

Bethany Christian Services of Northern California Domestic Adoption Services Fee Agreement

We, _____, understand, agree and pledge payment to Bethany Christian Services of Northern CA, a licensed child placement agency by the State of California, for the following services provided in compliance with all appertaining state laws and local jurisdictional rules and regulations.

For services provided, we agree to pay Bethany Christian Services of Northern CA the fee of **\$19,300.00** payable as follows:

- Educational Seminar on Adoption Issues** **\$250**
This is a day long seminar to prepare couples for adoption. Attending this Seminar is required to adopt a child through Bethany's domestic infant program.
(This fee is due upon registration and is nonrefundable)
- Application Fee** **\$500**
Due with Formal Application (non refundable)
- Family Preparation/Assessment Fee** **\$2500**
Every adoptive family is required to complete a Preparation and Assessment process, which includes interviews, documentation, legal clearances, a home check, etc. This is typically a 3-6 month process from attending the Seminar to becoming a "waiting family". (This fee is due after the Intake Interview, with the Assessment paperwork and is nonrefundable once all Assessment interviews have been completed.)
- Program Fee** **\$6550**
This fee covers program administration, state fees, advertisement costs, as well as support for Bethany's outreach to mothers who are considering their options. This fee covers pregnancy-related expenses for birth mothers who are making adoption plans through Bethany of Northern CA, such as housing, medical care and other living expenses. The fee also includes sharing of Family Profiles with appropriate birth parents. (This is a one-time, nonrefundable fee. Fee is due upon submission of the Adoptive Family Profile.)
- Placement Fee** **\$9500**
This fee is due and payable at the time the baby enters your care and covers the services Bethany Christian Services of Northern CA provides to the adoptive parents and to the birth parents to complete the adoption. This includes birthparent counseling pre and post adoption, relinquishment services, costs related to uncontested birth father parental rights terminations, post placement supervision/support, court report submission for finalization, and maintenance of records on the child/family as required by state law licensing rules. (This fee is non-refundable except in the case of adoption disruption.)

Not included in the fees above: Fingerprint clearances (\$300-\$500), Profile expenses, possible travel expenses, further optional networking expenses, educational materials, court filing fees for finalization.

_____/_____ (please initial for this page)

We understand the following:

We understand that this agreement does not obligate Bethany to place a child with us. We understand that the above services facilitate the adoption process occurring prior to, during and after the placement of a child. Since the availability of children are contingent upon circumstances beyond the control of Bethany Christian Services, we understand that Bethany cannot be held responsible for placements not occurring within a projected time period.

We understand that in the case of a contested adoption Bethany will pay up to \$1500 of legal fees. We understand that legal fees beyond \$1500 related to a contested adoption are the adoptive family's responsibility. We understand that Bethany will inform the adoptive family as to the legal standing of an adoption case, allowing us to decide whether to proceed with the adoption and incur additional expenses. Contested cases typically require that adoptive families hire additional legal representation. We understand that legal fees are non-refundable.

We understand that if the birthmother we are matched with comes from an agency other than Bethany Christian Services of Northern CA, a new Fee Agreement may be required. Designated adoption fees may also vary.

We agree to be financially responsible for all care and support of the child, including medical, once we have accepted physical custody of the child.

We understand that all fees are non-refundable except as described above.

We understand that consequences of non-payment of the above fees may include, but are not limited to Bethany Christian Services of Northern CA reporting our status to credit agencies, and/or involving a collection agency.

We understand that Bethany Christian Services reviews adoption fees annually and fees are subject to change. This Fee Agreement is valid for one adoptive placement, unless the following applies.

- **Prior to placement, a file can be put "on hold" for up to six months without a fee change. If a file is "on hold" longer than six months, there may be possible fee increases. The Assessment period typically takes three to six months. If a family chooses to take longer than six months, fees are subject to change and a new Fee Agreement will be required.**
- **Prior to placement, a family can request their file with Bethany be put "on hold" for any reason. Prior to placement, Bethany can also put a file "on hold" in the event of any major family changes that might effect the adoption, including but not limited to: a change of residence, financial changes, health changes, a match with a birthmother that does not involve Bethany Christian Services of Northern CA, pursuing further infertility treatments, and/or a pregnancy/birth of a child. If a file is on hold for more than six months, an Assessment update will be required, as well as a new Fee Agreement reflecting possible fee increases.**
- **In the event of an adoption through another provider or a birth of a child, Bethany will close the family file. Bethany asks that families wait until their child is at least 12 months of age before beginning the process again through Bethany. At that time, a new Assessment and Fee Agreement will be required.**
- **If the FamilyFirst Loan is utilized, Bethany will not assume any responsibility for canceling the loan if a family is "on hold" or closed for any of the above reasons.**

Signatures:

Adoptive Father: _____ Date: _____

Adoptive Mother: _____ Date: _____

Bethany Representative: _____ Date: _____