



Adoption

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICE OF MINNESOTA

Infant Open Adoption

Outreach

PROGRAM

WE OFFER AN OPEN ADOPTION PROGRAM

LSS believes that open adoption serves the best interest of adopted children, birth parents, and adoptive parents. We are seeking families who wish to engage with their child's birth parents in a cooperative, open adoption, and work together to develop an ongoing relationship that is comfortable for both families and is beneficial to the adopted child, adoptive parents and birth parents.

FAMILY OUTREACH

Open adoption is driven by adoptive parents and birth parents making a connection. In order for this to happen, adoptive parents need to reach out to birth parents who are considering adoption. This outreach may be conducted outside the agency or within the agency (Waiting Family Program*). LSS offers ongoing training, support, and resources during the outreach process to help families identify which outreach opportunities best meet their needs.

** Note: The Waiting Family Program is available to Outreach Families as openings occur.*

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR SERVICES

LSS offers comprehensive services to prepare, facilitate, and support families in all aspects of outreach and open 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.



PROGRAM AT-A-GLANCE

ADOPTIVE FAMILIES: LSS welcomes all families regardless of age, race, religion, or family type.

BIRTH FAMILIES: Adoptive families may connect with birth parents that live in Minnesota or throughout the United States. Birth parents residing in Minnesota may receive services through LSS of MN.

OUTREACH: Families are encouraged to conduct their own outreach efforts to increase their likelihood of connecting with birth parents.

WAITING FAMILY PROGRAM: Families may choose to join the LSS Waiting Family Program as part of their outreach efforts as space in the family profile book becomes available.

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

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REGISTRATION

- \$50 Registration Fee (*non-refundable; due with completed registration form*)

The registration form is available at Information Meetings, on our web site, and also provided upon request. When your completed registration is received at LSS, you will receive your adoption application.

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 and fee are returned.

PRE-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 the beginning of Adoption Study*)

By law, you must complete an Adoption Study prior to having a child placed into your home. The Adoption Study builds upon the information generated in your application and consists primarily of two or more interviews with your adoption worker, one of which one will be conducted in your home.

OUTREACH PROGRAM

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

Once your home study is complete, you will begin the Outreach Program by attending a one-day Outreach Training in the Twin Cities, which will provide you with knowledge and resources needed to successfully reach out to prospective birth parents. This will be in addition to the 2-day pre-adoption education workshop required to complete your adoption study. Additionally, you will receive ongoing support from your LSS worker during the outreach process, and will have access to ongoing educational opportunities and LSS generated resources to assist you in your outreach efforts.

WAITING FAMILY PROGRAM FEE

- \$5,000 (*due prior to entering the Waiting Family Book*)

Applicable only if you choose to participate in this outreach option. As part of your outreach efforts, you will be given the option of participating in the *Waiting Family Program*, as space becomes available, by creating a *family profile* for the Waiting Family Book. LSS birth parent clients utilize this book during their family selection process.

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 adoption worker and the required documentation, including the court report, to legally adopt your child.

POTENTIAL PROGRAM FEES*

- \$500 Adoption Study Annual Update Fee (*due prior to beginning the annual adoption study update*)

Applicable on an annual basis only if an adoption has not yet been completed. This fee covers the annual maintenance required by the State of Minnesota to keep an adoption study current.

- \$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.

BIRTH PARENT PROGRAM FEES*

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

Applicable when family connects with birth parent through the waiting family book.

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

Applicable when family connects with birth parent(s) through their own outreach efforts and refer birth parent(s) to receive services through LSS.

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 outreach program (such as travel expenses and fees to other outreach partners - agencies, attorneys, facilitators, etc.)

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.