



ADOPTION GUIDE

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WELCOME!

WE'RE HAPPY YOU'RE HERE.

Parenting through adoption can be one of the most life-changing experiences you will ever face. Adoption & Beyond's experienced staff have been touched by adoption both personally and professionally. It's because of this experience that we have dedicated ourselves to helping children and families through adoption.

We invite you to look over the information within this packet. It offers a basic overview of the adoption services Adoption & Beyond provides to families hoping to adopt a child. Having a thorough understanding of adoption and the different opportunities available will aid you in making the right choice for your family. We encourage you to contact us with questions and/or to schedule a free, no-obligation consultation to learn more.

ADOPTION IS THE GIFT OF A LIFETIME AND WE WOULD CONSIDER IT A PRIVILEGE TO HELP YOU BRING HOME THE CHILD WHO IS DESTINED FOR YOUR FAMILY.

A NOTE FROM OUR DIRECTOR:

Hi, I'm Steffany. I was introduced to the field of adoption in 1993 while obtaining my first master's degree in Family Life Education and Consultation. I had always had an interest in unplanned pregnancy and infertility, but it was not until this point that I began to see how it all fit together.

While obtaining my second master's degree in Social Work, I had the opportunity to study Hospital and School Social Work. I thoroughly enjoyed learning about these other fields; however, I knew that my heart's desire was to be involved in adoption. Within a few short months, doors began to open and starting an adoption agency became a reality.

Since 1998, Adoption & Beyond has grown from a small, one-person home-based agency to an agency with several workers covering two states. I am so thankful and blessed to have had the opportunity to work with hundreds of wonderful birth parents, adoptive families and their children. In addition, I am the proud mother of five children, one having joined our family through adoption.

I look forward to the opportunity of working with your family as you begin the adoption journey! I hope you will reach out to us with any questions you have along the way.

Warmest Wishes,

Steffany A. Aye, LCSW, LCSW

Founder, Executive Director, Clinical Social Worker and Adoptive Mom

OUR *services*

Adoption & Beyond is a full service child placing agency providing comprehensive services to families during the adoption process and beyond. Listed here you will find the various services that we provide to assist your family through the adoption process.

CONSULTATIONS

Adoption & Beyond understands how difficult it can be to choose the right agency to guide you through your adoption process. It is for this reason we offer free consultations. During a consultation, we will take an in-depth look at each of the adoption avenues available in order for you to determine which options are right for your family and how Adoption & Beyond can assist you with each opportunity.

HOME STUDY SERVICES

Adoption & Beyond is available to perform domestic, international, private and embryo adoptive home study assessments. An approved home study is required in order to adopt a child. A home study is a comprehensive evaluation of your family life and home environment.

At the first meeting, an adoption professional will meet informally with you to get to know you and to go over the information necessary for the home study process. The paperwork involves sharing your personal background, financial stability, and other relevant information required by your state of residence. Upon completion of the home study paperwork, a home visit, and attending an adoption education workshop, the home study report is written and prepared for submission to the appropriate authorities.

POST-ADOPTION

There are post-adoption visits required once a child is placed in your home. During the post-adoption process, we offer advice and guidance as you transition your child into your home. Each state and country has its own guidelines regarding the number of post-adoption visits needed.



ADOPTION AVENUES

DOMESTIC ADOPTION SERVICES

Adoption & Beyond seeks to connect expecting parents who are considering an adoption plan with families looking to adopt and complete their forever family. We work with both parties by providing adoption education, guidance, and child placement services. No matter which side of adoption you are on, we are focused on advocating for your needs.

INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION SERVICES

Adoption & Beyond is able to guide families in selecting an international agency that best matches their needs. We network with a number of international agencies who have programs in many different countries. Adoption & Beyond works closely with a family's selected international agency in order to serve as the local liaison to complete the home study process and to provide post-adoption services.

PRIVATE ADOPTION SERVICES

Private adoptions occur when a family locates an expecting parent through their own networking efforts either by word of mouth or a connection with an adoption attorney or consulting service. Adoption & Beyond assists families with their private adoptions by providing home study services, adoption education, and guidance.

EMBRYO ADOPTION SERVICES

Embryo adoption occurs when a genetic family has remaining embryos from previous in-vitro fertilization treatments that they wish to place for adoption. The family may choose to adopt frozen embryos in hopes they will be able to carry and give birth to their adopted child. Adoption & Beyond works closely with a family's selected embryo placement program to serve as the local liaison to complete the home study process.

HOW WE ARE *unique*

- WE OFFER FREE, NO-OBLIGATION OFFICE CONSULTATIONS FOR FAMILIES TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ADOPTION.
- WE ARE A 501(C)(3) SELF-SUPPORTING, NOT-FOR-PROFIT CHILD PLACING AGENCY LICENSED IN BOTH KANSAS AND MISSOURI.
- WE HAVE REGIONAL ADOPTION WORKERS PLACED THROUGHOUT KANSAS AND MISSOURI WHICH ENABLES US TO WORK WITH FAMILIES RESIDING ANYWHERE IN BOTH STATES.
- WE BELIEVE IN WORKING TOGETHER WITH OTHER ADOPTION PROFESSIONALS TO FIND LOVING FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN. WE HAVE BEEN NETWORKING WITH LOCAL, NATIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION RESOURCES SINCE 1998.
- WE OFFER AN ORGANIZED HOME STUDY PROCESS WHICH INCLUDES DETAILED, EASY-TO-FOLLOW PAPERWORK.
- WE STRIVE TO BEGIN THE HOME STUDY PROCESS WITHIN A FEW DAYS OF A FAMILY'S INITIAL INQUIRY.

- WE ARE WELL-RESPECTED FOR THE QUALITY OF OUR HOME STUDY SERVICES AND REPORTS AND OUR HOME STUDIES CAN BE UTILIZED FOR A LOCAL, NATIONAL, OR INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION.
- OUR KNOWLEDGEABLE AND COMMITTED STAFF MEMBERS HAVE BEEN BOTH PERSONALLY AND PROFESSIONALLY TOUCHED BY ADOPTION.
- WE TAKE THE TIME TO TALK PERSONALLY WITH FAMILIES, AND WE REMAIN AVAILABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS THROUGHOUT THE ADOPTION PROCESS AND BEYOND.
- WE ARE COMMITTED TO PROVIDING HUMANITARIAN AID TO CHILDREN IN NEED.
- WE ARE MEMBERS OF PROFESSIONAL CHILD WELFARE ORGANIZATIONS ON BOTH THE LOCAL AND NATIONAL LEVEL.



OUR **VISION**
mission
PURPOSE



VISION

For every child to grow up feeling loved.

MISSION

Adoption & Beyond's mission is to build healthy families through child-centered adoptions.

PURPOSE

At Adoption & Beyond, we dedicated ourselves to building meaningful relationships by educating, guiding, and advocating for all touched by adoption, every step of the adoption journey and beyond.

eligibility FOR SERVICES

Families must reside in either Kansas or Missouri to receive Adoption & Beyond services.

Families looking to adopt must be at least twenty-five (25) years of age in order to apply for services with Adoption & Beyond. There should be no more than sixty (60) years of age between the adopted child and the oldest adoptive parent. This policy excludes relative adoptions.

Singles and married couples are welcome to apply for services with Adoption & Beyond. Married couples must be married a minimum of one (1) year at the time of application. If married less than a year, a family is welcome to apply if they have lived together for at least a year prior to marriage.

VISIT POLICIES AND GUIDELINES FOR ALL AGENCY POLICES.

AT ADOPTION & BEYOND, WE BELIEVE CHILDREN
DESERVE THE BEST *opportunities* IN LIFE.





STORIES FROM THE HEART

"Thank you so very much for helping us with Holly's adoption. You are so kind and encouraging and we always felt very comfortable with you. We also appreciated your friendliness and your enthusiasm. Thank you so much for the part you played in bringing our angel home!"

Lori, John & Holly

"Mason is already the light of our lives and our families are so thrilled! You help to grow families when they might not otherwise have that chance. You will always hold a special place in our hearts. Thank you again!"

Terry, Jill & Mason

"Thank you for all your help through this adoption process. We appreciate the various points you gave us. Thank you for believing in us and helping to add this precious little one to our family. Thanks for helping the process go as smooth as it could."

Marlon & Micheline

"We both wanted to thank you for everything you've done to help us through this process. Your patience, understanding, and knowledge were invaluable to us, and your gentle nature made you so easy to trust and rely on."

Arlo & Wendy

"Molly is the love of our life! We are now complete as a family. After almost six years of heartache we are finally complete! Our experience at Adoption & Beyond was wonderful! We were treated with the utmost kindness and compassion. You were there for the thousands of questions we had. You always answered them no matter how silly the question might have seemed. We developed a lifelong bond with Adoption & Beyond and we are honored that you were there to help us along the way."

Kristen & Tony

READY TO GET *started* ?

1 STEP ONE

Schedule a time to meet with us to discuss your adoption desires. A Consultation Form can be found at adoption-beyond.org under the Forms tab. Once we receive your consultation form, we will send you a calendar link to schedule a time to meet.

2 STEP TWO

Upon deciding to start your home study process with us, complete the Application for Services which can be found at adoption-beyond.org under the Forms tab. After you have submitted your application and fee, you will be notified of your application approval.

3 STEP THREE

Once your application has been approved you can begin working on the home study paperwork that was provided to you during your consultation visit.

Congratulations on taking the first steps! We look forward to sharing our expertise and experience with you as you begin your adoption journey!

ADOPTION FUNDING RESOURCES

Many resources are available to lessen the financial impact of adoption on your family. Explore some of the options below in more detail by visiting the Financial Aid page under the Resources tab at adoption-beyond.org.

Federal & State Adoption Tax Credits
Employment Benefits
Military Personnel Benefits
Grants
Loans
Fundraising

IMPORTANT LINKS

- [Current Fee Schedule](#)
- [Sample Fee Agreement](#)
- [Sample Adoption Services Agreement](#)
- [Adoption Statistics](#)

FREQUENTLY-ASKED *questions*

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO RECEIVE A CHILD?

DOMESTIC ADOPTIONS: While this is a reasonable question, it is also one which cannot be answered very clearly. Because the expecting parents select the family with whom they would like to place their child, there is little predictability within the selection process. Some families wait weeks once they enter an adoption program while others wait a year or more.

INTERNATIONAL ADOPTIONS: The time frame for international adoption will be determined primarily by the country a family decides to adopt from. Most international adoptions take approximately one to two years to complete, while some countries take longer. An international adoption agency should be able to provide specific information for each country's current process.

EMBRYO ADOPTIONS: The selection process is completed by the genetic family choosing the family to whom they would like to donate their embryos. In general, this process could take as little as a few months.

HOW OFTEN DO EXPECTING PARENTS CHANGE THEIR MINDS?

DOMESTIC ADOPTIONS: There are no guarantees in domestic adoptions. Expecting parents sometimes change their minds prior to placing their baby for adoption. This occurs less often when an open adoptive relationship has been developed.

INTERNATIONAL ADOPTIONS: In international adoption, children who are placed for adoption have either been abandoned or the parental rights have been terminated within the country prior to placement with a family.

EMBRYO ADOPTIONS: In an embryo adoption, the embryos are donated to the family prior to a medical transfer procedure. Following the birth of a child through a successful embryo transfer, a formal adoption can occur.

WHAT ARE THE COSTS INVOLVED FOR AN ADOPTION?

DOMESTIC ADOPTIONS: There are several factors which determine the total cost for an adoption. Variables such as legal representation, possible medical bills, and expecting parent's living expenses can vary from one adoption to the next. Efforts are made to maintain a family's adoption budget.

INTERNATIONAL ADOPTIONS: There are several factors that can determine the total cost of an international adoption such as country fees, international document preparation fees, and travel costs. The cost of an international adoption varies greatly from one country to another.

EMBRYO ADOPTIONS: There are several factors in an embryo adoption. Most of the variation occurs with medical costs. If an embryo transfer is not successful, then medical procedures need to be performed again for another embryo transfer. The cost can increase, depending on the number of attempts a family chooses to make in order to achieve a successful pregnancy.

DO YOU HAVE ANY ADVICE ABOUT THE ADOPTION PROCESS?

Adoption is a life-altering experience and should be approached thoughtfully. Perhaps the most helpful advice we can give is: remain flexible, be patient, prepare for the unexpected, keep an open mind, and stay positive.



Content subject to change



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