



Dear Prospective Adoptive Parents,

Thank you for your interest in Deaconess Pregnancy & Adoption (DPA). Our agency has been blessed to be a part in the creation of more than 5,500 families. DPA is a child-placing agency licensed through the State of Oklahoma. Our ministry strives to provide loving homes for children, nurturing care for birth parents and their families, and quality services for couples wishing to create or grow their families through adoption.

With over a century of experience in adoption, we have learned that openness in adoption truly serves the best interest of children. It is our belief that **adoption is about adding connections and family to children's lives...not subtracting them.**

Our staff views each child as a priceless jewel. Thus, placing a child in an adoptive family's home is a responsibility we take very seriously. It is our belief that we are accountable to God for each child He entrusts in our care, thus some of the information we request regarding your physical, spiritual, and emotional health is intensely personal.

The screening process with DPA has been developed with the best interest of the child in mind. Therefore, our minimum guidelines are as follows:

- Husband and wife married to each other for at least two years. If either has been previously married and divorced, it is required the current marriage be five years in duration.
- No younger than 21 and no more than a 45-year age difference between the adoptive parent and the adopted child.
- Committed to an active relationship with Jesus Christ with regular participation in church and agreement with the enclosed *Christian-Based Adoption Covenant*.
- No more than two biological children.
- Willingness to participate in a semi-open to open adoption.
- Husband and wife must be U.S. citizens.

An application packet is enclosed. Please prayerfully answer each section and return your completed *Application, Information on Child You Wish to Adopt, Open Adoption Checklist signed Christian-Based Adoption Covenant, Adoption Fees Agreement, and the Agreement for Adoption Services*, along with the non-refundable processing fee of \$250.00. Please print or email the Pastoral Reference form to your Pastor / Priest / or Church Staff member to complete on your behalf. After we have received the completed pastoral reference form, you will be notified in writing of the next step in the process.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Catherine Howe".

Catherine Howe, CCLS
Program Director

Enclosures

Deaconess Pregnancy & Adoption

8308 N. May Ave., Ste. 100 ♦ Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73120 ♦ Phone: (405) 949-4200 ♦ Fax: (405) 720-8686
www.deaconessadoption.org

ADOPTION APPLICATION

Application and File Set-Up Fee of \$250.00, payable to DPA, must be included for processing.

(All information will remain confidential unless your permission is granted, in writing, to release part or parts of it. Please make sure each spouse fills in the answers specifically pertaining to him/her.)

Date: _____
Husband's full name: _____
Wife's full name (including maiden): _____
For court papers/legal documents, do you sign with your middle name or your maiden name? _____
Home street address: _____
Home city, state, zip: _____
County: _____
Home telephone number: (____) _____
Husband's cell number: (____) _____
Wife's cell number: (____) _____
E-mail address: _____
Have you resided in Oklahoma for the past **five consecutive years**? Husband _____ Wife _____
If no, in what other states have you resided? _____
Date and place of marriage: _____
Names and birth dates of children of this marriage: (State whether adopted or biological) _____
Who referred you to us? _____
Emergency contact name and phone number: _____

PERSONAL INFORMATION

PLEASE SEND DIGITAL PICTURES OF THE FOLLOWING WITH YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION

- 1. Recent photo of your family**
- 2. Photo showing the front of your house**

HUSBAND:

Age and date of birth: _____
Social Security No.: _____ Ethnicity/Nationality: _____
Do you have any Native American heritage? Yes No
If yes, are you enrolled? Yes No If yes, tribe/enrollment number _____
Education (Highest level completed): _____
Occupation: _____ Employer: _____
Office address: _____
Office telephone: _____ Fax: _____
Office e-mail: _____
Annual income: _____
Religious preference: _____

Dates of previous marriages and divorces: **(If applicable, please attach a detailed explanation for each.)** _____

Children by previous marriages/relationships: (names, gender, ages and custody status) _____

United States Service Record/Military Status: _____

Have you ever been arrested or do you have **any type** of criminal record? Yes No
(If yes, please attach a detailed explanation of each.) _____

WIFE:

Age and date of birth: _____

Social Security No.: _____ Ethnicity/Nationality: _____

Do you have any Native American heritage? Yes No

If yes, are you enrolled? Yes No If yes, tribe/enrollment number _____

Education (Highest level completed): _____

Occupation: _____ Employer: _____

Office address: _____

Office telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Office e-mail: _____

Annual income: _____

Religious preference: _____

Dates of previous marriages and divorces: **(If applicable, please attach a detailed explanation for each.)** _____

Children by previous marriages/relationships: (names, gender, ages and custody status) _____

United States Service Record/ Military Status: _____

Have you ever been arrested or do you have **any type** of criminal record? Yes No
(If yes, please attach a detailed explanation of each.) _____

SPIRITUAL LIFE

HUSBAND: Please describe your spiritual journey and personal relationship with Christ:

WIFE: Please describe your spiritual journey and personal relationship with Christ:

Please describe your spiritual lives as a family (prayer, Bible study, church activities, etc.):

MARRIAGE

HUSBAND: Please describe your relationship with your wife:

WIFE: Please describe your relationship with your husband:

CHILDREN (If applicable): Please describe you and your spouse's relationship with your children:
Was this child(ren) added to family through adoption? Yes No

MEDICAL SUMMARY

Please list all major illnesses/surgeries/current medications

HUSBAND: _____

WIFE: _____

Have either of you received a diagnosis of medical infertility? Yes No
If yes, please explain: _____

Are you planning to continue fertility treatments while also pursuing placement of a child through adoption? Yes No

Have either of you ever had problems with alcohol or legal/illegal drug use? Yes No
If yes, please explain: _____

Some of our birth families are concerned about addictive habits in the parents of their children. Therefore, would you be willing to abstain from alcohol, drugs, and/or tobacco? Yes No
If no, please explain: _____

Have you had an abortion? Yes No

Has anyone in your immediate family or whom you've been in a relationship with ever had an abortion? Yes No

Has your life ever been closely touched by an abortion? Yes No

If yes to any of the questions above, please explain the impact on your life:

REFERENCES

Many of our families have participated in counseling or mental health services. We view this as a strength and appreciate your explanation with application. In addition, we often request a reference from the counselor in the process of screening families

Have either of you ever received counseling from a professional mental health provider or a lay counselor (i.e. pastor, priest, small group leader, etc.) for any reason at all in your life?
Yes No **If yes, please attach a detailed explanation.**

Enclosed is a reference questionnaire to be completed by your pastor, priest or church staff member. Please ask them to complete it and mail it to us as soon as possible. Deaconess reserves the right to call and verify all references.

Pastor/Priest/Church Staff Member: _____
Address: _____
Phone number: _____
Email: _____

ADOPTION EXPERIENCE

Why are you choosing to create or expand your family through adoption? _____

If you are seeking adoption due to infertility, please explain how you are grieving that loss.

How long have you been trying to adopt? _____

Have you ever had an adoption fail or disrupt? If so, briefly describe the circumstances.

Have you had a home study done by anyone for adoption purposes? If so, by whom and when?

Was your home study approved? Yes No

Have you ever explored adoption through another agent or agency? If yes, are you still utilizing their services? If no, please state why not? _____

What other resources are you using to create or expand your family through adoption?

SIGNATURES:

Husband

Date

Wife

Date

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CHRISTIAN-BASED ADOPTION COVENANT

Deaconess Pregnancy & Adoption Services (DPAS) is a Christian non-profit Oklahoma-licensed child-placing agency and affiliated ministry of the Free Methodist Church USA (FMCUSA). DPAS operates within the beliefs, traditions, and framework of the FMCUSA. This *Christian-Based Adoption Covenant* does not exhaust the extent of beliefs of DPAS or the FMCUSA. All references to “we” or “our” refer generally to DPAS and its Board of Directors. Our Board of Directors determines DPAS’ practice, policy, and discipline in accordance with the Holy Bible and the FMCUSA’s Book of Discipline.

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and turn away from their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (Acts 3:19-21; Rom. 10:9-10; 1 Cor. 6:9-11). We also believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31) and that hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be rejected and are not in accord with the Holy Bible nor the beliefs and traditions of the FMCUSA.

We believe it is God’s desire that we care for the orphans and fatherless among us (Psalm 68:5; James 1:27); therefore, we diligently strive to place those entrusted in our care into strong Christian homes that will provide love and support from a Christ-centered perspective.

We believe that the understanding of human personhood and well-being, including human sexuality and marriage, is provided through the Holy Bible (Genesis 2:20-24; Mark 10:6-9; Hebrews 13:4). It is our belief that, at creation, God designed marriage for the well-being of humanity. Marriage is the joining of one man and one woman into a lifelong relationship which the Holy Bible calls “one flesh.” Therefore, marriage is the only proper setting for sexual intimacy.

All prospective adoptive parent applicants who are applying for child-placing services through our infant and older child adoption programs are required to be in agreement—by signing below—with the Christian principles outlined in this document and give evidence of a Christian commitment. This commitment requires that each applicant has made a personal decision to accept Jesus Christ as his/her Savior, to follow Christ as a faithful disciple, and to regularly participate as a couple in the life of the same Christ-centered church. A reference letter from the minister, pastor or priest is a necessary part of the application process. Further, DPAS requires one applicant be male, one applicant be female, that they be married to each other, and be in a monogamous relationship with each other.

Both applicants for adoption affirm that they believe in the sanctity of human life beginning at conception and agree to personally follow and belong to a church that is committed to the following beliefs and traditions:

1. The Holy Bible is the only inspired, authoritative Word of God.
2. There is one true and Holy God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
3. Jesus Christ is the Son of God who died for the sins of the world and through whom alone salvation is given.

By signing below, I affirm that I am in agreement with the Christian principles contained herein.

Adoptive Parent

Date

Adoptive Parent

Date

Deaconess Pregnancy & Adoption

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AGREEMENT FOR ADOPTION SERVICES

ADOPTIVE PARENTS: _____

(the "Clients").

Request for Services

We, the above-named Clients, hereby apply to Deaconess Pregnancy & Adoption Services ("DPA") for adoption placement services. In applying for adoption placement services, it is our request that DPA consider our family as a potential home for a child needing adoptive placement and attempt to match our family with an appropriate adoption situation. We request DPA to provide our family with a full range of adoption services. If we reside outside the state of Oklahoma, we agree to comply with all the legal and procedural requirements of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children.

Provision of Information & Documentation

We agree to provide detailed family background information on all family members. We will complete all forms requested. It is agreed that the staff of DPA, or an appointee of DPA, may visit our home during the home study process. We agree to participate in interviews with DPA staff members. We will provide personal references and copies of all requested and needed documents, such as birth certificates, marriage license(s), divorce decree(s), military discharge, medical reports, and any other items that may be requested. We will fully cooperate with DPA in applying for and obtaining a criminal history/background report, sex offender registry reports, and child abuse registry checks as required by law, and will furnish any and all results to DPA. We agree to seek a psychological evaluation if deemed necessary to continue the adoption process. If we have previously had a home study performed, we will provide DPA with a copy of any and all previous studies, reports, and related materials. We will cooperate fully with the staff at DPA to enable them to collect sufficient information about our family from which to complete an adoption evaluation of our family and to consider our family as a prospective adoptive home.

False or Misleading Information:

We understand that any false or misleading information provided by our family may be a basis for DPA to discontinue the home study process or to discontinue services to our family. In such a case of discontinuance for any reason whatsoever, we understand there is no refund of fees paid by our family, and all fees and costs paid to DPA are non-refundable.

Home Study Report

DPA will complete a written home study report which will include our family background information and DPA's recommendation about the suitability of our home for an adoptive placement. We understand that this report is confidential and may only be released to other adoption agencies, attorneys or third parties with our written permission. We also understand that if we are not residents of Oklahoma, a home study must be performed by an adoption agency or a licensed professional in our state of residence. DPA will approve only our family upon receipt of, and a positive review of the home study and all accompanying verification documents.

DPA Recommendation

We understand that a recommendation for placement is required by the court as part of the home study report, and such recommendation will be based upon professional assessment of the family's strengths and ability to provide a stable home environment for a child. We understand that DPA cannot guarantee in advance that the home study process will result in a positive recommendation for adoption. We agree to hold DPA harmless for the positive or negative evaluation which it may make and from any consequences which might result from such a recommendation.

Approval for Adoption

When DPA completes a home study with a positive recommendation for placement or when it receives a current positive home study on our family from another agency or qualified professional, then the agency will make an approval decision. Once our family is approved for adoption, Deaconess Pregnancy & Adoption Services will begin to consider our family for adoptive placement opportunities.

Duration of Home Study Validity

We have been informed that under the Oklahoma Adoption Code our home study will be valid for twelve (12) months from the date of approval by DPA. We understand our home study must be updated or its validity will expire at the end of the twelve (12) month period. We understand that there is an additional fee for the services required by law to update the home study. We understand that unless we keep our home study current, the services of DPA to match us with an appropriate adoption situation will expire with the validity of our most recent home study or home study update approved by DPA.

No Guarantee of Placement

As prospective adoptive clients, we understand that DPA makes no guarantee, either stated or implied, that it will place a child in our home for adoption. DPA agrees to give thorough consideration to our desire to adopt, to identify our strengths as a potential adoptive family, and to assist us in clarifying the range of characteristics of a child we would consider adopting. We understand that it is the practice of DPA to recognize the right of a birth parent(s) to select the adoptive family which seems to be the most appropriate to parent the child. Since the birth parent(s) controls the selection process, we understand that DPA or its staff can make no guarantee when or if our family will be selected by a birth parent(s). No verbal comments by DPA staff shall be considered to provide any such guarantee of placement or to alter this agreement in any manner. DPA also reserves the right to refuse placement and presentment of family profiles to birth mothers based upon DPA's sole and exclusive discretion.

Efforts to Match

Upon completion or acceptance of a home study with a positive recommendation for placement, DPA agrees to provide a full range of services as an adoption agency to attempt to match our family with a prospective birth mother or to otherwise match us with a child who would be appropriate for our family. DPA may also work with other adoption agencies in attempting to match our family with an adoption opportunity.

Sharing Non-Identifying Information

In order to facilitate our family being considered for a particular child, DPA may share non-identifying information (such as first names and profile book) about our family with prospective birth parents, with other adoption agencies, with adoption facilitators, with attorneys, or with others who might be able to assist in the adoption process. We understand that DPA will share identifying information about our family only upon our written permission.

Intermediary Services

DPA may act as an intermediary between our family and a prospective birth parent, another adoption agency, or attorney. DPA may facilitate communication or meetings, and may perform other services which might result in our family being matched with an appropriate child or being matched with a birth parent who is anticipating placing a child for adoption upon birth.

Use of Other Licensed Resources

DPA recognizes that adoptive families may wish to pursue multiple avenues to adoption. We understand that DPA has no objection to adoptive clients working simultaneously with other licensed adoption agencies or adoption attorneys. Since DPA makes no guarantee of placement, it does not attempt to restrict clients from seeking the services of other licensed or professional adoption resources. We do agree to inform DPA of any other adoption resources that are being used and to promptly notify DPA as soon as we are matched with a birth mother or child. Should we desire that our home study or other documentation contained in our adoptive client file at DPA be transferred, we agree to pay the associated fees for this service.

Exclusion of Facilitators

We understand that DPA reserves the right to refuse to work with any unlicensed adoption professionals or persons who are unregulated "adoption facilitators." We understand that DPA advises adoptive clients that there is a high level of risk associated with such service providers. We agree to inform DPA if we should choose to work with such an unlicensed individual or organization. We understand that in such circumstances, DPA reserves the right to discontinue services with our family.

Notice of Potential Change in Family Status

Since the mission of Deaconess Pregnancy & Adoption Services is to help build families, we are pleased in any circumstances that help a family to achieve the goal of parenthood. In the event our family is matched with an adoption opportunity through another agency or resource or in the event we become pregnant, we agree to notify DPA immediately. We understand that DPA has no objection to adoptive families continuing their fertility

treatments as long as the family keeps DPA informed. We understand that in case of a change in family status or a pending change, DPA will temporarily place our file on hold until we notify DPA otherwise. If the adoption opportunity does not result in a placement or the pregnancy does not go full term, DPA will be glad to reactivate the file and continue the efforts for adoption.

Disclosure of Information

DPA agrees to provide all available social and medical information before we are asked to accept an adoptive match. We agree that DPA shall not be liable for information which may not be available about the child or birth parents nor shall DPA be liable for information about medical or other conditions of the child which are not known to the agency at the time of placement.

DPA Fees

We agree to pay DPA all fees set forth in the *Adoption Fees Agreement* which is incorporated herein, and made a part hereof, by reference as part of this agreement, and to reimburse DPA for agreed expenses which it incurs on our behalf. We agree to pay the initial fees and to pay other fees as they become due. We understand that the placement fee will not be due until a child is placed with our family. We have received a copy of the *Adoption Fees Agreement*. It is understood that fees are subject to change without notice, and fees will be charged based on current rates for any particular services or units of service as of the time the services are provided. It is further understood that the *Consent to Adoption* will not be released until all DPA fees are paid in full. All fees and costs remitted to DPA are non-refundable.

Policy on Charitable Contribution

We understand that DPA is a non-profit, charitable organization. DPA may receive tax-deductible contributions. However, we have been informed by DPA that adoptive families who are in the process of seeking to adopt are not expected to make donations. DPA does not give preferential treatment to anyone, including Board members, employees, or donors, in the provision of services. Families who have completed an adoption, of course, are encouraged to contribute and to be a part of the important work of DPA in finding loving homes for children.

Agreement to Mediation

We agree in the event that a problem or dispute should ever arise between ourselves and DPA, we will seek first to resolve it through direct negotiations with DPA staff. If these direct negotiations with the DPA staff are unsuccessful, then we agree to use third party mediation as the sole means for dispute resolution. The mediator may be selected jointly by both parties and shall be a person trained and qualified in mediation services. It is agreed that the cost for such mediation will be shared equally by DPA and the adoptive clients.

No Obligation to Accept Placement

If for any reason we do not believe the placement of the child with our family would be in the best interest of either the child or our family, it is understood that our family is not obligated to accept placement.

Social Services Only

It is agreed that DPA only provides social services as an adoption or child-placing agency. DPA does not provide legal, accounting, or other professional services, and as adoptive clients, we understand we are responsible to arrange and pay for such other services as needed. While DPA does arrange for the legal process by which the birth parents' legal rights are relinquished or terminated, we understand that the attorney for this process represents DPA and does not represent us. While DPA may give us information about the legal process of adoption, we understand and agree that DPA and its staff are not providing legal advice. We understand we have the right and responsibility to seek independent counsel, if needed, at any point in the adoption process. **DPA retains an attorney to facilitate the finalization of an adoption. The legal cost to finalize an adoption is separate from the cost to terminate the parental rights of the birth parents. This fee is itemized in the *Adoption Fees Agreement*.**

Right to Refuse Services

DPA retains the right to discontinue service to any client at any time at its sole and exclusive discretion.

Miscellaneous

In the event any provision of this Agreement is inconsistent with or contrary to any applicable law, rule, or regulation, or if any provision of this Agreement is found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unenforceable, that provision will be deemed to be modified to the extent required to comply with said law, rule, or regulation, or to make it valid and enforceable, and this contract as so modified, shall remain in full force and

effect. If said provision cannot be so modified, it shall be deemed deleted and the remainder of the Agreement shall continue and remain in full force and effect.

The parties acknowledge and agree that (a) each party has reviewed and fully understands the terms and provisions of this Agreement, (b) the rule of construction that any ambiguities are resolved against the drafting party shall not be used in the interpretation of this Agreement, and (c) the terms and provisions of this Agreement shall be construed fairly as to all parties and not in favor of or against any party regardless of which party was generally responsible for the preparation of this Agreement.

The parties, in the interest of certainty, stipulate that the laws of the state of Oklahoma shall in all instances govern the interpretation of this Agreement and the rights of the parties under this Agreement and any amendments thereto, without regard, however, to any choice of laws or conflicts of laws provisions which would direct the application of the laws of another jurisdiction.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this agreement upon the date shown below.

SIGNATURES:

Adoptive Father Signature

Date

Printed Name

Adoptive Mother Signature

Date

Printed Name

Deaconess Pregnancy & Adoption

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www.deaconessadoption.org

ADOPTION FEES AGREEMENT

Application Fee & File Set-Up Fee

\$250

- Due at the time of submitting application to agency
- Establishment/administration of file
- This fee is active along with a current home study until a child is adopted
- \$125.00 applicable to families who have previously adopted through Deaconess Pregnancy & Adoption Services (DPA)

Adoption Seminar Fee

\$450

- Due at time of invitation to seminar to reserve place
- 14.75 hours of adoption education, including panels featuring triad members
- Continental breakfast and snacks included
- A copy of *The Connected Child* and other adoption resources
- Fee is not applicable to families who have previously attended seminar

Home Study Fee

\$1000

- Due with completed *Home Study Packet*
- A domestic home study is valid for 12 months from date of approval in Oklahoma
- Processing and maintenance of file
- Individual interviews, joint interview and one home visit
- Review of home study material, compiling and writing report
- Administrative costs (faxing, copying, phone calls, standard postage, etc.)
- Coordination with attorney and court
- **Additional Fees:** Fingerprint processing fee is \$50.00 per person. Fingerprint checks must be updated every five years. Criminal History/Background Check Fee is \$19.00 per person.
-

Outreach Fee

\$1750

- Required to activate profile
- Assistance in creating and/or reviewing family's adoptive profile
- Posting profile information on our website (if desired)
- Updating website with any changes requested
- Networking profile with other agencies when appropriate
- Screening prospective birth parent(s)
- Presenting a family's adoptive profile to appropriate birth parent(s)
- Advertising in a variety of media platforms
- Providing education about adoption in schools, churches and other community service organizations;

ADDENDUMS & ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS:

Home Study Addendum - Other Provider

\$150

DPA will accept a home study/home study update by another provider (licensed and certified to conduct home studies in the state of Oklahoma); however, there are additional costs involved. This fee covers:

- Review of home study/home study update; phone calls, e-mails for clarification/additional information
- Processing of multiple agency-specific forms and verifications
- Validating that agency standards and licensing requirements are met
- Preparing addendum to the home study/home study update for final approval

ANY CHANGE required to Home Study within 12 months of approval

Text Addendum

\$100

- **Any** text changes needed (i.e. change in health status, criminal history, child desired, employment, etc.)
- Fee due with completed addendum home study paperwork

Home Visit Addendum

\$250

- If family moves to a new home or if a new individual joins the household, a home visit is required.
- Fee due with completed addendum home study paperwork

Additional Document(s)

\$25/each

- In certain circumstances, it may be requested that DPA prepare and execute additional documents that are specific to family's adoption situation after their home study has been completed.
- Fee due prior to executing document(s)

HOME STUDY UPDATE:

Home Study Update

\$500

- Fee due with completed home study update packet.
- Home study approval is valid for 12 months. After that point, the home study must be updated in order to adopt a child.
- DPA can update another agency's home study for a domestic adoption.
- The home study can be updated if the original home study is less than five years old.
- Re-establishing/maintenance of file
- Individual interviews, joint interview and one home visit
- Review of updated home study material, compiling and writing report
- Administrative costs (faxing, copying, phone calls, standard postage, etc.)
- Coordination with attorney, court and/or other child placement agency
- *Additional Fees:* Fingerprint processing fee is \$50.00 per person. Fingerprint checks must be updated every five years. Criminal History/Background Check Fee is \$19.00 per person.

TRAVEL FEES:

- Mileage is not included in the fees paid for home study services and post-adoption visits. Mileage is billed at current federal rate.

• **PROGRAM FEE:**

Agency Adoption Program Fee

\$14,000

- Due upon receipt of invoice
- \$7000 of fee is due upon match with prospective birth parents. If adoptive placement is not finalized, \$2000 of fee is non-refundable; however, it is transferable.
- Initial match meeting with a prospective birth family
- Facilitating meeting(s) as needed between the prospective birth parent(s) and adoptive parents
- Transporting birth family to doctor visits, ultrasound appointments, etc.
- Gathering prospective birth parent(s)' medical and social background information
- Indian Child Welfare Act investigation and compliance
- Coordination of hospital stay and discharge
- Temporary foster care coordination (if applicable)
- Agency representation at the birth parent court hearing(s) and adoptive parent finalization
- Minimum of six months post-adoption supervision
- Three post-placement supervisory reports; minimum of one visit conducted in the home
- Financial coaching
- Obtaining medical records and coordination of insurance coverage
- Birth family and adoptive family post-adoption education, support and consultation
- Administrative costs (faxing, copying, phone calls, express postage, etc.)
- Operational costs
- ***Related attorney and process server fees, medical and prospective birth mother living expenses are separate from agency adoption fees and services***

OTHER COSTS:

These fees are estimates for planning purposes only and the actual cost may or may not exceed the ranges listed.

Post-Adoption Supervision

Fee varies by state

- Fee applies to out-of-state families only
- Oklahoma licensing guidelines require a six month post-placement supervisory period
- Three post-placement supervisory reports must be completed and submitted to the agency

Attorney Expenses to Terminate Parental Rights

Approximately \$4,000-\$7,000

- Due upon receipt of invoice
- If the child is of Native American heritage, an additional fee of \$175.00 per hour, plus costs, will be charged to properly coordinate adoption with tribal officials, prepare and file court documents and appear for court hearings.
- The agency retains an attorney and facilitates the termination of birth parent rights for **uncontested adoptions only**. If an adoption is contested, it will be the responsibility of the agency to determine the best interests of the child. If the agency determines that the child's best interests will be served by the adoptive family, the adoptive family will be required to pay **all additional legal fees and related costs** associated with the contested adoption.
- These attorney expenses **do not include** the court costs and attorney fees required to file the *Petition for Adoption* and complete finalization.
- **Any bill accrued after placement of child will be due upon receipt.** The *Consent to Adoption* will be provided after balances are paid in full and all licensing requirements fulfilled.

Medical Expenses

Approximately \$0-\$20,000

- Due upon receipt of invoice
- **If the birth mother has Medicaid or private insurance, her pregnancy and delivery expenses are usually covered.**
- Baby's medical expenses **might** be covered by Medicaid or the adoptive parents' medical insurance. DPA cannot **require** a birth mother to use her insurance or Medicaid for the baby's medical expenses.
- Any medical bills not covered for the birth mother or the baby by Medicaid or by the birth parent or family's medical insurance will be an out-of-pocket expense for the adoptive family.
- The medical provider typically bills DPA directly; these medical costs will be invoiced to the adoptive family for payment. Some medical bills may arrive after the entry of the final decree of adoption; however, the adoptive parents are still responsible for the medical bills regardless of the date of billing. If the medical facility involved calls for payment, the family's contact information will be released for billing purposes.
- Paternity testing may be needed for an adoption situation on a case-by-case basis. This expense is not the responsibility of DPA.
- ***You can opt not to have your profile presented to a birth mother who does not have medical insurance.***

Pregnancy-Related Living Expenses

\$0-\$5,000

- Due upon receipt of invoice
- The agency will make every effort possible to identify anticipated expenses. Fees are paid directly to the vendor (grocery store and/or landlord, etc.) as expenses occur.
- If birth mother living expenses exceed \$1,000, court approval is required by law. The cost to petition the court and secure approval of additional living expenses is \$500.00 plus filing fees.
- Birth mother living expenses and associated legal fees are billed on a monthly basis.
- **If a prospective birth mother decides to parent her child, the legal and birth parent living expenses are due and payable by the adoptive family.**

Temporary Foster Care

\$30/day

- Due upon receipt of invoice.
- Fee applies only when child is not placed directly with family upon discharge from the hospital or when temporary foster care is deemed necessary by Agency due to legal risk.
- Costs for diapers, formula, medication, etc. are billed **in addition** to the above fee.

Interstate Compact Paperwork

\$300

- Fee applies to out-of-state families only; due upon receipt of invoice
- Preparation of special paperwork/forms in order for the child to legally cross state lines
- Compiling the necessary paperwork needed for both states
- Administrative costs (faxing, copying, phone calls, express postage, etc.)

Attorney Expenses to Finalize Adoption

\$1400.00

- Fee is due prior to releasing legal paper work and *Consent to Adoption* to attorney.
- DPA retains an attorney to facilitate the finalization of an adoption. The legal cost to finalize an adoption is separate from the cost to terminate the parental rights of the birth parents. This fee is for **uncontested adoptions only** that do not fall under the Indian Child Welfare Act. The attorney expenses **do not include** the court costs required to prepare and file the necessary legal paperwork. The cost to secure two (2) amended birth certificates is included in this fee.

- If you live out-of-state, you will have to secure your own attorney. Costs will vary from state-to-state.

By signing this document, you agree to pay the above-mentioned fees to utilize the services of DPA. All fees are non-refundable and subject to change without notice. A \$50 fee will be charged for returned checks. Credit cards incur a 3.5% convenience charge.

Adoptive Father signature

Adoptive Mother signature

Adoptive Father printed name

Adoptive Mother printed name

Date

Date

Deaconess Pregnancy & Adoption

8308 N. May Ave., Ste. 100 ♦ Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73120 ♦ Phone: (405) 949-4200 ♦ Fax: (405) 720-8686
www.deaconessadoption.org

INFORMATION ON CHILD YOU WISH TO ADOPT

*NOTE: We realize the incredible significance and possible impact on your family that this page holds. Again we want to strongly encourage you to pray before completing the following information. It is never our intention to try to persuade you to "broaden" your acceptance factors. We believe, through prayer, God will guide you to the child He desires to place in your family. **Given the limited time frame we sometimes have to present profiles and our commitment to confidentiality, it is imperative that you complete this form with definite answers, understanding that we are unable to provide specific information regarding a birth family prior to your profile being selected. We will show your profile based on preferences as they match the prospective birth parent(s) verbal report. However, unknowns about the child's medical, social and genetic background may exist.**

Adoptive Parents' Names: _____ Date _____

Age Preference of Child: _____

Ethnicity Preference:

Every ethnicity marked indicates your willingness to accept a child of both full and/or blended heritage. (i.e. If you mark Caucasian and African American, your profile will be shown to full Caucasian, full African American, or any blend of the two.)

Caucasian: _____ Asian: _____
Hispanic: _____ Native American: _____ Enrolled Y N
African American: _____ Middle Eastern: _____

Please choose your preference:

Twins? Yes No Two infants under one year of age (not twins) Yes No
An older child? Yes No If yes, to what age? _____
A sibling group? Yes No If yes, to what age? _____
A child conceived in rape? Yes No A child conceived in date rape? Yes No

Prenatal Exposure:

A child whose birth mother consumed alcohol in her first trimester? Yes No
A child whose birth mother consumed alcohol throughout her pregnancy? Yes No
A child whose birth mother used marijuana in her first trimester? Yes No
A child whose birth mother used marijuana throughout her pregnancy? Yes No
A child whose birth mother used other illegal drugs in her first trimester? Yes No
A child whose birth mother used other illegal drugs throughout her pregnancy? Yes No
A child whose birth mother reports misuse of prescription medications throughout pregnancy? Yes No

Other Considerations:

A birth mother who identifies as homosexual, bisexual or transgender? Yes No
A birth mother who is incarcerated?
(Visits would take place in prison during visiting hours) Yes No
A birth mother/father diagnosed with a severe mental illness?
(Severe mental illness may include Bipolar, Schizophrenia etc. Please consult with your physician and other resources to learn more.) Yes No
A birth family with no medical insurance or government coverage available?
(This may increase your total adoption expenses by \$20,000 or more) Yes No
A child with a correctable medical condition? Yes No Non-correctable condition? Yes No

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OPEN ADOPTION CHECKLIST

*With over a century of experience in adoption, Deaconess Pregnancy & Adoption Services (DPA) recognizes openness in adoption truly serves the best interest of children. **Adoption is about adding connections and family to children's lives – not subtracting them.** Therefore, we are strong proponents of semi-open to open adoption. This checklist was developed to help you in determining how you would like to relate to your child's birth family.*

*When you review these options, you may have strong opinions and/or mixed emotions. **It is our agency's policy that you send pictures and letters via DPA on a monthly basis throughout the first year of your child's life. From age two to age 18, a letter with at least three current pictures must be supplied at Christmas and Mother's Day. It is also our expectation that any pictures, letters, or gifts that are received from a birth family member will be given to the child. Your commitment to pre-birth contact should be reflective of your plans for post-birth contact.***

With the increase of search groups and larger numbers of birth parents and children of adoption seeking information, reunions are increasing. In lieu of this fact, there appears to be a significantly increasing chance your child will reunite with his or her birth family at some time in the future.. We want to prepare you and your child for this possibility. Openness in adoption comes in varying degrees. We prayerfully place this list before you and ask you to search your heart on each matter.

Please indicate your preference by placing a check in the appropriate box.

IDENTIFICATION

Willing to share our last names with the birth parent(s). Yes No

MEETINGS

Willing to conduct pre-birth meetings with birth family. Yes No

Willing to accompany birth parent(s) to doctor appointments and/or ultrasound. Yes No

Willing to attend the birth of our child or to visit the birth mother at the hospital. Yes No

How many visits would you like to have with the birth parent(s) during the first year? _____

Would you like the visits to be mediated or unmediated? (circle answer)

How long would you like to maintain ongoing visitation with the birth family? _____

COMMUNICATION & CORRESPONDENCE

Willing to exchange non-identifying e-mail addresses with our birth family. Yes No

Willing to communicate with our birth family via Skype or other electronic means? Yes No

Willing to make and/or receive phone calls from our birth family with agency as mediator. Yes No

Willing to make and/or receive phone calls from our birth family without agency as mediator. Yes No

Willing to communicate/correspond directly with our birth family, **without** DPA as mediator. Yes No

Adoptive Father signature

Adoptive Mother signature

Date

Date

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Pastor/Priest/Church Staff Member

Adoptive Family's Names:		
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
I. Pastoral Relationship		
What is the length of time you have known them		
Husband?	Wife?	
How would you describe your relationship with them?		
II. Marriage Relationship		
Are you aware of any marital tensions and/or difficulties? Please comment:		
Have they received any marital counseling/mentoring?		
Please describe the couple's relationship to each other as you see it:		
III. Church Membership		
How long have they been affiliated/attending your church?	Husband:	Wife:
In which of the following activities do they regularly participate?		
Sunday School:	Evening Worship:	
Morning Worship:	Wednesday Services:	
Church Training:	Other:	

IV. Readiness for Adoption	
How have they responded to the realization that they cannot biologically conceive a child?	
How do they relate to children?	
Please comment on their emotional stability and maturity:	
Completed by:	Title/Position:
Church:	
Address:	
Phone: ()	Date:

Thank you for taking the time to complete this form! Please return to:

**Deaconess Pregnancy & Adoption
8308 N. May Ave., Suite 100
Oklahoma City, OK 73120**