



## PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS – IN STATE

Adoption Options is a non-profit, non-sectarian, licensed child placement agency begun July 20, 1981. Since opening, the agency has placed over 1,100 children. Our current adoption programs are:

1. Infant Adoption Program
2. Minority Family Adoption Program
3. Flexible Family Adoption Program
4. Designated Adoption Program
5. Relative Adoption Program
6. Non-agency Private Adoption Services Program
7. International Adoption Program

The enclosed fee schedule(s) reflect exactly what the fees will be for each adoption program. In our regular program, if you are matched with a birth parent(s) who choose not to proceed with a plan of adoption, the fee agreement you sign for your specific program remains in effect and no additional fees are assessed. Families may participate in more than one program at the same time, however, total program fees are established from the outset.

### **Infant Adoption Program:**

The eligibility requirements for this program (applicable at the time your family assessment begins) are as follows:

1. Married applicants must be married for 1½ years.
2. Both husband and wife must be at least 25 years of age.
3. Applicants may have no more than two healthy infant experiences in their current marriage by birth or adoption.
4. Applicants must have infertility issues or substantial circumstances that preclude biological parenting.

The expected wait for placement is currently averaging 12-18 months. Single people may apply, although the wait for placement may be somewhat longer. Fees are set and not on a sliding scale.

### **Minority Family Adoption Program:**

This program is primarily for families with an ethnic or racial background that matches that of the child needing placement, i.e. African American, Bi-racial, Hispanic or Native American AND the child to be placed will be either African American or Bi-racial African American. However, a Caucasian family who has already adopted an African American or Bi-racial African American child and wishing to adopt ONLY a child of the same or similar ethnic background may also apply for this program.

The eligibility requirements for this program are as follows:

1. Married applicants must have been married for 1½ years.
2. Minimum age of applicants is 25 years. Individual consideration on a case-by-case basis may result in waiving this requirement.
3. There may be more than one other child in the family's home.

Single persons may apply. Fees for this program are based on 10% of gross income. The expected wait for placement is 12-18 months.

### **Flexible Family Adoption Program:**

This program is designed for families willing to adopt:

1. A child over the age of two.
2. A sibling group of two or more children.
3. An infant who presents with two or more of the following:
  - a) Medical problems that indicate a risk for future complications or developmental issues.
  - b) Birth family history that includes alcoholism, extensive drug use and/or mental health issues such as schizophrenia, manic depression, etc.
  - c) Documentation of failure-to-thrive in early weeks or months of life.

d) Medical expenses that exceed the limits of Adoption Options' Crisis Intervention Fund. Single persons and families with two or more children are encouraged to apply. Trans-cultural/trans-racial placements will be considered. The children placed through this program come to Adoption Options at the request of their family or through state or county agencies. Recognizing that these children have various special needs, prospective families need to be open to incorporating the use of community resources and mental health services into their family after placement. Fees for this program are based on a sliding scale. It is difficult to predict the wait time for children from this program but it could be 9-12 months.

### **Designated Adoption Program:**

A designated adoption is one in which the birth parent(s) designate or name the prospective adoptive family. This is usually done through an intermediary such as a physician, attorney, friend or relative. Anonymity for all parties may or may not be maintained depending on those involved. Adoption Options provides counseling services for the birth parent(s) and accepts custody of the child through legal relinquishment in the court. Simultaneously, Adoption Options conducts a family assessment for the prospective adoptive applicant(s), facilitates placement upon approval of their assessment, provides placement services and assists the adoptive family to legally adopt the child.

Families who have not yet found a birth parent to designate them as the adoptive family for their child may begin the assessment process while they search. Adoption Options views this step as a way to educate and empower adoptive families earlier in the process in order to better assist them in seeking a designated adoption.

### **Relative Adoption Program:**

This program is designed for relatives of an expected infant or a child already born. The agency provides counseling to birth parent(s) considering relinquishment as required by Colorado statute. A family assessment can also be completed in an expeditious manner, should the court require this.

### **Non-Agency Private Adoption Services Program:**

This program is for individuals who have already had a child placed with them by a non-relative for the purpose of adoption. Decision-making counseling, as required under Colorado statute, can be provided to the birth parent(s) and a family assessment completed for the prospective adoptive family.

### **International Adoption Program**

This program is for applicants interested in adopting infants and/or older children from orphanages in other countries. Single and/or married applicants are encouraged to apply. Adoption Options will complete a family assessment, help you prepare the necessary paperwork for USCIS and assist you in compiling an international adoption dossier. Fees for this program differ for each country. Interested families should call for an appointment with the Executive Director. The wait time for the International Program can range from 6 months to 2 years depending on the country and other variables.

### ***PLACEMENT DISCLAIMER:***

#### **Adoption Options may decline to place a child with an adoptive family for any of the following reasons:**

- (i) the prospective adoptive parent has been convicted of a violent crime, including but not limited to child abuse, spousal abuse, physical assault, battery, rape, sexual assault or homicide;
- (ii) the prospective adoptive parent has been convicted for a crime against children including, but not limited to, child pornography;
- (iii) the prospective adoptive parent has been convicted of a drug (including alcohol) related offense;
- (iv) the prospective adoptive parent suffers from a drug/alcohol dependency; or
- (v) the placement, in the professional opinion of the Adoption Options staff, would be harmful to the child's health, safety or welfare.

### **Foster Care Program:**

Adoption Options is licensed to provide foster care for infants and toddlers. These children are placed by the county departments of social services and case managed by Adoption Options' staff. A cradle care program provides temporary care for infants placed directly from the hospital when the birth parents are considering a plan of adoption.