



International Child Foundation

Hague Accredited, Licensed, Non-Profit Adoption Agency & Humanitarian Organization
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“ABC” INFANT ADOPTION

DOMESTIC ADOPTION Overview and Steps in the Process

International Child Foundation (ICF) began its domestic “ABC” adoption program in 2008 in response to calls from birthmothers and adoptive families. Since 2009 the program has grown exponentially, from one infant placed with a family in 2009 to twelve in 2012. We attribute this to the need for locally-based and caring supportive services for birthmothers, as many of our new birthmothers are referred by women we have helped in the past.

The program involves four steps: the pre-matching application phase, whereupon the agency and families choose to work together on an adoption plan; the matching phase when family profiles are presented to birthmothers; the placement phase, when the family arrives for delivery and to take the baby home (presuming the birthmother or father do not change their minds about placement prior) and the finalization phase, when the family adjusts to having their new infant in their home, meets with their social worker and finalizes the adoption.



Children and Birthparents involved in Adoption

Typically children placed in this program are newborn, although we have placed children over six months old, as well. Birthmothers come from various circumstances, are most often between employment, sometimes living alone or with the birthfather or with relatives, not uncommonly with a history of drug use or traumatic life events. Sometimes birthmothers are living in hotels or shelters and have other children or are living with husbands or boyfriends and have other children.



Family Eligibility to Adopt

An adopting family should be married for at least one year and have given adoption much thought and discussion, as well as at least ten hours of adoption education. ICF is non-sectarian and we welcome couples and single parents of every faith.

Timeframe and Considerations that affect Matching

Adoption time frames vary, mostly due to constraints an adoptive family may put on potential matches with birthmothers. Constraints may include a child’s sex, race, birthmother mental health issues, drug or alcohol abuse issues, a birthmother or father preference for open or close adoption, stage of pregnancy, anticipated living or legal expenses, general risks or risks associated with absent or unknown birthfathers, or potential ICPC or ICWA or

other legal issues. ICPC refers to the Interstate Compact governing placement of a child born in one state in another state. ICWA refers to the Indian Child Welfare Act, which is interpreted differently state to state. An average timeframe is about six months.



For Birthparents

We provide emotional support, respect, information, financial assistance with living expenses; medical and life planning resources and post-delivery services. Our counselors work with birthparents throughout pregnancy and after delivery.

Birthmothers & fathers face difficult questions...

- What would be the best choice for my child's future?
- Could I arrange my life so that I can mother my child?
- How does adoption work? What's the process?
- Will I be able to choose the family or see my child?
- When do I need to make a decision?
- Is there counseling or other support available?

It is our job to explain the process and discuss potential options and outcomes for an adoption plan. Counselors explore birthparent concerns about how adoption works, what kinds of adoption are possible – open, closed or semi-open adoption – and what sort of assistance is available under Arizona law. We believe that providing complete information helps both birthparents and adoptive families feel more comfortable with the process.

For Prospective Adoptive Parents

We provide information about kinds of adoption, the steps in the process, legal and ethical responsibilities, potential fees and expenses, medical, emotional and financial risks, pre-adoption education resources, post-adoption services and obligations, and about adoption finalization.

It is our goal to bring together informed and prepared birthparents and adoptive parents. We earn trust by being supportive, honest and readily available to answer questions and talk about concerns.

The risks of adoption are real. Not every adoption plan comes to fruition; occasionally birthmothers or fathers change their minds, despite earlier intentions. We make a concerted effort to communicate with birth and adoptive parents with candor throughout the process. Adoption is about wanting the best possible future for a child.



Most adoptions involve many months. Fees for adoption services for adoptive families or estimates for adjunct or third-party expenses are subject to change. Adoptive families need to read the agency adoption services agreement and consider the emotional and financial risks of adoption carefully.

For Birthparents, all services are free.

Please contact us for more information. We are happy to discuss your concerns, outline agency services, provide references and answer questions. We're here to help.

International Child Foundation, Inc.

DOMESTIC "ABC" ADOPTION FEES & ESTIMATED EXPENSES

Please review, sign and attach to the Adoption Services Agreement

Please note: Fees are not refundable except as may be noted in the adoption services agreement or fee schedule. Clients will be informed in advance, if possible, of additional fees or costs, such as for extra living expenses, medical or legal expenses or other third party expenses, as information regarding such expenses is made available to the agency. Fees are due and payable as noted as in the Adoption Services Agreement.

Fee or Expense Estimate	Purpose; please note all fees are non-refundable except as noted	Amount	Phase Subtotal	Due as follows:
Phase I	Application & Adoption Engagement			
Application	Preliminary review of client; file set up	\$300		Due with Application
Agreement	Client review and acceptance of adoption services agreement to engage agency	0		Due with Home Study
Home Study	If prepared by ICF \$1400; if prepared by other agency, \$150 review fee	\$1400 or \$150		Per agency agreement
Profile Registration	For agency review and presentation of adoptive family profile	\$1200		Due with Agreement
SUBTOTAL	Excluding Home Study fee (varies) or review		\$1500	
Phase II	Matching Phase			
Agency Fee I due at time of matching	Includes agency administration, operations, communications, marketing and birthmother recruitment, networking, general program development, US licensing, data collection	\$7000		Within 24 hrs of matching per Adoption Agreement
Birthparent Counseling	Counseling provided to Birthmother and Birthfather, if available	\$500		Due at time of matching
Due Diligence if Birthfather absent	If Birthfather is unavailable or whereabouts unknown, due diligence such as process service, publication, AZ birthfather registry	\$350 if needed		Due if needed at time of matching
Birthmother Living Expenses	Pre-paid living expenses plus \$1100 per month; includes rent, utilities, grocery and household essentials, toiletries, laundry, clothes/shoes, bus pass, cell phone; paid through six weeks post-delivery	Varies with due date + 6 weeks		Pre-paid and first month due at matching; then on the 20 th of each month
SUBTOTAL	Excluding Living Expenses & Due Diligence		\$7500	
Phase III	Placement Phase			
Agency Fee II due two weeks prior to delivery	Includes communication and birthmother assistance pre- and post-delivery; hospital planning and support; communication and open/semi-open/closed agreements, etc.	\$8500		Due two weeks prior to delivery date
Travel	Counselor travel billed at .50 per mile	Varies		Paid upon invoice
SUBTOTAL	Excluding Counselor travel costs (varies)		\$8500	
TOTAL	Agency Fees (excluding as noted above)		\$17,500	

Third Party Expenses	Fees and Expenses paid to third parties or for separate services and miscellaneous travel; legal services are NOT included in ICF fees		Subtotal	Due as follows
Legal Services Fees as required by AZ law for families from out of state	Legal fees for AZ side of ICPC are approx. \$500; legal fees for ICWA consents are approx. \$1000-\$2000; legal fees for termination of rights approx. \$2000; other legal fees may be required per circumstances	Varies; in AZ approx. \$500 for ICPC		Due upon service and paid to Attorney
Legal Services Fees as required by family state of residence	ICPC fees for families living outside AZ will be determined by attorney or agency providing service; other legal costs may arise depending on the adoption circumstances	Varies		Due upon service and paid to Attorney
Miscellaneous	See Adoption Agreement	Varies		Paid to vendor

Post Placement Expenses

ICF requires adoptive families to provide a minimum of two post adoption reports and a social study for finalization. The cost of reports will vary between providers. Typically your home study provider will also prepare the post adoption reports. ICF domestic post adoption reports are \$325. The cost for an ICF finalization report is \$500-\$650 depending upon whether a court appearance is required.

Adoptions take many months. Fees and costs are subject to change during the course of an adoption. Ask your tax preparer about the adoption tax credit; in 2012 it exceeded \$13,000. Some employers and states also provide benefits or tax credits for adoptive families.

CHECKS OVER \$5,000 PREFERRED AS CASHIER OR CERTIFIED CHECKS or Bank Wires. Parent agrees to make payments as outlined above. Parent understands that cost for travel estimates are separate from agency fees, and airfare and lodging costs vary when traveling to visit birthmother or at time of delivery. Fees paid to out-of-state home study providers or attorneys in AZ or out-of-state are also separate. Post adoption reports are required and family agrees to provide reports in compliance with the agency and state laws.

Families understand that all parties are acting in good faith toward a successful adoption but that the outcome of the adoption process cannot be guaranteed, and that fees are paid for services rendered and for the maintenance of adoption programs, whether or not a child is placed with the adoptive family.

Parent

Date

Parent

Date

We invite you to contribute to the International Child Foundation mission to support shelters and clinics caring for homeless or orphaned children.



*Donations have no effect on adoption processing or referrals.
Donations are for the general aid fund and cannot be directed toward a particular person.*