



Greater St. Louis
7520 Big Bend Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63119
www.bethanymissouri.org

Dear Adoptive Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in Bethany's adoption programs. We realize you may have gone through a long road in wanting to start or add to your family. We hope that Bethany can help you in your pursuit or answer any questions you may have. The enclosed brochures and general information will assist you in answering questions you may have regarding the infant adoption program at Bethany. It is important that as a potential applicant that you feel informed about our adoption programs. What sets Bethany apart from other agencies is that we are committed to working with families that share our faith in Jesus Christ and who are actively involved in their church.

Enclosed you will also find a pre-application. We are currently accepting pre-applications for children with special placement challenges and our Networking Program. For families interested in joining our Domestic Infant Program, you will begin the journey in what is called a Networking Program. Our Networking Program allows families to complete a home study with Bethany and post their profile on our website. Being home study ready also makes families ready and available to network with other agencies and attorneys while waiting to enter the Domestic Infant Program.

Once you have read through the enclosed information please feel free to contact us if you have any questions. We would also strongly encourage you to attend an Informational Meeting where we will discuss our adoption programs in detail. To learn the dates and times of our meetings please visit our website at www.bethanymissouri.org or contact our office at 314-781-6363, RSVP's are required and this meeting is mandatory if you wish to begin the application process.

Please prayerfully consider if Bethany Christian Services of Missouri may be in your future as you pursue adoption plans. May the Lord bless your adoption pursuits.

Sincerely,

Aimee Travers
Adoption Specialist

Steps in Domestic Adoption

- Attend Bethany's domestic adoption information meeting and/or complete and return the pre-application
- Receive notification of approval of pre-application
- Complete Bethany's formal application and return it to Bethany along with a \$550 non-refundable fee
- Receive approval of your formal application and are assigned a social worker
- Begin the assessment paperwork, assessment interviews, training requirements, and pay the assessment fee
- Complete Adoptive Family Education and Training
- Complete and submit Profile
- Wait for a match
- Meet your child's birthmother/father
- Await the birth of your child
- Pick up your child from the hospital or from the Bethany office
- Attend or wait for the termination hearing (legal process #1)
- Participate in post placement supervision requirements
- Attend the finalization hearing (legal process #2)

**BETHANY CHRISTIAN SERVICES OF MISSOURI
DOMESTIC ADOPTION SERVICES CONTRACT**

BETHANY CHRISTIAN SERVICES OF MISSOURI ("BETHANY") hereby agrees to provide and we, _____ hereby understand, agree, and pledge payment to BETHANY for the following services.

Bethany hereby agrees to provide orientation, assessment, and preparation of the prospective adoptive family and other related services as specified below.

We have been informed that these services are necessary components of the adoption process occurring prior to, simultaneous with, and after the placement of a child if and when a child becomes available for adoption. This Agreement does not obligate BETHANY to provide services other than those set forth. Because the availability of children is contingent upon circumstances beyond the control of BETHANY, there is no guarantee that a child will be placed with us. If for any reason beyond our control or beyond the control of BETHANY or as the result of our decision to withdraw from the program, a child will not be placed in our home after the completion of the home study we understand that the fees paid will be nonrefundable. We further understand that if for any reason we request to be placed on hold while in the domestic program that the time shall not exceed 6 months or our case will be closed and we will need to re-enter the program having to pay all new applicable fees.

For services provided, we hereby agree to pay BETHANY the following fees.

NETWORKING:

1. **\$ 550.00** Formal Application Fee to be submitted with formal application documents. This fee is non refundable.
2. **\$ 1,600.00** Home Study Fee to be submitted no later than completion of the home study. This fee is non-refundable.

FULL SERVICE:

3. **\$ 4,000.00** Administrative fee to be submitted prior to being eligible for the full service domestic program. This fee is non-refundable.
4. **\$ 14,950.00** Placement fee to be submitted at time of child being placed in family home. Fee will Refunded if there a disruption occurs that is not a cause of the adoptive family.
5. **\$ 900.00** Post-Placement or Post-Adoption Fee (for first 3 visits) to be submitted at time of Placement (\$300.00 per additional visit required. \$50.00 per additional report if required for sibling group.)

\$ 22,000.00 TOTAL BETHANY FEE

We understand that the fees and charges set forth in this contract only apply to services provided by Bethany Christian Services of Missouri, for any reason, we choose to work with a different Bethany branch office or another adoption agency, unaffiliated with Bethany, then additional fees and charges may be incurred.

We understand that the above stated fees do not include transportation costs, ICPC, interstate travel costs, birthparent pass-through costs in excess of \$5000, and attorney fees, and that these additional fees and costs are our responsibility and subject to change while we are in process.

In the event that Bethany is not able to perform all post-placement/post-adoption visits due to a family move, a pro rata share of the post-placement/post-adoption fee will be refunded to us within sixty (60) days of the completion of the delivery of services. If we move within an area served by another Bethany Christian Services branch we agree to complete the services through that branch and fees will be sent directly to that office.

Possible Additional Costs:

- * Fingerprint charges (**MO only**) at a rate of **\$52.25** per person payable to IBT at the time of print.
- * Caseworker travel expenses (Bethany serves families without additional charge who are within a 50 miles radius of assigned worker. Families outside this radius will pay a \$20 per hour travel fee and will be assessed for mileage or rental/gas. If more than one family is being seen the fee will be split at a **varied** expense.
- * Outside HS review (charge to review homestudy and associated paperwork from a non-Bethany agency) payable at time of review will be charged at **\$500.00**
- * Home Study update (annual review or addendum) **\$400.00**
- * Networking assistance (payable to Bethany per hour to assist with sending of homestudy and additional documents to other agencies at the request of adoptive family) at a rate of **\$50.00** per hour.
- * Maintenance of **ILLINOIS** fostercare license (**IL families only**-who request to keep their license after the completion of their adoption services) at a rate of **\$50.00** for annual review, and **\$75.00** for review and reapplication. Caseworker travel expenses will apply to all visits no matter the distance.
- * Training (cost payable to Bethany on Training Day in the form of a check) at the cost of **\$50.00**
- * Legal Fees (fee agreements are established and payable to your attorney) at the estimated cost of **\$2500.00**
- * Birthparent Pass-through Expenses will be assumed by Bethany Christian Services of Missouri up to the maximum limit of \$5000. Any charges in excess of \$5000 will be forwarded on to the adoptive family.
- * Express mail charges vary but average **\$25.00** per occurrence.

We agree to be financially responsible for the care and support, including medical and health expenses, of the child(ren) from the date the child(ren) departs from the foreign country.

Post Adoption Services

Bethany Christian Services will provide post placement and post adoption services to children and families. Services may be provided directly by a Bethany Branch staff or through referral to another agency. Services are offered in compliance with applicable laws and regulations. These services are in addition to the required supervision and reporting described under Bethany Christian Services' Post Placement and Post Adoption Monitoring Policy.

Bethany shall have, at all reasonable times access to the child. Adopting Parents shall relinquish and surrender the child and shall release all custody of the right to the child to the Agency whenever in the honest opinion of the Agency such relinquishment, surrender, and release would be in the best interest of said child. Adopting Parents shall pay all cost incurred in such proceedings. The Adopting Parents, however, shall not finalize said adoption until the expiration of the probationary period and after the Agency has filed their report with the court.

We understand that consequences of non-payment of the above fees may include, but are not limited to, BETHANY reporting our delinquent payment status to credit agencies, and the retention of a collection agency to pursue the fees. Any fees associated with such collection efforts will be our responsibility.

CLIENT SIGNATURE _____	SAMPLE	Date _____
CLIENT SIGNATURE _____		Date _____
BETHANY AGENT SIGNATURE _____		Date _____

**Bethany Christian Services
Preliminary Domestic Adoption Application**

Date of Application: _____

Last Name:	Date of Marriage:
Husband's Name:	Wife's Name:
Husband's Date of Birth:	Wife's Date of Birth:
Husband's Age:	Wife's Age:
Street Address:	Home Phone:
City/State/Zip:	Husband's Work/Cell:
Email:	Wife's Work/Cell:
Church Affiliation	
Church Name:	
Denomination:	
Street Address/City/State/Zip:	
Pastor's Name:	<u>Are you and your spouse full members?</u> Yes ___ No ___
<i>Describe Involvement:</i>	
Occupation	
Husband's Occupation:	Wife's Occupation:
Husband's Employer:	Wife's Employer:
Annual Income:	Annual Income:

Health	
Husband's Height _____ Weight _____	Wife's Height _____ Weight _____
Major Health Concerns/Issues: Yes ___ No ___ <i>If Yes, please explain on the back of the application.</i>	Major Health Concerns/Issues: Yes ___ No ___ <i>If Yes, please explain on the back of the application.</i>

Biological or Adopted Children			
Name:	Biological ___ Adopted ___	Male ___ Female ___	Date of Birth:
Name:	Biological ___ Adopted ___	Male ___ Female ___	Date of Birth:
Do you have any past Criminal Convictions? Yes ___ No ___ If yes, please explain on the back of the application.			

Adoption Questions: Regarding Openness to Children with Special Needs	
Open to children with minor medical conditions Yes ___ No ___	
Open to children with major medical conditions Yes ___ No ___	
Open to children who have been drug/alcohol exposed Yes ___ No ___	
Open to full minority children Yes ___ No ___ Race: _____	
Open to bi-racial children Yes ___ No ___ Race: _____	
Open Adoption ___ Semi Open Adoption ___ Either ___	

Please complete and return to Bethany Christian Services:
Greater St. Louis
7520 Big Bend Blvd. St. Louis, MO 63119
Fax # 314.781.6161

Bethany

Christian Services

STATEMENT OF FAITH

Bethany Christian Services is founded upon the Scriptures which reveal the triune God. Members of the national board, local boards, staff and adoptive applicants indicate their personal agreement with Bethany's Statement of Faith by signing below.

I believe that the sovereign, triune God created the world out of nothing and sustains His creation. The heavens and earth are His handiwork. He made man and woman in His image and likeness as the crown of creation. All creation reflects His greatness and power.

I believe that God created the family, giving Adam and Eve the responsibility to conceive, bear and nurture children. As the creator of life, God Himself begins each human life at conception and gives to each person, as His image bearer, meaning, dignity and value.

I believe that sin entered the world when Adam and Eve disobeyed God and sought to be independent of Him. As a result of this Fall, all people are estranged from God and live in a world permeated by sin.

I believe that God, by His grace, provided redemption and restoration in Jesus Christ for all who repent and believe. As the Savior, Jesus takes away the sins of the world. Jesus is the one in whom we are called to put our hope, our only hope for forgiveness of sin and for reconciliation with God and with one another.

I believe that in all matters of faith and life, the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the final authority. The Scriptures point us with full reliability to Jesus, God's Son. The Scriptures tell us that we receive forgiveness of sins by faith in Jesus Christ, and that God provides salvation by grace alone for those who repent and believe.

I believe that forgiveness comes through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, God's Son, who was made flesh, took our place in death, rose from the dead, and is now in glory with the Father interceding and praying for His people.

I believe that God, through His Spirit, lovingly calls, redeems and adopts us into His family, the Church and that, in gratitude for God's saving love in Christ, we are called to live a life of faithfulness and obedience according to the scriptures.

I believe that Jesus, through His Spirit, is presently directing God's work of making all things new.

I believe that the Christian Church, as the community of believers, has an obligation to protect, preserve, and enhance life as fully as possible for each person, born and unborn, from the beginning to the end of life. As Christians we are called to a life of faith into an ongoing ministry until that mission is completed by the coming of the Kingdom in its fullness. The Holy Spirit empowers us to fulfill that calling.

I, along with all followers of Christ, believe and wait expectantly for the triumphant return of Jesus Christ our King. At that time, I believe that Jesus Christ will gather us to Himself as one complete family and will, throughout eternity, fully enhance the lives of His children as citizens of His kingdom, sons and daughters in our Father's house. As His children we long hopefully for that day to appear and we face that day without fear, for the Judge is our Savior and Lord. To Him be the glory.

Signature _____ Date Signed _____

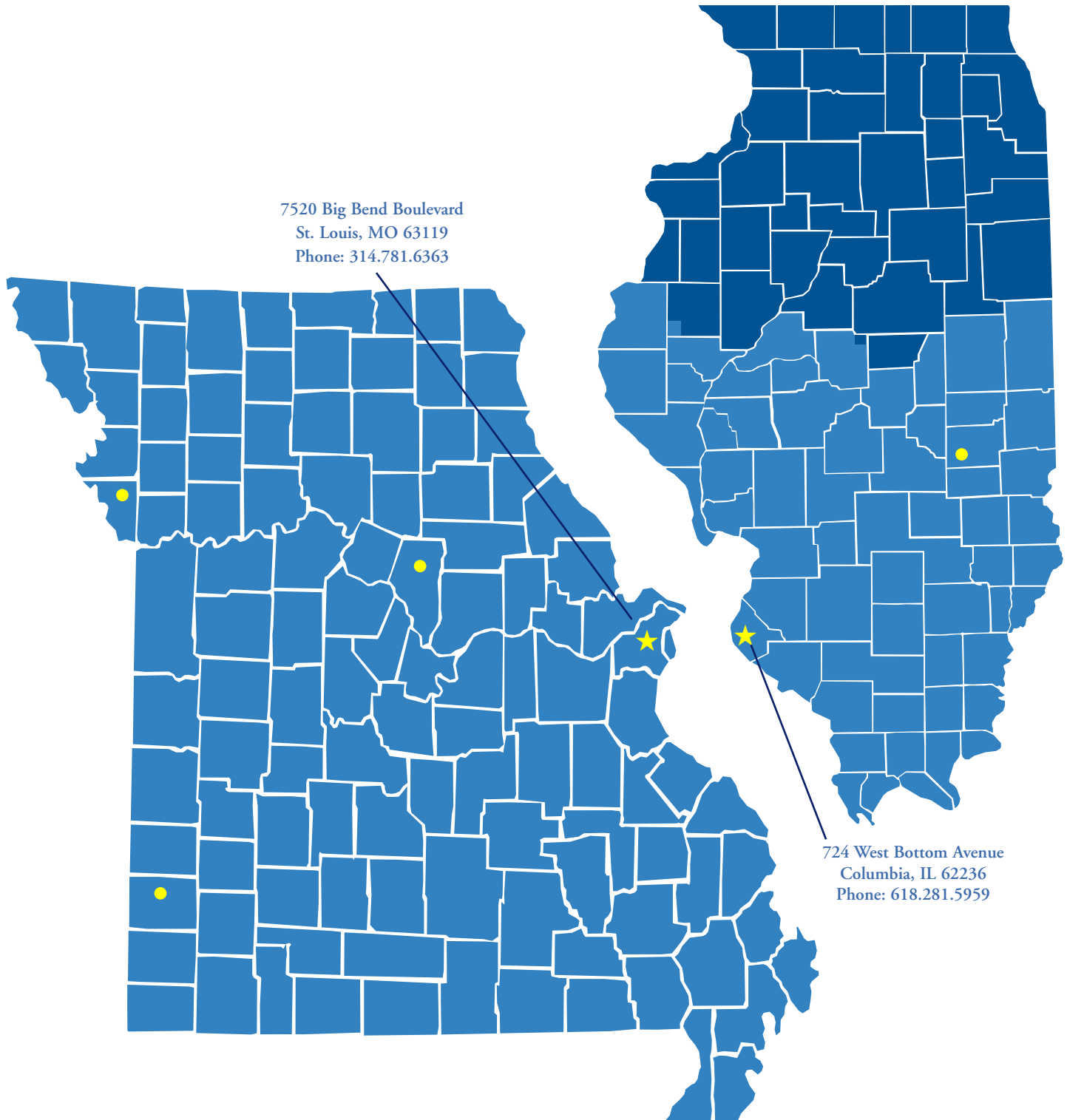
Name Printed _____

Approved: September 15, 1987 Bethany Christian Services National Board
Revised & Approved: July 15, 2003 Bethany Christian Services National Board
Revised & Approved: January 18, 2005 Bethany Christian Services National Board

FACT SHEET

- Bethany Christian Services of Missouri is part of an international, non-profit, 501(c)3 ministry that began in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in 1944.
- Bethany Christian Services is currently serving children and families in more than 70 U.S. locations and in more than a dozen countries.
- Bethany Christian Services of Missouri was established as a licensed child placing agency in 1978. Bethany's office serving Central/Southern Illinois received its license to work on July 11, 2007.
- Bethany is governed by a board of directors for the State of Missouri and an advisory board in Illinois. Our satellite branch office is located in St. Louis, Missouri. Outreach workers provide Bethany's services in Southwest Missouri, MD – Missouri, and the Kansas City area.
- Our goal is to promote life choices and Christian adoption services as an alternative to abortion throughout the state of Missouri.
- Bethany provides pregnancy counseling and a complete program of adoption services, both here in the U.S. and internationally.
- Bethany is *not* a crisis pregnancy center, but we work with centers around the state. They refer clients to Bethany for adoption services; we refer clients to them for pregnancy testing and post-abortion ministries.
- Our birthparent clients come from a variety of backgrounds and ages—as young as 11 years of age to some in their forties.
- People hear about Bethany through word of mouth, the Internet, Yellow Pages, public presentations, pastors, teachers, and crisis pregnancy centers. There is *no charge* for services to women with unplanned pregnancies.
- Our full- and part-time staff are Christians who worship in many different denominations
- Bethany is funded through contributions and adoption fees.

*Missouri and Southern Illinois
Service Area Map*



Adoption specialist are located in the areas indicated by yellow dots.