



ADOPTION GUIDE

TABLE OF *contents*

3 Welcome

4 Our Services

6 How We're Unique

8 Vision, Mission
and Purpose

10 Eligibility for Service

12 Stories From The Heart

13 Getting Started

14 Frequently Asked
Questions

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 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,
Adoptive Mom and Your Trusted Adoption Advisor

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.

Adoption Education & Guidance

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 pathways available in order for you to determine which options are right for your family and how Adoption & Beyond can assist you on your adoption path.

Home Study & Supervision Visits

Adoption & Beyond is available to perform domestic, international, private, embryo and foster care home study assessments and supervision. 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, our Executive Director will meet with you to get to know you and to go over the information necessary for the home study process and show you around our home study portal where the paperwork involved in sharing your personal background, financial stability, and other relevant information required by the state resides. Upon completion of the home study paperwork, taking adoption education courses, and a home visit, the home study report is written and prepared to be submitted to the appropriate authorities.

Adoption Services

Adoption & Beyond will be there with you every step of the way no matter which adoption pathway you choose. We will be transparent about the adoption process and our fees. We will be honest about the joys and challenges of adoption. Know that Adoption & Beyond was built on these very principles. Since 1998, we have helped guide and support nearly 7,000 families with their adoption journey with many others currently in the process of adoption.



ADOPTION *Pathways*

Domestic Agency Adoption

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.

Typical Cost: \$42,000

Self-Networking Adoption

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

Typical Cost: \$26,000

Embryo Adoption

Embryo adoption occurs when a genetic family has remaining embryos from a previous in-vitro fertilization treatment that they wish to donate. The adoptive family receives the frozen embryos in hopes they will be able to become pregnant and give birth to their adopted embryo baby. Adoption & Beyond networks closely with a family's selected embryo placement program to serve as the local liaison to complete the home study process.

Typical Cost: \$17,000

Foster Adoption

Foster care adoption occurs when a child is legally free for adoption, most children who are available for foster care adoption are 8 years of age or older, part of a sibling group or have specific medical or mental health needs. Families who pursue foster care adoption must become licensed as a foster parent from a state agency first and then Adoption & Beyond is able to assist with the home study process, which is needed prior to searching for a child to adopt.

Typical Cost: FREE

International Adoption

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 the required post-supervision visits.

Typical Cost: \$50,000

HOW WE'RE *Unique*

- We offer free, no-obligation 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 either state.
- We believe in working with other adoption professionals to find loving families for children. Since 1998, we have been networking with local, national, and international adoption resources.
- Our services are available regardless of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, disability, marital status, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.
- We offer an organized home study process, which includes An Easy-to-Follow Online Portal.
- 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.



How We're *Unique*

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 residing in any state can apply for Adoption & Beyond services.*

**For New York families, services are limited.*

Families looking to adopt must be at least twenty-five (25) years of age 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.

Singles and married couples are welcome to apply for services with Adoption & Beyond. Married couples must have been married for a minimum of 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 policies.

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 talk about your adoption. Our **Consultation Form** can be found ([Here](#)). Once you submit your consultation form, you can pick a date and time that works for your schedule.

2 Step Two

Upon deciding to start your home study process with us, complete the **Application for Home Study Services**, which can be found ([Here](#)). After you have submitted your application and fee, you will be notified of your application approval and get access to your home study portal.

3 Step Three

Once your application has been approved, you can begin working on the home study paperwork in your personalized home study portal.

Congratulations on taking the first steps! We look forward to sharing our expertise and 27+ years of 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. Visit the Making Adoption Affordable page ([Here](#)) to explore the options below in more detail.

*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 months once they enter an adoption program while others wait a year or more.

Self-Networking Adoptions: The selection process is completed by the expecting parents, so there is little predictability of when an expecting parent will stumble across your family's information. The wait time is really determined by the amount of effort a family puts into their own self-networking.

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.

Foster Care Adoptions: The wait time is unknown. It could take several months of searching for a child to find one that matches your family dynamics, and then it is the state foster care agency who chooses and approves a family (among many) who are interested in adopting a specific child.

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.

Frequently Asked *questions*

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.

Self-Networking Adoptions: There are no guarantees, expecting parents sometimes change their minds prior to placing their baby for adoption. However, this occurs less often with a private adoption because of the personal connection and close relationship you usually develop with expecting parents prior to placement.

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.

Foster Care Adoptions: In foster care adoption, children available for adoption their parents' parental rights have been terminated by the state prior to placement with a family.

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.

Frequently Asked *questions*

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.

Self-Networking Adoptions: In self-networked adoptions you are cutting the cost of your adoption significantly by finding your own adoption opportunity. You are in essence cutting out the middleman, so the only costs you usually have beyond your home study are legal representation, possible medical bills, and expecting parent's living expenses and those can vary from one adoption to the next.

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.

Foster Care Adoptions: Foster care adoptions the costs are minimal as the state offers adoption assistance to families who adopt children from foster care.

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.



Content subject to change

The most helpful advice we can give is to remain flexible and be patient, prepare for the unexpected, keep an open mind, and stay positive!

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