



Brightside Adoption Connection

The *Art* of Family Building



PROGRAM INFORMATION AND GENERAL ADOPTION TOPICS

I. PROGRAM INFORMATION

Brightside Adoption Connection is a private adoption agency licensed by the State of Ohio. Our agency operates under the premise that every child deserves a permanent, loving, and stable family. With that in mind we strive to provide a



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variety of quality adoption services that encourage appropriate placements for parents and children.

WHO WE ARE

Mission:

To provide a variety of quality adoption services to encourage appropriate placements of children into families

Vision:

That every child who is available for adoption will find a loving, secure and permanent family.

Values:

Safety and Security: All children deserve this

Permanency: All children should be a part of a forever family

Integrity: Truth in information, messages and processes

Accountability: We are a private adoption agency licensed by the state of Ohio

WHAT WE BELIEVE

Brightside Adoption Connection operates under the premise of 5 very simple – yet extremely important concepts that makes it easy for you to choose us!

We strongly believe in the **3 C's, P and T (C.C.C.P.T)**

Character:

We only advocate for situations and placements that are right for your family

Competence :

We maintain a network of adoption counselors throughout the state of Ohio. All of our adoption professionals have extensive experience in adoption and are licensed in social work, counseling or other related fields



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Chemistry :

Our team personality is built around the premise of solidarity and advocacy, which translates into a five star experience for you

Passion:

We're oozing with it! You'll sense right away that we love what we do!

Technology:

The most impressive feature that sets us apart from most other agencies is our state of the art and innovative case management system. All services and associated paperwork is completely managed through our convenient electronic system. You'll enjoy seamless tracking, real time alerts, quick feedback, electronic signatures and online payments. Don't worry about mailing anything in or sending cumbersome corrections back and forth! Upload it and forget about it!

THE HOMESTUDY PROCESS:

Step One: Getting Started

Apply for this service through our online portal

Step Two: Applicant To-Do list

Read online homestudy process and commence the "applicant to-do list"

Gather all of the applicant required documents and upload them to the portal

Step Three: Interviews and Safety Inspections

Your adoption assessor will contact you to complete interviews and a safety audit of your home. The safety audit is not a "white glove inspection." The safety audit is a basic inspection of the safety of your home. Most people do not have any problems passing this audit.

Special Note:



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*Remember to communicate with your adoption assessor regarding any questions or concerns.

THE ADOPTION PROCESS

The adoption process varies based on the type of adoption you are completing. Although we have included the following as general guidelines - due to the complexities of the adoption process – this is not an exhaustive list of the entire process. Homestudy fees do not change. Adoptive placement fees are estimates – and can vary based on the total cost of the adoption.

Step One: Complete Your HomeStudy

A homestudy is an assessment of your family and your readiness to adopt. Your readiness to adopt is determined based on a comprehensive review of your life experiences, health, lifestyle, extended family relationships, attitudes, support system, values, beliefs, and other factors relating to the prospective adoption. This information is then summarized in an adoption homestudy report. Once the homestudy is completed the professional completing your homestudy will either approve or deny you to become an adoptive parent. The typical timeframe to complete a homestudy is 3 months. Expedited homestudies are available for an additional fee. Expedited homestudies can be completed in 30 days.

Fee: \$1150 – for a standard homestudy

Fee: \$2000 for an expedited homestudy

Step Two: Prepare a Marketing Profile and Enter Into Contract Search Status

After you are approved to adopt you will work on your marketing profile. Your marketing profile is a summary of pictures and comments that enables birth parents to get to know you. This profile can be completed electronically or in a hard bound book.



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During this step in the adoption process, adoptive parents are required to pay the placement fee to go into contract search status.

Fee Due: \$5,000 to go into contract search status (fee is non-refundable)

Step Three: Birth Parent Selection

The choice of adoptive parents rests with the birth parents, and because we rely on their preferences during the adoption process (though we offer assistance when needed) we are unable to predict how long an adoptive family may be waiting.

We understand it can be sad and frustrating if you have a long wait. For those families struggling with a lengthy adoption process, we offer counseling support to help ease everyone through the waiting period.

Families are encouraged to create an outreach plan, with coaching available in a variety of forms, to help identify potential birth parents looking for prospective adoptive parents.

In some rare instances, birth parents may ask that Brightside Adoption Connection choose the family for them to make the adoption process easier. We do provide this adoption assistance, and will choose the longest waiting family with a matching compatible profile.

Fee Due: \$3-5k

Step Four: Placement!

When you are matched with a birth parent and the new baby is born, the baby can be placed with you and your family as soon as the birth parents indicate that they are ready to move forward. This can happen immediately at the hospital or at a later date.

In Ohio Birth Parents cannot relinquish parental rights until 72 hours after giving birth.



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While this does pose some legal risk with adoptions, we still encourage immediate placement so the infant is with the family that will be raising him or her as soon as possible.

Fee: Remainder of cost due to fulfill a full adoption contract

Step Five: Post Placement and Finalization

The post placement period of the adoption process generally lasts for 6 months – depending on the state where the adoption is being finalized. The adoption assessor that completed your homestudy will be visiting you to check on how you are adjusting to life with your child.

Fee: \$500, per child, for each post placement visit/report combo. (generally – 6 visits are required before the adoption finalizes. However this is subject to change based on the states involved.)

Our Fee Schedules:

Viewable to current clients through the My Adoption Portal

II. GENERAL ADOPTION TOPICS

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

<http://fundyouradoption.org/>

www.achildwaits.org

www.affordingadoption.com

www.adopt.org



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www.cafadopt.org

www.adoptionbenefits.com

www.shaohannahshope.com

www.222.capitalone.com

www.nafadopt.org

www.amotherslovetfundraising.com

Gift of Adoption Fund: www.giftofadoption.org

God's Grace Adoption Ministry: www.ggam.org

The Hebrew Free Loan Association: www.hflasf.org

State Adoption Benefits: Some states offer a non-recurring adoption expense reimbursement. Families may be able to apply for reimbursement of adoption related expenses. These expenses may include the homestudy fee, costs for travel to meet the child, attorney's fees, etc. Each State sets a cap for the maximum amount of reimbursement, which cannot exceed \$2,000. You must apply for this benefit before your adoption is final. The North American Council on Adoptable Children offers information on state adoption subsidies. www.nacac.org

IRS ADOPTION TAX CREDIT

<http://www.irs.gov/taxtopics/tc607.html>



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OTHER ADOPTION RESOURCES

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/>

BOOKS ON ADOPTION

www.homestudybootcamp.com

ADOPTION GLOSSARY

Adoption:

A legally recognized process that creates a parent-child relationship between individuals who are not biologically related to each other.

Adoption Agency:

An agency licensed by the state to prepare adoptive parents, counsel birth parents, complete homestudies, complete paperwork, place children in homes, and perform other adoption-related functions.

Adoption Agreement:

The agreement in which the adoptive parent(s) and birthparent(s) put into writing their understanding of the terms of an adoption - including the degree of communication and contact they will have with one other, and/or with the adopted child.

Adoption Plan:

A plan that outlines the wishes of the genetic parents as it pertains to the adoption.

Adoption Professional:

An individual who provides many of the services throughout the adoption process. Typical titles include but are not limited to: adoption assessor, homestudy assessor, adoption worker, social worker, adoption consultant, adoption counselor, and adoption case manager.



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Adoption Triangle:

An expression used to describe the inter-relationships among adopted children, their birthparents, and their adoptive parents.

Adoptive Parent:

The mother or father of an adopted child.

At Risk Placement:

The placement of a child into the prospective adoptive family, before the rights of the birthparents have been legally terminated.

Birthparent:

A mother or father who is genetically related to the child.

Certified Copy:

A copy of an official document that has been certified by an official to be authentic and bears an original seal or embossed design.

Closed Adoption:

Adoptions in which the birthparent(s) and the adoptive parent(s) do not meet, do not exchange identifying information, and do not maintain contact with one another post finalization.

Designated Adoption Or Identified Adoption:

An adoption in which the birthparent(s) choose(s) the adoptive parent(s) for the child.

Domestic Adoption:

The adoption of a child born in the United States.



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Dossier:

A collection of required documents that is sent to a foreign country in order to process the adoption of a child in that country's legal system.

Facilitator:

A person or organization that encourages and/or arranges domestic and/or international adoptions.

Finalization:

The legal process by which the adoption becomes permanent and binding.

Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption:

A multi-national agreement designed to promote the uniformity and efficiency of international adoptions.

Homestudy:

A homestudy is an assessment of your family and your readiness to adopt. Your readiness to adopt is determined

based on a comprehensive review of your life experiences, health, lifestyle, extended family relationships, attitudes, support system, values, beliefs, and other factors relating to the prospective adoption. This information is summarized and put into one big homestudy report.

Homestudy Agency:

The adoption agency responsible for completing your homestudy.

Independent Adoption:

An adoption arranged privately between the birth family and the adoptive family, without an adoption agency.

Inter-Country Or International Adoption:



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The adoption of a child from a different country in which they live.

Non-Identifying Information:

Information that allows the birth and adoptive families to learn pertinent facts about each other without revealing who they are or how they can be contacted.

Open Adoption:

An adoption in which the birthparents and adoptive parents have contact with each other before and/or after the placement of the adopted child.

Post-Placement Services:

A variety of services provided after the adoption is finalized to help ensure that the adoption goes smoothly.

Placement Agency:

The adoption agency responsible for assisting you with adopting a child. This agency may be different than your homestudy agency.

Special Needs Child:

A child with medical, mental, emotional, behavioral, or educational needs that may require extra and on-going attention.

Stakeholders:

Individuals responsible for choosing adoptive parents. They usually include birthparents, adoption agency workers and county social workers.

Termination Of Parental Rights:

The process by which a parent's rights to his or her child are legally and permanently terminated.



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U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Bureau (USCIS):

An agency of the federal government that approves an adopted child's immigration into the United States and grants U.S. citizenship to children adopted from other countries.