DOMESTIC INFANT ADOPTION

For families in the Chicago Metropolitan Area

1800 N. Hermitage
Chicago, IL 60622
Phone: 312-655-7086
Fax: 312-382-1612
Email: adoptions@catholiccharities.net

Lake County Services
Cardinal Bernadin Center
671 S. Lewis Avenue
Waukegan, IL 60085

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago is recognized as a 501(c) 3 Non-Profit Agency, is accredited by the Council on Accreditation, and is Licensed by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services—License #003971
Interstate Placement and Agency-Assisted Adoption

To expand prospective adoptive parents opportunities for placement, many families choose to dual-list with a national adoption agency, or a larger agency in another state. We are able to work with families who may locate potential birth parents through their own social networking and outreach efforts.

Catholic Charities will work with any US licensed and accredited, non-profit adoption agency that has been approved, or is able to obtain approval from the Illinois ICPC Office in Springfield.

Your Catholic Charities Adoption Specialist will provide your home study, ensure compliance with Illinois requirements, assist your family in preparing the paperwork necessary for the ICPC process, and provide post placement services, including the preparation of the court report needed to finalize the adoption.

Adoptive parents must meet Catholic Charities requirements as well as the selected placing agency’s requirements. Adoption laws vary from state to state. Parents must also be available to travel out-of-state for the required time-frame.

Infant Adoptions

Individuals experiencing unplanned pregnancies come to Catholic Charities to receive support, and counseling, from professional staff who educate and assist them as they make decisions and plan a future for their infants and themselves. Our goal is to prepare and support both birth and adoptive parents throughout the adoption process.

Birth parents select from approved waiting family profiles, the adoptive parents that they wish to have raise their child. Most birthparents’ preference is to review adoptive parent profiles that match their values and desires for their child’s upbringing in regard to religion and family composition. Other factors frequently influencing their decision include a mutually agreed upon level of openness, economic stability, education, personal interests and health. Birth parents may express a preference for couples who are unable to conceive.

Mutually agreed upon contact or degree of openness can vary from regular direct contact, contact mediated through the agency, meeting prior to or after the child is placed, or ongoing correspondence and photos exchanged through the agency or with adoptive parents.

In order to identify and prepare prospective families that meet birth parent preferences Catholic Charities works primarily with adoptive couples, residing in the greater Chicago land area, who have been married at least 5 years. Applicants must be at least 25 years of age, be in good health, demonstrate the financial means to support a family, and meet state standards for adoptive homes. Applicants will be required to share information about their marriage, childhood and family background, medical history, religion, education and employment history and the values they desire to share as parents.

We welcome prospective parents of all religious, racial and ethnic backgrounds, and accept applications to meet ongoing programmatic needs.

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**Domestic Infant Program Fees**

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<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Fee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Application Fee</td>
<td>$350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Study Phase I</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Study Balance</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Study Update</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Fee</td>
<td>$4,500</td>
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Placement Fee is the lesser of $18,000 or 12% of Gross Household Income* for most recent tax year.

* Household income is defined as “total income” which is typically found on line 22 of your 1040 tax form.

**Agency-Assisted Adoption Fees**

Families pursuing agency assisted adoptions will pay the same Catholic Charities Application and Home Study fees listed above. As well as the following:

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<tr>
<td>Pre-Placement Services</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-Placement Fee</td>
<td>$1,500**</td>
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**For first six months of required supervision and submission of the Court Report of Investigation; any additional visits will be billed at $400 per visit.) In addition to Program, Placement and other fees that may be charged by the placing agency.

Fees Effective July 1, 2017. Fees subject to change, and may change due to varying circumstances; fees do not include legal expenses, costs of obtaining supporting documentation such as certified documents, medical evaluations or updated background clearances. For a complete list of components under each fee category, please e-mail adoptions@catholiccharities.net

**Domestic Adoption Process:**

**Contact Adoption Department** at 312-655-7090 to complete an inquiry form and Attend an Adoption Orientation meeting.

**Receive notification of your assigned adoption specialist.** An adoption specialist will be assigned to work with your family and will schedule an Intake interview with you. During this interview, you will review and sign preliminary forms, and begin to explore with your worker your interest in adoption as well as some of your expectations of the process.

**Meet with your Adoption Specialist** for a series of interviews as part of the home study. The home study is comprised of fingerprinting, a criminal background check, state child abuse and neglect clearance, medical history, small group training and preparation, references, the above-mentioned interviews and a home visit. The home study process generally takes approximately 4 – 6 months to complete.

**Work on your “Family Profile.”**

**Matching and acceptance.** When a birth parent has selected your family, your adoption specialist will contact you and share information about the child and birth family, including whether or not they have requested a meeting before the placement. If you accept, appropriate arrangements will be made and ultimately, a ceremony with an optional blessing will be scheduled, at which time your new family member will be placed with you.

Catholic Charities will continue to provide support and post placement services after you bring your baby home. **Because adoption is a lifelong journey,** Catholic Charities will also be available to provide ongoing services, such as maintaining contact with birth parents through the agency, counseling, educational opportunities, referrals and/or search services if requested.
Personal Savings, Bank Loans and Fundraising

Many families use personal savings, take out bank loans*, or receive financial help from family and friends. Some banks and credit unions offer adoption loan programs or home equity loans for adoptions. Families have held fundraisers or have set up an adoption bank account, where friends or family can make tax-deductible donations towards the adoption.

Adoption Tax Credits
Use IRS Form 8839 to figure the amount of your adoption credit and any employer-provided adoption benefits you can exclude from your income for the adoption of an eligible child, which includes provisions for families adopting children either in the U.S. or internationally. For 2017 the maximum credit and exclusion are both $13,570, per eligible child. The amount begins to phase out if you have modified adjusted gross income in excess of $203,540 and is completely phased out for modified AGI of $243,540 or more. Please see your tax consultant for more information.

Employer Assistance / Adoption Benefits
Your employer may offer adoption assistance in various forms. Ask your Human Resources Department to determine if your company offers assistance. For more information about employer adoption benefits please visit www.adoptionbenefits.com, contact the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption at 1-800-275-3832, or the National Adoption Center at 1-800-TO-ADOPT.

Assistance for Military Families
Please discuss the current adoption assistance information with your base personnel. You can also contact the Military OneSource at 800-342-9647 regarding adoption assistance for military families.

Adoption Loans, Grants, and Resources
Catholic Charities does not have experience with the following organizations. This information was gathered and compiled from the Internet:

The Abba Fund
888-775-3422
www.abbafund.org

Adopt Together
888-826-0948
info@adopttogether.org
www.adopttogether.org

Affording Adoption Foundation
www.affordingadoption.com

Both Hands Foundation
615-969-7565
www.bothhandsfoundation.org

Child Welfare Information Gateway
Children’s Bureau
800-394-3366
info@childwelfare.gov
www.childwelfare.gov

Gift of Adoption Fund
877-905-2367
www.giftofadoption.org

God’s Grace Adoption Ministry
209-572-4539
info@ggam.org
www.ggam.org

HANDinHAND Christian Adoption
913-248-5015
handinhandadopt@gmail.com
www.handinhandadopt.org

HelpUsAdopt
917-684-5484
info@Helpusadopt.org
www.helpusadopt.org

Home for Good Foundation
541-479-5926
www.hfgf.org

Lifesong for Orphans
309-747-4527
info@lifesongfororphans.org
lifesongfororphans.org

National Adoption Foundation
845-803-4837
www.fundyouradoption.org

National Council For Adoption
703-299-6633
ncfa@adoptioncouncil.org
www.adoptioncouncil.org

Room for One More
www.roomforonemorechild.org

Show Hope
615-550-5600
contact@showhope.org
showhope.org

The Sparrow Fund
info@sparrow-fund.org
www.sparrow-fund.org

Resources for Adoption
http://resources4adoption.com

* MBNA Bank has a program that offers lines of credit up to $25,000.