



Fully Hague Accredited
Through 2013



Adoption

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICE OF MINNESOTA

Infant and Open Adoption

WHY CHOOSE

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICE?

Lutheran Social Service is a leader in the Minnesota adoption community providing customized, effective services for Designated / Identified Adoptions. Families in a Designated Adoption match with birth parents through the connection of their choice. LSS is experienced in, and supportive of, all types of Designated Adoptions.

OUR RELATIONSHIPS

LSS has well established relationships with agencies and attorneys in Minnesota and in other states including the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) office.

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR SERVICES

LSS offers comprehensive services to prepare, facilitate, and support families in all aspects of Designated or Identified adoption. The goal in our Information Meetings is to provide prospective adoptive parents with information about the Infant Open Adoption Program - as well as all of our adoption programs - and to answer any and all questions you may have regarding adoption, the process, the costs, anticipated timelines and more.

Please call **612.879.5230** or toll-free **1.888.205.3769** for the schedule and location of an Information Meeting near you, or visit us online at **www.minnesotaadoption.org**.

Designated

PROGRAM



PROGRAM AT-A-GLANCE

CHILDREN: We help facilitate Designated adoptions for any age of child but most often it involves the placement of a newborn infant.

ADOPTIVE FAMILIES: LSS welcomes all families regardless of age, race, religion and family types.

BIRTH FAMILIES: LSS can offer services to a birth parent located in Minnesota and will coordinate with other interstate resources when the birth parent is located in another state.

FEES: Fees vary depending on resources used. Please see reverse side for current LSS fees.

10.01.2009

APPLICATION

- \$500 Application Fee (*due with completed LSS application*)

The application asks you to provide information such as health reports, criminal background checks, reference letters and autobiographical information. Your adoption file is officially opened once the completed application materials are received.

ADOPTION EDUCATION

- \$500 (*\$250/person; due prior to attending workshop*)

To begin the adoption process, you will attend the 2-day Infant Open Pre-Adoption Education workshop. This seminar is held every other month in the Twin Cities and is designed to educate families on the open adoption process and to prepare them to parent adopted children.

ADOPTION STUDY

- \$2,000 (*due at start of Adoption Study*)

By law, you must complete an Adoption Study prior to having a child placed into your home. LSS Adoption Studies comply with all regulatory requirements. The Adoption Study builds upon the information generated in your application and consists primarily of one or two interviews with your social worker, which are conducted in the adoption office as well as in your home. The goals of the interviews are to assess your readiness to parent a child through adoption and to offer you more information on the adoption process.

DESIGNATED ADOPTION COORDINATION FEE

- \$1,000 (*due at completion of Adoption Study*)

You will have access to on-going agency consultation, coordination and support for your designated adoption. This includes coordination of services with other resources including attorneys and agencies (in state and out of state) for both Agency Placement and Direct Placement adoptions.

POST PLACEMENT SUPERVISION AND REPORT TO COURT

- \$1,500 (*due at physical placement of child*)

LSS and your social worker will provide you post placement supervision and support from the time your child is placed with your family through the finalization of your adoption. The post placement services include visits with your social worker and the required documentation, including the court report, to legally adopt your child. The post placement supervision services fee is due at the end of the legal risk time period when the birth parent consent to the adoptive placement becomes irrevocable.

COMPREHENSIVE BIRTH PARENT SERVICES*

- \$8,500 Birth Parent Services Fee (*due at physical placement of child*)

Applicable when family connects with birth parent who is currently receiving services through LSS Birth Parent Services Program.

- \$5,000 Birth Parent Services Fee (*due at physical placement of child*)

Applicable when family refers birth parent to LSS for services through LSS Birth Parent Services Program.

- \$1,000 Foster Care Utilization Fee (*due at physical placement of child*)

Applicable only if your child receives care in an LSS baby foster home prior to adoption.

Adoptive parents are responsible for birth parent program fees – no fees are ever charged to birth parents. Program fees include marketing and development of program, recruitment of birth parent clients, and services to birth parents. Services to birth parents include education, counseling, support, and assistance with implementing an adoption plan. Services to birth parents extend well beyond the hospital experience and the adoptive placement of their child, with birth parents receiving support and grief counseling on an unlimited basis.

***Note:** Families working with birth parents who are not working with LSS should expect to pay Birth Parent fees to whoever is providing those services. Additional costs to third parties may apply depending on the services you choose (or need) in the designated program (such as travel expenses and fees to other outreach partners - agencies, attorneys, facilitators, etc.)

LIMITED BIRTH PARENT SERVICES

- \$250 Birth Parent Voluntary Consent to the Adoption signing

- \$500 Birth Parent Voluntary Consent to the Adoption signing and Birth Parent Social/Medical Form Collection

- \$110 per hour - Other Limited Birth Parent Service (*due prior to receiving services*)

May include hospital services, document collection, travel, etc. Covered by itemized contract on a per hour basis.

Limited services to birth parents are contracted on an individual basis. The adoptive parents are responsible for the limited service fees for birth parent services and the fees are due based on your individual arrangement with LSS.

Adoptive parents are responsible for birthparent services fees – no fees are ever charged to birth parents. Services to birth parents include birth parent education, counseling, support, and assistance with implementing an adoption plan. Services to birth parents extend well beyond the hospital experience and the adoptive placement of their child, with birth parents receiving support and grief counseling on an unlimited basis. Birth parent services and foster care utilization fees are not charged to adoptive parents until the end of the legal risk time period when the birth parent consent to the adoptive placement becomes irrevocable.

All fees, timelines and program requirements are subject to change. Clients are responsible for non-LSS fees billed at the rate that is current when service is provided. LSS fees will be honored at the contracted rate.