are better able to deal with the loss and grief they may feel and experience less negative feelings or guilt

ADVANTAGES FOR ADOPTIVE FAMILY

- ▶ Meeting birth parents helps the adoptive family learn about them and their adoption decision and provides the family with information to share with the child about their adoption story
- ▶ Greater understanding and knowledge of health and background information can be obtained
- ▶ Building a relationship based on a mutual desire for the best interest of the child helps everyone feel more secure in the plan for adoption



*A step by step guide to agency-matched adoption **

DECISION-MAKING

Decide if a private adoption is right for you. You may have already experienced infertility, explored other options to becoming parents, or even considered a life without children. But now you're considering adoption. This may not have been your first choice, but before proceeding, we believe you must fully accept that it is now the best choice.

Or maybe you're already parents, and want to grow your family through adoption now. It's important to personally identify your reasons before starting this life-changing process.

CONTACT AN AGENCY

Select a reputable, licensed child-placing agency that is responsive to your needs, makes you feel comfortable, and answers all your questions. Adoption Associates provides the full spectrum of adoption services, both for you, the adoptive couple, as well as for the birth parents.

APPLICATION AND HOME STUDY PROCESS

With Adoption Associates, you'll start by having an individual consultation and you'll then attend an agency orientation meeting. The formal application and home study process comes next. You'll have a series of interview meetings with a caseworker who then writes a full assessment of your background, your preparation for adoption, and the suitability of your home. We'll also collect medical reports, background clearances, reference letters, and we'll complete a review your finances.



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CREATING A PROFILE AND AWAITING A MATCH

Once you have an approved home study, you will be guided through the creation of a profile. This is a book of pictures and information about you, which we will share with expectant parents. Whenever we have an expectant parent we're working with who's confident of her decision of adoption, we'll show her the profiles of waiting families who best fit her situation. It's usually just a matter of time before each of our waiting families is matched through this process.

BEING MATCHED AND PLANNING FOR OPENNESS

Once an expectant parent chooses an adoptive couple, one of the typical next steps is planning for an open adoption relationship that is unique to everyone's desires and needs. The Adoption Associates caseworker expertly guides you through this process.

COMPLETE THE LEGAL PROCESS

Once the baby is born, Adoption Associates facilitates the legal aspects of the adoption. The baby MAY go straight home from the hospital with the adoptive parents, but it is also common for the baby to come into temporary agency host care. Either way, one of the very next steps is scheduling a court hearing for the birth parents. Following this hearing, during which the birth parents sign a release of parental rights, the adoption petition is filed. If the baby is not already in the care of the adoptive couple, this is the time when he or she is transferred to them. Adoption Associates then supervises the placement for a minimum of three months, after which the adoption is final. The child is now a permanent member of the adoptive family.

The overall time frame varies from case to case. Give us a call and we'll be happy to share details on current wait times and trends.

**if you've already established a relationship with an expectant parent on your own, please contact us! While some of these steps will be the same, we will be happy to discuss your unique situation in detail.*





‘Love is unselfishly choosing for another’s highest good’ – CS Lewis

ADVANTAGES FOR EXPECTANT PARENTS IN WORKING WITH AN AGENCY

COUNSELING

The caseworkers at Adoption Associates understand the feelings, fears, and questions of birth parents. They’ll talk honestly about options and provide resources to help make the best decision. The caseworker works closely with the birth parent to fully understand adoption, to help find the ideal adoptive family, to determine the amount of openness desired, to prepare for labor and delivery, and to provide steadfast emotional support.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Adoption Associates is uniquely skilled and experienced when it comes to providing appropriate financial support for birth parents, recognizing that not every case will require such support. The Michigan Adoption Code allows an adoptive family to help with reasonable pregnancy-related expenses during pregnancy and for up to six weeks after delivery.

TRANSPORTATION

Adoption Associates staff can assist with transportation to appointments, or can help access available community resources. We can also assist with locating housing resources as needed, and help meet more emergent needs as well.

MEDICAL CARE

Adoption Associates wants to make sure that babies are well cared for from the start. We can help expectant mothers obtain prenatal care, file a Medicaid application, or coordinate for the adoptive couple to cover out-of-pocket medical expenses if she is covered by private health insurance.



**SOME QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER IF YOU'RE THINKING OF
WORKING WITH AN ATTORNEY OR FACILITATOR:**

- ▶ Is he or she reputable, licensed, and experienced in adoption?*
- ▶ Will he or she support and care for everyone involved in the adoption?***
- ▶ What kind of counseling is offered to expectant parents?
- ▶ Is he or she going to help with each step of the adoption process?
- ▶ Will he or she help figure out just the right level of openness in adoption?
- ▶ What kind of post-adoption support does he or she offer?
- ▶ Will he or she be able to provide ALL services, or will you be left on your own to figure some things out?
- ▶ How supported and cared for will you be if things go wrong?
- ▶ How well do you understand ALL of the fees involved?

*using ONLY a facilitator is illegal in Michigan

***One attorney cannot represent both parties in an adoption

Adoption is SO MUCH MORE than just a legal process! Expectant parents, adoptive parents, and adopted babies and children can ONLY be expertly, fully, and uniquely cared for by a reputable, licensed agency.



FAQs

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO ADOPT?

Most families waiting with Adoption Associates have a successful placement within 18 months of completion of their home study and profile. Birth parents generally want to select and meet the family they have chosen, so you will need to wait for the birth parent who decides that you can offer the family and future she wants for her baby. Applicants open to adopting children of any race, situations with substance exposure for the infant, or greater degrees of openness will usually have a shorter wait.

WHAT KIND OF COSTS ARE INVOLVED IN A DOMESTIC ADOPTION?

You can expect to pay for things like the homestudy, birth parent expenses, legal fees, adoption service fees, outreach and education fees, and travel expenses. A detailed fee schedule is available, and you will have plenty of opportunity to fully understand and anticipate the applicable fees.

ARE THERE FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO HELP ME ADOPT?

There is currently a Federal Tax Credit available for most domestic adoptions. You can learn more about the federal tax credit eligibility and benefits through the IRS website. There are also a growing number of employers that offer adoption reimbursement. Check with your employer to find out if your company offers such benefits. Further, many adoptive couples seek grant-funding, crowd-funding, or adoption loans.

WHAT BIRTH PARENT INFORMATION WILL WE RECEIVE ?

Adoption Associates will obtain as much information as possible about the birth parents' health history and background. We also seek a release from the birth mother to obtain her prenatal medical records if available. We will share all information obtained with the prospective adoptive parents, as well as information received from the hospital regarding delivery and newborn medical care.



FAQs

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE CHARACTERISTICS OF BIRTH MOTHERS WHO ARE WORKING WITH ADOPTION ASSOCIATES?

Women who are serious about adoption planning are often in their twenties, but can range in age from young teen to middle age. They probably didn't intend to get pregnant. They could be married, single, divorced, or in a domestic partnership. We work with women of all different races and backgrounds. Many have children they are currently parenting. Some might be homeless, abused, have unsupportive families, using drugs or struggling with mental health challenges. Each woman has a unique situation and personality, but they all share the love that they have for their child and courage to give their baby the best future possible.

CAN THE BIRTH PARENTS COME BACK TO TAKE THE CHILD?

Birth parents typically voluntarily release their parental rights in court prior to the legal adoption. The termination of their parental rights is a final decision. However, prior to the termination by court, the birth mother may change her mind about her adoption plan and choose to parent instead. Once the court hearing is complete though, she can no longer change her mind.

DOES THE BIRTH FATHER HAVE ANY RIGHTS?

The birth father's rights must also be considered when planning adoption. Adoption Associates will work with the court to determine if his rights can be terminated if he disagrees with the adoption, or if the birth mother no longer has a relationship with him.

CAN WE WORK WITH ADOPTION ASSOCIATES EVEN IF WE DONT LIVE IN MICHIGAN?

Adoption Associates is able to facilitate an adoptive placement in Michigan for couples from other states. If you do not live in Michigan, you will need to obtain a home study from an agency in your state, but the rest of the adoption process will be facilitated for you by Adoption Associates.



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AGENCY POLICIES

ADOPTION ELIGIBILITY

This agency seeks to advance the welfare of children throughout the adoptive placement process. Therefore, the agency will employ the following adoptive parent eligibility criteria:

Heterosexual couples who have been married for at least one year are eligible for domestic and international adoption. Single heterosexual women are eligible for international adoption. The sexual orientation of applicants will be assessed during the adoptive home study.

The agency will deny applications of persons:

- who have been divorced more than two times
- whose sexual orientation is other than heterosexual
- who are not married and are cohabitating with another person of the opposite gender
- who have been convicted of a felony
- who have any pending criminal charges
- who have any substantiated abuse or neglect charges
- who abuse alcohol or other substances

The agency reserves the right to deny applications of persons:

- who have any misdemeanor convictions
- who have been accused of abuse or neglect
- who have a significant medical condition
- who exhibit any behaviors, past or present, that are assessed to be detrimental to the well-being of the child or the family unit

In addition, applicants for international adoption must also satisfy the eligibility requirements of each country of interest.

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CHILD SPACING

The agency requires that the placement of a child(ren) in an adoptive home provide at minimum a nine month age range between the adopted child and the other children in the home, and that the age of the child being placed be under the youngest child currently in the home. The purpose of this is to preserve the birth order, assure differential grade placements in their schooling, and minimize comparison and competition between siblings. Likewise, when adopting more than one child, unrelated adoptees and the existing children in the home must be at least nine months apart in age.

The decision to place a child with a family not meeting the child spacing policy will be made according to the professional judgment of agency staff.

SUBSEQUENT ADOPTIONS

AAI requires that each adoptive family allow a transition time of one year between the placement of an adopted child or birth of a biological child into the home before adding another child to the family. We recognize that circumstances for each family situation are different and so encourage you to consult with your caseworker as to the right timing for you to begin the application process. Your caseworker will be a valuable resource in assessing your family's transition and readiness to proceed with a subsequent adoption.

ESCORTING

Escorting is possible in some international programs, although the agency strongly recommends that parents travel to bring their child home. Escorting will only be made available according to the professional judgment of agency staff when there are compelling reasons to do so.

HOME STUDY/HOME STUDY UPDATES/HOME STUDY ADDENDUMS

All home studies, updates, and addendums must be completed by a licensed adoption agency in the family's state of residence. For international families, in the event that the family's USCIS approval expires before the placement of a child, a home study update will be required. If this agency completed the family's original home study, the agency will complete the home study update. The family will need to obtain new clearances, medicals, reference letters, and any other materials asked for by their home study caseworker. A visit with all family members in the home will also be required. Please see the fee schedule for applicable fees. If the family's home study was completed by a different agency, the family will be responsible for contacting their home study agency to complete the update and will be responsible for all costs incurred.

In the event that a significant change occurs in the family's life, or if the family wishes to be approved for, or the agency wishes to approve the family for a child with different characteristics than stated in the original home study, a home study addendum will be required. If this agency completed the family's original home study, then we will complete the home study addendum. If there is a new member of the household, the caseworker will visit all members of the household and the family must obtain a medical for said person. In the event of a change of residence, the caseworker will visit all members of the household at the new residence. When a job change has occurred, the caseworker will speak with the family by phone and the family will provide the agency with a letter from the new employer. The agency may require additional documentation or visits with the family at the agency's own discretion and will charge the family for addendums completed as a result of a change initiated by the family. If the family's home study was completed by a different agency, the family will be responsible for contacting their home study agency to complete the addendum and will be responsible for all costs incurred.

If using this agency for a home study only, all home study services will be billed according to applicable fee schedules, including all updates and addendums.

Adoption Associates, Inc. will not complete a home study for families seeking an independent adoption.

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MEDICAL CARE

The agency will place children only into homes with parents who agree to seek medical attention when necessary for the child. In addition, parents must agree not to withhold medical treatment for the child against the advice of medical personnel.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

The agency will thoroughly assess the prospective adoptive parent's approach to child discipline as part of the home study process. There is substantial and compelling research to indicate that corporal punishment generally has a negative and harmful impact on children. Alternately, there are positive and affirmative forms of discipline that should be utilized instead. The agency will provide educational resources to prospective clients as requested and when concerns arise. The agency reserves the right to deny approval of the client's home study if the parents' approach to child discipline is deemed inappropriate by the agency.

NON-DISCLOSURE POLICY

This agency takes nondisclosure of arrests, convictions, unsubstantiated/substantiated incidents of child abuse or neglect, and significant medical issues very seriously. If the prospective client does not disclose said issues on the formal application, this could result in possible denial of the application or rescission of the adoptive home study—if already completed.

The agency understands and acknowledges prospective adoptive clients may be apprehensive to disclose such incidents, but a criminal record, including an expunged record, will almost certainly be discovered through required state and FBI background checks. Medical issues can be discovered by required forms from the client's doctor. If these issues are not disclosed to the agency by the prospective adoptive client, it can result in feelings of mistrust between agency and client.

Disclosure of incidents can save time by allowing the agency to direct prospective clients away from programs or countries who may not be accepting of even seemingly minor criminal or medical issues. Disclosure allows the agency to inform prospective clients about additional documentation that may be required to provide to the court or cooperative agency, or in the case of international adoptions, to the USCIS or the source country. This can save valuable time for the client and the agency.

In the event that a prospective adoptive parent, immediate family member, or resident of the home is arrested, convicted of a crime, accused of child abuse or neglect, or diagnosed with a significant medical issue during the adoption process, such incidents or issues must be disclosed to the agency within 24 hours.

The ultimate determination to either terminate, hold, or continue the case will be made by the administration of the agency after review is completed of each case, taking into consideration the circumstances that are cause for concern regarding the best interest of the child and/or family. Several issues will be considered, to include, but not limited to: severity of the incident, length of time that has passed since the incident happened, circumstances surrounding the incident, rehabilitation, and lifestyle changes.

In the event that the agency terminates a case, the client must agree to fully cooperate with the agency to ensure that any child referred to the prospective adoptive family is allowed the opportunity to be adopted by another prospective family.

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AGENCY DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION

The agency will fully disclose in writing to the general public the following upon request:*

- agency adoption services
- general eligibility criteria
- fees
- foreign supervised providers and expected costs
- agency International Formal Application (service contract)

**This information is automatically provided to prospective clients making a request for the agency International Information Packet.*

In addition, the agency will make available the following to clients and prospective clients upon request:

- the number of annual adoptive placements
- the number of placements that remain intact, are disrupted, or dissolved
- the number of annual adoptive applicants
- the number of waiting children eligible for adoptive placement via the agency**
- copies of country-specific adoption law

***While thousands of children may be available for international adoption, the agency can only account for those waiting children referred to our agency.*

PREGNANCY (DOMESTIC ADOPTION)

With the best interest of the family in mind, prospective adoptive couples who become pregnant during their adoption process will stop their adoption process at that time. Services for any portion of a home study/update, agency services, or post adoption supervision terminated prior to completion will be billed on a pro-rated basis. Payments for services not yet performed will be refunded, excepting the non-refundable fees. The timing of when the couple can pursue one of the agency's adoption programs should be discussed with the administration, always taking into consideration the Child Spacing policy; the clinical advisability of proceeding with adoption placement plans; the ages of the children involved; and the family's wishes.

PREGNANCY/BIRTH (INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION)

With the best interest of the family in mind, and in consideration of the foreign adoption process, the agency has implemented the following pregnancy/birth policy. Prospective adoptive applicant(s) that become pregnant prior to the referral of a child will be required by the agency to terminate the adoption process, unless otherwise stated. The definition of "referral of a child" varies per international program and is defined in the country specific paragraphs below.

If a pregnancy/birth occurs after the referral of a child, as defined below, applicant(s) may have the option of continuing with their adoption or withdrawing from the program.

CHINA: The China Center for Children's Welfare and Adoption (CCCWA) requires the youngest child in the home be at least three years old to be eligible to adopt from China. Therefore, if a pregnancy occurs prior to acceptance of a referral, the applicant(s) would be required to discontinue the adoption process. If a pregnancy occurs after acceptance of a referral, it is at the discretion of AAI Administration (see Child Spacing policy) and CCCWA as to whether the applicant(s) may proceed or must withdraw.

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Due to the complexity of this issue, complicated by the uncertainty of the wait time for referral, the agency strongly recommends that if a family plans to have a child by birth, that the birth of the child not occur until after the adoptive placement.

If it is necessary for the family to discontinue the adoption process or if the family chooses to withdraw due to a pregnancy/birth, fees paid to the agency will be non-refundable. The applicant(s) may or may not be eligible to receive a refund of fees paid to other entities and the agency will not be held responsible for return of those monies.

If it is necessary for the family to discontinue the adoption process or if the family chooses to withdraw due to a pregnancy/birth, fees paid to the agency will be non-refundable. The applicants may or may not receive a refund of the international program fee paid to the contact in China, which is solely at the discretion of the China contact. The agency will not be held responsible for the return of these monies paid to the China contact.

OTHER PROGRAMS: If a pregnancy occurs prior to the acceptance of a referral, the applicant(s) would be required to discontinue the adoption process. Once a referral has been accepted, the applicant(s) would be allowed to proceed or withdraw, dependent on their wishes. If the applicant(s) must discontinue the adoptive process or chooses to withdraw, fees paid to the agency will be non-refundable. If a withdrawal occurs due to a pregnancy, the applicant(s) may or may not receive a refund of the international program fee paid to the foreign partner, which is solely at the discretion of the foreign partner. The agency will not be held responsible for the return of these monies paid to the foreign partner.

NOTE: The timing of when applicant(s) can again pursue one of the agency's adoption programs should be discussed with the administration, with the input of the program manager, always taking into consideration a.) the Child Spacing policy, b.) the clinical advisability of proceeding with adoption placement plans, c.) the policy of the foreign country, or their provider agency, d.) the ages of the children involved, and e.) the applicant(s) wishes.

FEE AND REFUND POLICY

DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL

The agency has made a good faith effort to provide a comprehensive schedule of adoption fees. However, the agency cannot guarantee the final amount of a family's adoption fees and expenses. All fees, including agency, Convention country, and third party fees, are subject to change during the adoption process. Prospective adoptive parent(s) is/are required to pay the fees according to the fee schedule in effect when the fee is invoiced (if invoiced by AAI) or when the fee becomes due (for those fees which are not invoiced by AAI).

Fees are charged based on both direct and indirect services provided. All or a portion of a fee may be due prior to completion of a specific service. Any portion of a fee that is not paid prior to completion of a service will be due in full upon completion of that service. If payments are not received as scheduled, adoption services may be suspended until outstanding balances have been paid. Failure to pay outstanding balances for an extended period of time may result in the case being closed.

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INTERNATIONAL ONLY

The agency does not customarily charge additional fees and expenses beyond those disclosed in the fee schedules. In the event that unforeseen additional fees or charges are incurred in the Convention country, the agency will charge such additional fees and expenses only under the following conditions:

1. Additional fees and expenses will be disclosed to prospective adoptive parent(s) in writing.
2. The agency will obtain consent from prospective adoptive parent(s) prior to expending additional funds in excess of \$1,000.
3. Written receipts will be provided to prospective adoptive parent(s) for any additional fees and expenses paid directly by the agency in the Convention country.

DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL

In the event that either the agency or the Convention country is unable to complete your adoption process in the program for which you have applied or if the prospective adoptive parent(s) choose to withdraw from an adoption program, the following refund policy will apply:

1. All fees payable to AAI, except for International Program Fees, are nonrefundable once they are paid.
2. International Program Fees paid to the Convention country are not refundable by the agency. The agency will submit a refund request to the Convention country, however, the agency has no control over whether the funds will be refunded or not. The Convention country will make this determination, and their decision is final.
3. Fees paid directly to third parties in the U.S. or the Convention country are nonrefundable by the agency.

AAI Administration reserves the right to make exceptions to the refund policy in the event that such exceptions would benefit prospective adoptive parent(s). Refunds to which prospective adoptive parent(s) are entitled will be provided within sixty days of the completion of the delivery of services.

12/14/2018





PROGRAM STATEMENT

Adoption Associates, Inc. (AAI), founded in 1990, is a leading Michigan agency in the number of domestic infants placed for adoption. Agency staff are skilled and experienced professionals who combine the tested and safe methods of agency adoption with the exciting and successful marketing methods of private intermediary adoption as practiced today in most states. Participation and control are the key issues. Birth parents expect to be very involved in planning adoption for their babies. Likewise, adoptive families also appreciate the greater degree of participation and control now being extended to them in the adoptive process. AAI heartily supports this trend as being in the best interests of everyone – first children, but also birth and adoptive parents.

Designated domestic adoptions, as promoted and facilitated at AAI, help to explain our high placement numbers. This form of adoption depends on the activities of adoptive parents to develop their own adoption opportunities. In designated domestic adoption, birth parents respond directly to networking adoptive parents. The role of AAI includes first educating adoptive families on how to reach birth parents, and then facilitating the placement when appropriate. Families working through AAI on a designated adoption pay only those expenses associated with serving them, or for services to birth parents on behalf of the adopting family. The adoptive home study, required post adoption supervision, required birth parent counseling, and all legal services are delivered efficiently and economically from one source - Adoption Associates, Inc. In addition, AAI is innovative and aggressive in reaching out to prospective birth parents. Our commitment to meeting their real needs and involving them in planning their adoptions is another reason for our success.

AAI is also experienced in international adoption. Children are being placed through AAI programs with China (accredited by CCCWA) and Bulgaria (agreement with supervised provider). Documentation of accreditation and provider agreements are on file and available for review. Hague Regulations and AAI's corresponding policies and procedures are on file and available for review. Adoptive home studies complying with both Michigan and foreign country requirements and USCIS assistance are also available to families wishing to pursue their own international or domestic contacts.

TYPES OF CHILDREN PLACED:

1. Children of all races
2. Infants and babies less than one year
3. Older domestic children privately released
4. Children with medical and developmental special needs
5. International children of all ages

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SELECTION OF ADOPTIVE PARENTS:

1. Birth parent selection from adoptive profiles
2. Agency determines placement
3. Birth parent and adoptive family pre-selected-designated adoption
4. International referrals

TYPES OF PLACEMENTS:

1. Agency-matched placements
2. Designated placements, providing all services
3. Private adoptions home studies, birth parent counseling, representation of birth parents or adoptive parents, and post adoption supervision
4. Transracial adoption
5. Interstate placements
6. International adoption
7. Special needs home studies and placements
8. Guardianships converted to adoptions

EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION:

1. Birth parent choice
2. Semi-open (pictures and letters after placement)
3. Full disclosure – open

ELIGIBILITY:

1. Heterosexual married couples
2. Single heterosexual female applicants are accepted for some international placements
3. Prospective adoptive parents placing through international programs are subject to requirements set forth by the governing entity of the placing country.

AREA SERVED:

1. Michigan statewide
2. Any other state
3. Internet inquiries
6. Information: group meetings and private interviews

SERVICES PROVIDED:

1. Information: group meetings and private interviews
2. Pre-home study consultation on adoption options, issues, and proposed private placements
3. Adoptive home study: with emphasis on preparation for successful adoptive parenthood; compliance with Michigan and international regulations
4. Birth parent counseling and support groups prior to and following release of parental rights

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5. Agency/Administrative services: direct and indirect services necessary for the continuation of domestic and international programs, agency administration, and internal operations which enable AAI to complete placements on behalf of adoptive families. The following lists are examples of, but are not limited to, expenses incurred in providing these services. Program expenses: compliance with state, federal, and international regulations, accreditation expenses, international humanitarian aid, domestic and international travel/communication, and consulting with prospective adoptive parents. Administrative expenses: employee compensation and training, agency legal, insurances, and professional/contractual services. Operational expenses: facilities, utilities, equipment, supplies, and advertising
6. Legal facilitation: coordination of all legal arrangements for domestic adoptions
7. Interstate facilitation: coordination of interstate procedures and arrangements for domestic adoptions
8. Assistance with dossier preparation, and assistance with referral and travel for international adoption
9. Guidance and support through the waiting period. Special programs, meetings, and support groups for waiting families may be offered
10. Post placement/post adoption supervision: completion of mandated visitations and reports and continuing counseling as needed
11. Post legal services: counseling resources for children, birth and adoptive parents
12. Various pre and post placement events and activities for both potential and actual adoptive families
13. Post-finalization services to adoptive parents and/or biological parents by referral upon the request of the involved parties

TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

1. Families receiving a domestic home study must complete a minimum of 12 hours of training on topics detailed in the Domestic Pre-Adoption Training Requirements document
2. Families receiving an international home study must complete a minimum of 12 hours of training on topics detailed in the International Pre-Adoption Training Requirements – Part I
3. Families receiving an international placement must complete training on topics detailed in the International Pre-Adoption Training Requirements – Part II after receiving an official referral from the placing country.

FEES

1. Standardized fees for consultation, home study, post placement/post adoption services, agency fee, domestic adoption outreach and education fee, and international program fee
2. Birth parent services: charge on a time and expense basis to the adopting family
3. Supplemental Fee for Agency Services: provision of ongoing guidance and support for the entire adoption process; special programs, meetings, and support groups; additional guidance and support related to any unforeseen circumstances, such as, but not limited to: regulatory changes, unexpected delays, special investigations, program instability, or closures
4. Specific fee information and refundability/non-refundability are described in detail on the AAI Fee Schedules(s) and the Agency Policies: Fee and Refund Policy which are appendices to this Program Statement

9/19/2018

DOMESTIC FEE SCHEDULE

For clients coming to Adoption Associates with a birth mother already identified, Contact us for the Private Adoption Services Fee Schedule.

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	PAYMENT DUE	PAYABLE TO
APPLICATION AND HOME STUDY			
Consultation/Orientation	\$100	With preliminary application	AAI
Domestic Adoption Awareness	\$150	Prior to attendance	AAI
Domestic Program Application	\$400	With formal application	AAI
Online Case Management	\$175	With formal application	AAI
Home Study Review & Pre-Placement Consulting (if home study is completed by another agency)	\$500	With formal application (if applicable)	AAI
Adoptive Home Study Deposit	\$500	With formal application	AAI
Extended Travel (if home is more than 50 miles from nearest AAI office)	\$100	With formal application	AAI
Pre-Adoption Training	\$20-\$60	During home study	Service Provider(s)
Document Gathering Expenses	\$100-\$300	During home study	Service Provider(s)
Profile and Networking Development Bundle	\$750	Prior to beginning networking activities	AAI
Adoptive Home Study Balance	\$1,250	After home visit (non-payment may delay profile activation)	AAI
Profile Activation	\$1,750	With profile activation	AAI
Supplemental Fee for Agency Services	\$250/Quarter	Each quarter beginning with the submission of the formal application through termination of birth parent rights	AAI
PLACEMENT SERVICES			
Adoption Services	\$195/hour + mileage + expenses	\$5,000 initial escrow, as requested thereafter	AAI
Domestic Adoption Outreach and Education (MI resident) OR Domestic Adoption Outreach and Education (non-MI resident)	\$10,000 OR \$12,000	Upon signing adoptive petitions	AAI
Host Family Care Expenses	\$50/day + travel + expenses	Upon signing adoptive petitions	AAI
Post Placement Supervision	\$300/supervision	Upon signing adoptive petitions	AAI
Post Placement Supervision with Court Report	\$350/supervision	Upon signing adoptive petitions	AAI
Extended Travel (if home is more than 50 miles from nearest AAI office)	\$100/supervision	Upon signing adoptive petitions	AAI
Post Placement Supervision (if report is completed by another agency)	\$100/supervision	Upon signing adoptive petitions	AAI
Post Adoption Administrative Services	\$500	Upon signing adoptive petitions	AAI
Additional Agency Services (optional) – as requested by adoptive family	\$195/hour + mileage + expenses	Upon receipt of invoice	AAI

1. Michigan families whose most recent home study or home study update was completed by AAI within the last five years will be charged \$1,500 for a home study update when submitting a new application (\$500 due with application; \$1,000 due after home visit). In addition, attendance at domestic adoption awareness may be required. If the last home study/home study update is five years old or older, or was completed by another agency, a full adoptive home study is required. Home study updates for open case files will be charged \$675; a home study addendum with home visit will be charged \$450; and a home study addendum with no home visit will be charged \$150. (Extended travel fee of \$100 will apply for home visits if home is more than 50 miles from nearest AAI office.)
2. An initial escrow of \$5,000 is established at the time a family is linked with a birth mother. Adoption services and expenses are charged against that escrow. Additional escrow will be requested as the initial deposit is depleted.
 - Expenses include the hourly rate for agency services; mileage in connection with the adoption; actual birth parent living, medical, counseling, and legal expenses; and adoption related expenses as incurred. Expenses begin with the agency's first contact with the birth mother and/or adoptive family.
 - The adoptive family is responsible for birth parent expenses incurred throughout the entire pregnancy and up to six weeks after the birth.
 - Any and all attorney fees, including those incurred in the unlikely event of an appeal or any other legal action whenever filed, are the responsibility of the adoptive family.
 - Fees for services provided and expenses incurred are non-refundable when a birth parent chooses not to continue with an adoption plan.
3. Designated Adoption (including Returning Birth Mother placements): The Domestic Adoption Outreach and Education fee will be reduced by 50% for designated placements where a birth mother and adoptive family identify each other through a source other than AAI.
4. Should you have placement of more than one child and supervision visits are conducted at the same time, there will be a fee of \$100 per additional child, per visit.
5. Post Adoption Administrative Services include services provided on behalf of a birth parent and/or adoptive family after the placement is completed. Examples of such services are updating address and contact information, forwarding letters and packages, furnishing copies of reports/documents as requested, providing a meeting area for on-site adoptive family/birth mother visits, etc.
6. All fees payable to AAI are nonrefundable once they are paid.
7. It is expected that a home study through AAI will be completed within a three-month period. If circumstances may prevent completion within this time frame, you may be asked to withdraw your application or the home study may be denied.

Effective date of this fee schedule is 01/01/2019

All fees are subject to change during the adoption process. Prospective adoptive parents(s) is/are required to pay the fees according to the fee schedule in effect when the fee is invoiced (if invoiced by AAI) or when the fee becomes due (for those fees which are not invoiced by AAI).



Adoption Associates

MISSION STATEMENT

Adoption Associates, Inc. exists to promote domestic and international adoption for God's glory. The benefits of adoption offered to birth mothers, their children from unplanned pregnancies, and orphaned children abroad are designed to reflect the spirit of adoption modeled by God in Ephesians 1 of the Bible. Accordingly, AAI is a Christian organization, founded on Christian beliefs and values. Pregnancy and adoption services are provided to clients of all faiths.

“From day one, we were treated with professionalism, care, and guidance. We have been educated and challenged, but mostly supported in this journey. Thank you for helping us complete our family!”

“We could not be more happy with AAI and the excellent services, support, and resources provided.”

“We have a beautiful family today because of AAI! The work you do is so important – thank you!”

TOLL-FREE

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