

Infant Adoption



INFANT ADOPTION PROGRAM



ADOPTION PROGRAMS OF
LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICE OF MINNESOTA

Infant Adoption

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AT LSS, WE HELP ADOPTIVE FAMILIES MEET AND WORK TOGETHER WITH BIRTH PARENTS TO PLAN THEIR CHILD'S ADOPTION. DECISIONS ABOUT OPENNESS AND FUTURE RELATIONSHIPS ARE THOROUGHLY EXPLORED AS FAMILIES DECIDE WHAT WILL WORK BEST FOR ALL INVOLVED. ADOPTIVE FAMILIES MAY REACH OUT TO BIRTH PARENTS ALREADY WORKING WITH LSSMN OR EXPAND THEIR SEARCH OUTSIDE THE AGENCY FOR A DESIGNATED (OR IDENTIFIED) ADOPTION. AT LSSMN, FAMILIES OF ALL RELIGIONS, RACES AND FAMILY TYPES ARE RESPECTED FOR WHO THEY ARE. WE WORK COOPERATIVELY WITH ATTORNEYS AND OTHER RESOURCES TO ENSURE THE BEST ADOPTION EXPERIENCE POSSIBLE.

CREATING LOVING AND HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE CHILD, THE ADOPTIVE FAMILY AND THE BIRTH FAMILY FULFILLS OUR LONG-STANDING COMMITMENT TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.



ADOPTION PROGRAM SERVICES

- *Adoption studies and adoptive family education*
- *Training and preparation for welcoming a child through adoption*
- *Training and support for reaching out to birth parents*
- *Cooperative agreement facilitation between birth and adoptive families*
- *In-hospital and placement support*
- *Post-placement guidance and supervision*
- *Support for decisions and development of open adoption relationships*

DESIGNATED (OR IDENTIFIED) ADOPTION SERVICES

- *Expedited process as required by your situation*
- *Customized adoption plans*
- *Out-of-state adoption (ICPC) facilitation*
- *Cooperative planning with other agencies and attorneys*
- *Internet connections*
- *Access to LSS National Adoption Network*



Building your family through adoption is an emotional journey and a financial commitment. You need a professional agency that will work with you to develop a plan that will best meet the unique needs of your family.



THE ADOPTION PROCESS

1) Pre-Adoption Education

Families participate in a required two-day educational workshop to learn more about infant adoption and openness. The goals of this education are to provide prospective adoptive parents with the information and experiences to help prepare them to successfully parent a child through adoption. The education covers topics such as grief and loss, adoptive family and birth family processes, openness, creating your adoption profile, and cross cultural issues.

2) The Adoption Study

All families must complete an Adoption Study. The Adoption Study process includes several meetings with your adoption worker, the educational workshop, and a visit to your home. The study also includes a complete criminal and child abuse background check, medical examinations, reference letters, and other state- and federally- mandated requirements. Your adoption worker will guide you through the adoption study process, as well as other pre-adoption requirements.

3) Outreach Program

Once your adoption study is complete, you will begin the Outreach Program by attending a one-day Outreach Training. This training is designed to give families the tools and resources necessary to connect with an expectant parent planning adoption. Families explore many different outreach options and develop an individual plan for the type of outreach that best meets the needs of their family.

4) Waiting Family Program

As part of your outreach efforts you will be given an opportunity to participate in the Waiting Family Program by creating a family profile for the Waiting Family Book. This is an optional program and families are able to join this program as space becomes available. Participating families will also have the opportunity to have an online profile featured on the LSSMN website.

5) The Matching Process

LSSMN families match either through the Waiting Family Program or through their own outreach efforts. Regardless of your path, LSSMN will support and guide you through this process. Families who match with a birth parent receiving LSSMN services will have additional LSSMN-facilitated meetings with their child's birth parent(s) to make decisions about their ongoing relationship.

7) Placement and Finalization

Families in the Infant Adoption Program generally bring their babies home directly from the hospital. This is considered a "legal risk" placement until birth parent(s) have signed legal consents and the results from the Birth Fathers' Adoption Registry are received. The adoptive placement is supervised by the agency for a minimum of 90 days after placement, after which time you will attend a court hearing to finalize your adoption.

8) Post-Placement Support

LSSMN offers ongoing supportive services to families as needed, including education opportunities, open adoption relationship support, opportunities to connect with other adoptive families, resources and referral services.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do I have to be a Lutheran to use your services?

No. While our agency's heritage is rooted in the Lutheran Church, LSSMN serves all people, regardless of religious affiliation.

How Long Does The Adoption Study Take?

Generally, the adoption study can be completed within two to three months from the time you return your completed application.

How Do I Get Started?

Registration is the first step. Once your completed registration is received you will be contacted to begin the adoption study process.

How long does the adoption process take?

There is no way to predict the length of time this process may take. In open adoption, the birth family considers all available families and makes a decision about which family might be right for their child. Generally, families wait about eighteen months from the beginning of their process until placement, but this timing can vary greatly based on the individual situation.

What are the costs?

The fees for Infant Open Adoption vary, depending on the program and resources utilized. Families who match with birth families through outreach could potentially incur lower fees. In Minnesota, all families are able to pay pregnancy-related birth parent expenses, if requested and agreed upon. Visit our website at www.minnesotaadoption.org for the most current listing of fees.



Lutheran Social Service
for changing lives

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICE OF MINNESOTA
ADOPTION & BIRTH PARENT SERVICES
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To find out more about this or
our other adoption programs call
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