



724 W. Bottom
P.O. Box 1038
Columbia, IL 62236
www.bethany.org/southillinois

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.bethany.org/southillinois or contact our office at 618-281-5959, 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 serving Central/Southern Illinois may be in your future as you pursue adoption plans. May the Lord bless your adoption pursuits.

Sincerely,

Rachel O'Banion
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
- Participate in post placement supervision requirements
- Attend the finalization hearing (at six months usually)

**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 ___ <i>If yes, please explain on the back of the application.</i>			

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:
PO Box 1038
Columbia, Illinois 62236
Fax # 618.281.5963*

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 Columbia, Illinois. Outreach workers provide Bethany's services in Central Illinois.
- Our goal is to promote life choices and Christian adoption services as an alternative to abortion throughout the state of Illinois.
- 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.

BETHANY CHRISTIAN SERVICES OF MISSOURI
Central/Southern Illinois Branch
ADOPTION SERVICES CONTRACT

We, _____, hereby understand, agree, and pledge payment for the following services provided by BETHANY CHRISTIAN SERVICES OF MISSOURI:

SERVICES TO ADOPTIVE PARENTS

*See attached description of services.

SERVICES TO BIRTH PARENTS

*See attached description of services.

Since the availability of children is contingent upon circumstances beyond the control of BETHANY, we understand that BETHANY cannot be held responsible for placements not occurring within a projected time frame.

For networking/full services provided, we agree to pay a fee of **\$20,000.00**, payable as follows:

Entry in the networking program the following fees apply:

1. \$ 550.00 **Application Fee** (non-refundable, due upon acceptance of application)
2. \$ 1550.00 **Family Assessment Fee** (non-refundable, due before release of completed home

visit)

Entry in the full service program the Administration Fee is to be paid upon entry. If a placement occurs all fees must be paid prior to actual placement.

3. \$ 3,500.00 **Administration Fee** (non-refundable, due upon approval, prior to profile presentation)
4. \$ 13,550.00 **Placement Service Fee** (total fee due at time of placement)
5. \$ 900.00 **Post-Placement Interview Fee** (total due at time of placement)
6. \$ **Additional Service Fees** ***In addition to the above fees incurred, travel over 100 miles round*

trip will be assessed at \$.425 per mile for driving or rental car expense (the least expensive of the two avenues), and a \$15.00 per hour charge for travel time outside our service area. Bethany assumes the cost of Missouri birthparent expenses including, but not limited to, household expenses, medical bills, travel, food, clothing,--not to exceed \$5000. Expenses in excess of \$5000 will be assumed by the adoptive family. Bethany will assume TPR court costs. If a private attorney is required, the adoptive family will assume the attorney's fees. In the case of interstate adoptions, additional fees may occur and will be paid by the adoptive family.

Annual updates are required until placement or withdrawal from Bethany's program, at a cost of \$300.00.

We agree to be financially responsible for all care and support of the child once the child has been placed in our care. This includes, but is not limited to, the payment of all health and medical expenses for the child as of the date of placement.

We understand that BETHANY CHRISTIAN SERVICES OF MISSOURI is a licensed child placing agency by the Division of Family Services in Missouri and will, in accordance with this contract and the laws and regulations governing adoption in this state, perform the services set forth above. We understand that the fees of this contract may need to be renegotiated in the future, due to operational costs. If this should occur we will be presented with an updated contract at that time.

SIGNATURES ON BEHALF OF THE PROSPECTIVE ADOPTIVE PARENTS

Adoptive Father _____ Date Signed _____

Adoptive Mother _____ Date Signed _____

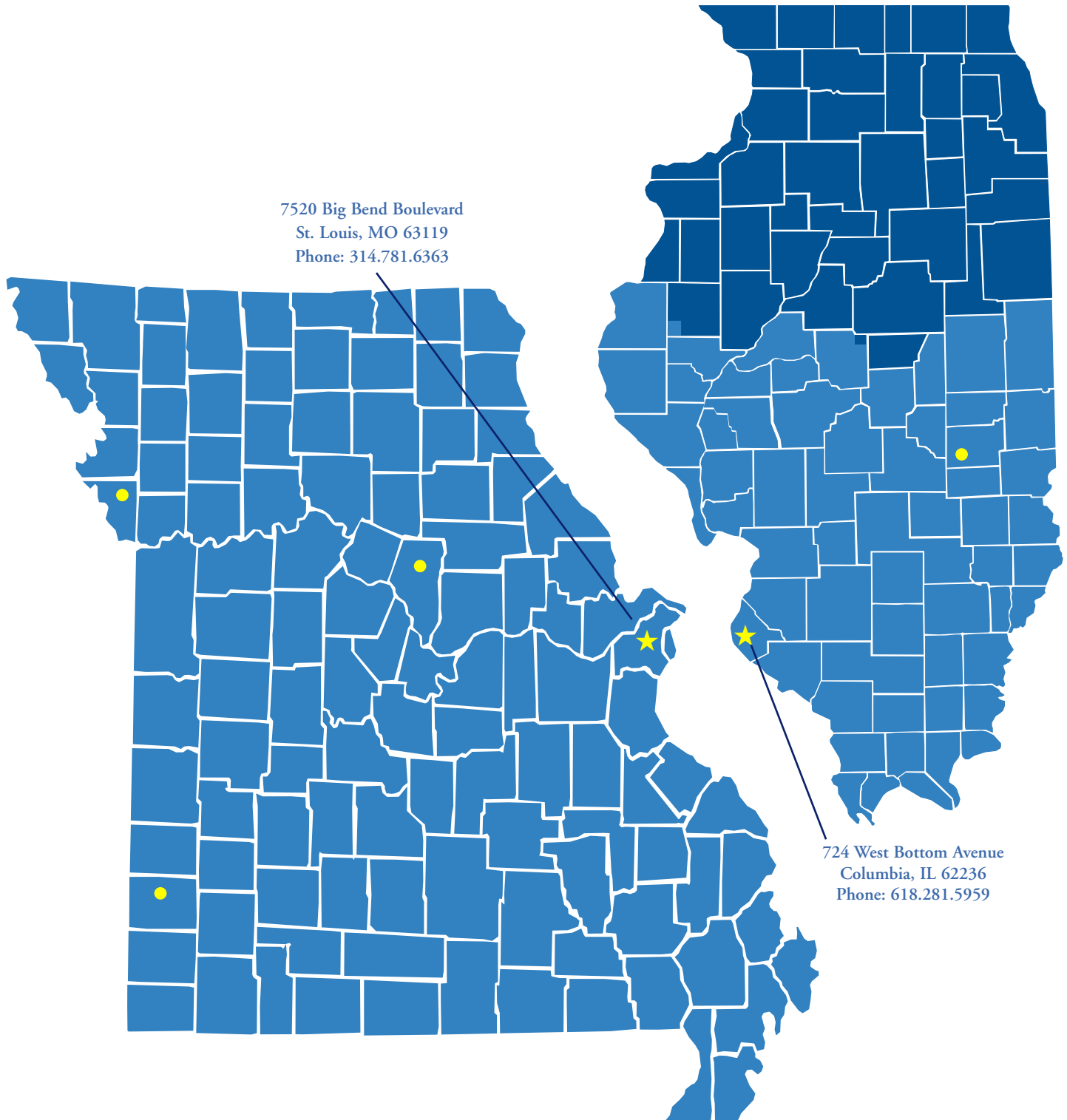
Address (Street) _____

(City, State, Zip) _____

SIGNATURE ON BEHALF OF AGENCY

Agency Representative _____ Date Signed _____

*Missouri and Southern Illinois
Service Area Map*



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

ADOPTIVE PARENTS' RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN ILLINOIS

This document does not constitute legal advice. Legal advice is dependent on the specific circumstances of each situation and jurisdiction. The information in this document is an overview and does not cover all cases or facets of adoption law in Illinois. It cannot replace the advice of an attorney licensed in your state.

Illinois has progressive adoption laws that protect the rights of birth parents and adoptive parents. Prior to paying any agency fees, adoptive parents who are using the services of an adoption agency in Illinois must receive this document from their caseworker as soon as is reasonably practical after meeting with an agency worker. Adoptive parents may take this document home to read in private prior to reviewing it with a worker from the agency.

This document provides adoptive parents with information regarding their choices, rights and responsibilities as they relate to adopting a child in Illinois. The information generally refers to the rights of adoptive parents in agency-assisted and private Illinois adoptions, and does not refer to situations involving adoptions that go through the child welfare system and the Juvenile Court. While much of the information contained in this document is applicable, prospective adoptive parents who are providing long term foster care and who are considering adoption should seek the assistance of their caseworkers and their attorneys.

The different ways to adopt a child are to:

- 1) adopt domestically through an adoption agency that is licensed in Illinois or elsewhere in the U.S. (an 'agency assisted adoption');
- 2) work with an adoption agency that is licensed in Illinois or elsewhere in the U.S. to adopt internationally (an 'international or intercountry adoption'); or
- 3) work with an adoption attorney to adopt domestically (a 'private adoption'; other states may or may not be involved); or
- 4) become a licensed foster parent and provide long term foster care for a child who has been removed from his or her parents due to abuse, neglect or dependence. If the child cannot return home to his or her birth parents, the placement will likely convert to an adoption.

Note: No agency or attorney can guarantee in advance that you will be approved as an adoptive parent, that a child will be placed with you or that if a child is placed with you that you will be ultimately approved by the court as an adoptive parent.

RIGHTS OF ADOPTIVE PARENTS

ADOPTIVE PARENTS WORKING WITH AN ILLINOIS ADOPTION AGENCY HAVE MANY RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO:

1. Be treated with respect and dignity.

Adoptive Parent(s) Initials _____/_____

Witness Initials _____

ADOPTIVE PARENT'S RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

2. Make decisions free from pressure or coercion, including your decision to accept or reject the placement of a particular child.
3. Be informed of the rights of birth parents.
4. Receive a written schedule of agency fees and refund policies as well as a copy of the agency's annual report.

Note: An agency may not require you to make a donation, or increase its fees without notice. Agencies may not charge additional fees and expenses beyond those disclosed in the adoption fee schedule unless additional fees are reasonably required by the circumstances and you are informed of them before they are incurred. In addition, an agency may not charge excessive fees and they must be based on services provided to adoptive families and to birth parents.

5. Know whether or not the agency will provide you with a copy of your home study. Adoptive parents also have the right to request a transfer of their foster parent licensing or home study file to another agency and the right to expect that the transfer be made in a timely manner.
6. For the adoption of a child born in Illinois, receive in writing, no later than the date of placement, non-identifying information (if known) concerning the child and his or her birth family to be placed with you for adoption, including the:
 - Date and place of birth of the child; immunization records; and conditions or diseases believed to be hereditary;
 - Drugs or medications taken by the child's biological mother during pregnancy;
 - Psychological and psychiatric information known about the child and birth family;
 - Any other information that may be a factor influencing the child's present or future physical, mental or emotional health;
 - Information on previous placements, if any, and reasons for placement changes, excluding identifying information on previous caregivers;
 - Any known behavioral information about the child necessary to care for the child and other children in your home;
 - Age, general physical appearance, ethnic background, race, religion, education, occupations, hobbies, interests and talents of each of the biological parents;
 - Existence of any other children born to the biological parents;
 - Information about biological grandparents; reason for emigrating into the United States, if applicable, and country of origin;
 - Relationship between biological parents;
 - Detailed medical and mental health histories of the child, the biological parents, and members of their immediate families;
 - In the case of emergency placements, known information may be provided verbally, but subsequently must be provided in writing;
 - Information learned by the agency between the time of placement and the time of the adoption finalization as it is acquired;

Adoptive Parent(s) Initials _____/_____

Witness Initials _____

ADOPTIVE PARENT'S RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Note: If you are adopting a child from another country, the availability of the abovementioned information will be limited. If you are adopting a child born in another State, you should receive all known background information and birth records.

7. Adoptive parents may view supporting documentation in the child's file in the presence of casework staff at the Illinois agency, but may not have access to identifying or personal information about other people. Adoptive parents should be advised by the adoption agency if certain information about birth family members is not provided due to confidentiality protections under federal law.
8. Training that includes counseling and guidance for ensuring a successful adoption. You must complete the training within the time frame required by your agency.
9. Confidentiality of your identifying information (unless otherwise required by Illinois law or court order).
10. Seek medical, emotional and social work advice from independent resources prior to accepting the placement of a particular child.
11. If you are adopting domestically, you can ask to participate in an open or closed adoption with your adopted child's birth parents and ask to meet them prior to placement; or to choose another agency if your request cannot be honored. Any agreement or promises regarding plans to have contact with the birth parents of your child or receive information after the finalization of the adoption cannot be enforced under Illinois law.

AS AN ADOPTIVE PARENT WORKING WITH AN ATTORNEY TOWARD A PRIVATE ADOPTION, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO:

1. Receive information regarding legal fees, expenses and refund policies.
2. Inquire about the attorney's license and status. You may access this information by calling the Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission at 800-826-8625 or 312-565-2600 or accessing its website at www.iardc.org. Another resource is the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys website: www.adoptionattorneys.org/ or telephone at 202/832-2222.
3. Ask about and expect that your attorney have experience in adoption law.
4. Inquire about any conflict of interest that would affect the attorney's representation of you. An attorney may not represent both the birth parents and the adoptive parents at the same time. Similarly, you should inquire about the attorney's relationship with any agencies with which you have worked.
5. Ask your attorney to explain to you the parameters of confidentiality of the private information you disclose to your attorney.

Adoptive Parent(s) Initials _____/_____

Witness Initials _____

ADOPTIVE PARENT'S RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Note: Illinois laws do not permit an attorney to be paid to provide adoption services.

- Adoption services are defined as: arranging for the placement of a child, identifying a child for adoption, matching adoptive parents with biological parents, arranging or facilitating an adoption, taking or acknowledging consents or surrenders.
- Licensed attorneys may provide and charge for legal services related to the adoption. For example, fees may be charged to appear in court on your behalf or provide you with legal advice.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF ADOPTIVE PARENTS

As an adoptive parent, it is your responsibility to:

- Work cooperatively and honestly with the entity handling your adoption.
- Disclose if you have ever been the subject of an unfavorable home study or if you have ever withdrawn an application from an agency.
- Pay the agreed-upon fees promptly.
- Obtain the express permission of the agency that developed a "review only" home study before forwarding the study to other agencies.
- Keep your agency informed of new pertinent information about your family.
- Receive permission from the agency with which you are licensed before you accept a child being placed by another agency into your home.
- Cooperate in obtaining the required training on adoption related issues.
- Be cooperative with post-placement monitoring and support.
- If you are transferring your foster parent license from one agency to another, you are responsible for arranging for the original agency to send the home study directly to the subsequent adoption agency.

REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSED ADOPTION AGENCIES

1. This document shall be utilized in all agency-assisted adoptions in Illinois, **except in cases in which there is a pending Juvenile Court case** relating to the child being placed for adoption
2. The Department of Children and Family Services must license any agency providing adoption services in Illinois.
 - The agency must be recognized by the IRS as a charitable organization under section 501(c) 3 of the Internal Revenue Code.
 - Only adoption agencies that are licensed may receive payment or compensation for providing adoption services or advertise their services. (Adoptive parents may advertise on their own behalf.)
 - DCFS will not issue or renew the license of an adoption agency unless it is already or has achieved 501(c)(3) status, as recognized by the Internal Revenue code, by August 15, 2007.

Adoptive Parent(s) Initials _____/_____

Witness Initials _____

ADOPTIVE PARENT’S RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

3. Before you submit an application to an adoption agency that is providing adoption services in Illinois, the agency must provide you with its estimated fees, its refund and grievance policies and procedures in writing.
4. Before you enter into a contract or agreement with an Illinois adoption agency, the agency must provide you with a description, in writing, of its adoption services, policies and practices, and general eligibility criteria, including:
 - a. Verification of its current licenses and certifications;
 - b. Description of the agency’s philosophy and/or religious affiliation;
 - c. Content of the home study, preparation and licensing process, general training hours required and description of the home study process;
 - d. Any policy, requirements or situation that would affect the placement of a child with you;
 - e. Expected waiting period for the placement of a child with you;
 - f. How background information about the child is gathered and in what form it is shared; and
 - g. The post-placement process and the requirements for the finalization of your adoption.
5. This document shall be read aloud in its entirety to the adoptive parent(s) by an agency employee and shall be provided to them in writing in their preferred language.
6. The adoptive parent(s) and a witness from the agency must initial each page.
7. After it is signed and dated, a copy of this document shall be provided to the adoptive parent(s), and the original shall be maintained in the adoption agency’s client file.

RESOURCES

THE ILLINOIS DCFS LICENSED ADOPTION AGENCY WEBSITE

This website provides information on all the adoption agencies in Illinois. The “Summary of Illinois Licensed Adoption Agencies” document provides a basic overview of all agencies, including contact information regarding each agency’s DCFS licensing representative. www.state.il.us/dcfs/adoption/agencies/default.html

THE ILLINOIS ADOPTION REGISTRY AND MEDICAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Your agency should offer you information about the Illinois Adoption Registry, which provides a means by which registrants may authorize or prohibit the release of identifying information, including a copy of the adopted person's original birth certificate, to others involved in their surrender or adoption. Confidential facts may be released to registrants only after at least two specified parties to the adoption have each filed an explicit mutual consent for the exchange of this information.

Website: www.idph.state.il.us/vitalrecords/adoptioninfo.htm or telephone 877-323-5299

THE ILLINOIS CONFIDENTIAL INTERMEDIARY PROGRAM

The DCFS Confidential Intermediary Program provides a way for adoptees, adoptive parents, birth parents and other birth relatives to connect. A Confidential Intermediary (CI), who is trained and certified by DCFS to provide this service, is appointed by the Court to locate the sought-after relative. When the relative is located, the CI explains the reason for the contact, describes the options available and helps facilitate a mutually agreeable outcome. The CI protects each person’s privacy and confidentiality until/unless both decide to have direct contact. Website: www.ci-illinois.org or telephone 847-298-9096

Adoptive Parent(s) Initials _____/_____

Witness Initials _____

ADOPTIVE PARENT’S RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

DCFS ADOPTION ASSISTANCE/SUBSIDIES FOR NON-WARD SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN:

For special needs children who are not wards of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, the Department will provide subsidies if the ward meets the necessary criteria. If you adopt a child who is eligible for supplemental security income (SSI), or who meets other special needs criteria, your child may be subsidy eligible. If you are working with an agency, check with your caseworker.

Website www.state.il.us/dcf or telephone 800-232-3798

NORTH AMERICAN COUNCIL ON ADOPTABLE CHILDREN (NACAC)

Website: www.nacac.org/

970 Raymond Avenue, Suite 106
St. Paul, MN 55114

Telephone: 651-644-3036

CHILD WELFARE INFORMATION GATEWAY

A division of the Children’s Bureau, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services website: www.childwelfare.gov/

SIGNATURES:

Adoptive Parents:

Adoptive Parent’s Printed Name

Adoptive Parent’s Signature

Date

Adoptive Parent’s Printed Name

Adoptive Parent’s Signature

Date

Witness’s Printed Name

Witness’s Signature

Date

Agency:

Printed Agency Name

Authorized Representative’s Printed Name

Authorized Representative’s Signature

Date

Adoptive Parent(s) Initials _____/_____

Witness Initials _____