



# Infant Adoption Information Guide

Attend an informational meeting with our adoption staff to learn about the adoption process through Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska. The meetings are:

- Informal
- Informational
- One-hour long
- Virtual
- Filled with answers to your questions

**Omaha:** (402) 661-7100  
124 South 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200  
Omaha, NE 68102

**Lincoln:** (402) 661-7100  
2301 "O" Street  
Lincoln, NE 68510

**North Platte:** (402) 661-7100  
120 East 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
North Platte, NE 69101

**Council Bluffs:** (402) 661-7100  
300 W. Broadway, Suite 7  
Council Bluffs, IA 51503

**Program Contact: Renee Ambrose**  
Permanency Services Supervisor  
[renee.ambrose@onelfs.org](mailto:renee.ambrose@onelfs.org)

# Our Adoption Program

Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska, Inc. (LFS) offers adoption services in support of individuals and couples who have chosen to build their family through adoption. Education about adoption issues and preparation for parenting adopted children are fundamental to all LFS adoption opportunities.

The following services are available in Nebraska and Pottawattamie County, Iowa:

## 1. Infant Adoption

Infant Adoption is available to families who meet LFS eligibility requirements. After completion of the home study and the educational preparation process, each family provides information profiles, which are then shown to prospective birthparents that are planning for adoption. LFS strives to maintain a pool of up to 25 families waiting for placement. LFS provides ongoing counseling for both birthparents and the adoptive family, in addition to facilitating the relinquishment and placement of the child.

This service prepares families for full openness in adoptions. Prospective adoptive couples pursuing closed or semi-closed placements may participate in all other adoption opportunities.

## 2. International Adoption

LFS works with a child placing agency of your choice to provide international adoptive placements. Children from infants to teens in countries such as China, Haiti, Philippines, Colombia and many others need adoptive families. Eligibility requirements and fees vary and may include older couples and single applicants. LFS provides the home study and facilitates working with the placing agency. Post-placement supervision is also provided.

## 3. Identified Adoption

This option involves birthparents and adoptive families who have established an agreement for placement independently of LFS. In such instances we provide the requested counseling to both the birthparents and the adoptive family in addition to facilitating the relinquishment and placement of the child. LFS can also provide home study services to the adoptive family if they reside in the state of Nebraska or Pottawattamie County, Iowa.

#### **4. Contractual Home Study for Domestic Adoptions**

Nebraska law requires that a licensed child-placing agency complete a study of prospective adoptive homes prior to the placement of a child. LFS provides the required home study report as well as post-placement supervision. This home study service is available to families pursuing adoption independent of LFS.

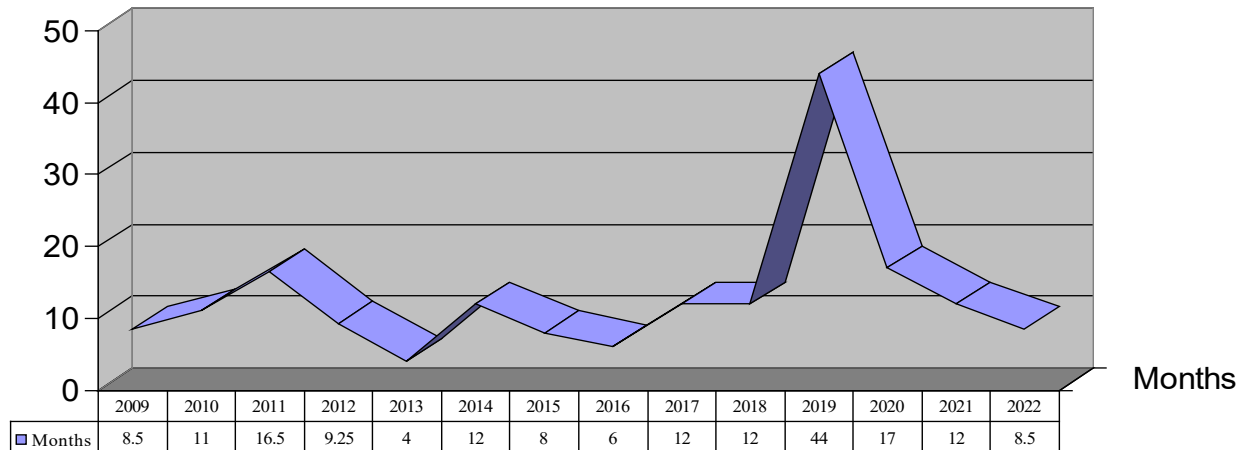
#### **5. Foster Care Adoption**

LFS works in collaboration with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services to find permanent homes for children who are state wards and legally free for adoption.

# INFORMATION REGARDING INFANT ADOPTION

## How Long Does it Take?

There is no guarantee of placement. This graph shows the average time families that adopted waited for placement after home study was completed:



## Adoptions Per Year

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total Adoptions	13	11	13	8	3	9	2	5	9	6	1	4	4	3
Infant	8	7	9	8	2	6	2	3	6	4	1	2	3	2
Identified	5	4	4	0	1	3	0	2	3	2	0	2	1	1

## Cost

Initial Application Fee	\$ 100
Home Study and Adoption Education	\$ 5,100
Due at the Time of Child Placement	\$ 6,100
Post-Placement Supervisions	\$ 1,000
<b>Total Fee for Agency Adoption</b>	<b>\$12,300</b>

## Who is Eligible?

1. Married or single persons
2. Residents of Nebraska (unless military) or residents of Pottawattamie County in Iowa
3. Married at least two years
4. Must have major medical insurance
5. At least 21 years of age and under 45 years of age
6. Must not be pregnant or actively seeking fertility treatment

## Where Do We Go From Here?

**Step 1:** The prospective adoptive family calls LFS at (402) 978-5643 or visit OneLFS.org regarding adoption.

**Step 2:** The family attends an informational meeting. Details of all aspects of the adoption process are discussed, and families are encouraged to begin educating themselves about adoption issues through reading and making contact with families in open adoptions.

**Step 3:** The family returns an application to the LFS adoption program. All families will be interviewed. The family will then be invited to begin the home study process, or to consider re-applying to the program at a later time. The adoption program attempts to have a pool of prospective adoptive families that is varied with regards to demographics. A decision to invite families to begin the home study process is based upon the current needs of the adoption program.

## **Adoptive Parent Reference List**

These are adoptive parents living open adoption who have agreed to be available to prospective adoptive parents as a reference for Lutheran Family Services.

**Matt & Amber Dyer**  
(402) 250-9381

**Matt and Anja Loftus**  
(402) 699-5226

**Tom & Jessica Niemann**  
(402) 680-5097

**Joel & Stacey Houston**  
(402) 429-2438 or (402) 560-3233

**Barry & Cami Erb**  
(402) 560-7600

**Randy & Amy Garton**  
(402) 658-0559 or (402) 658-2899

# Recommended Readings



## Adoptive Parenting

- Adoption is a Family Affair: What Relatives and Friends Must Know - Patricia Johnston
- Adoption Nation: How the Adoption Revolution Is Transforming America - Adam Pertman
- Adoption Parenting: Creating a Toolbox, Building Connections - Jean MacLeod
- Adoption Without Fear - James L. Gritter
- Dear Birthmother - Kathleen Silber
- Hospitious Adoption - James L. Gritter
- Raising Adopted Children - Lois Melina
- Real Parents, Real Children Parenting the Adopted Child - Holly Van Gulden
- Secret Thoughts of An Adoptive Mother - Jana Wolff
- Telling the Truth to your Adopted or Foster Child: Making Sense of the Past - Betsy Keefer
- The Family of Adoption - Joyce Maguire Pavao
- Twenty Things Adoptive Kids Wish Their Adoptive Parents Knew - Sherrie Eldridge
- Twenty Things Adoptive Parents Need to Succeed - Sherrie Eldridge

## Adoptees

- Birth Bond: Reunions Between Birthparents and Adoptees - Judith Gediman
- Being Adopted the Lifelong Search for Self - David Brodzinsky
- Primal Wound - Understanding the Adopted Child - Nancy Verrier
- Questions Adoptees Are Asking - Sherrie Eldridge
- Twenty Life - Transforming Choices Adoptees Need to Make - Sherrie Eldridge

## Adopting the Older Child

- Beneath the Mask: Understanding Adopted Teens - Debbie Riley and John Meeks
- Toddler Adoption: The Weaver's Craft - Mary Hopkins - Best

## Birth Parents

- Birthmothers - Merry Block Jones
- Out of the Shadows: Birthfather Stories - Mary Martin Mason

## Children's Books on Adoption

- "A" Is For Adopted - Eileen Tucker Cosby
- A Mother For Choco - Keiko Kasza
- Beginnings: How Families Come to Be - Virginia Kroll
- Brothers and Sisters in Adoption: Helping Children Navigate - Arleta James



- Did My First Mother Love Me? - Kathryn Ann Miller
- I Love You Like Crazy Cakes - Rose A. Lewis
- Jin Woo - Eve Bunting
- Over the Moon: An Adoption Tale - Karen Katz
- Tell Me Again About the Night I Was Born - Jamie Lee Curtis
- Tell Me a Real Adoption Story - Betty Jean Lifton
- The Mulberry Bird: An Adoption Story - Anne Brodzinsky
- Twice Upon a Time: Born and Adopted - Eleanora Patterson
- Under His Wings: Truths to Heal Adopted, Orphaned, And Waiting Children's Hearts - Sherrie Eldridge

### **Infertility**

- Adopting After Infertility - Patricia Irwin Johnston
- The Long - Awaited Stork: A Guide to Parenting After Infertility - Ellen Sarasohn Glazer
- Sweet Grapes: How to Stop Being Infertile and Start Living Again - Jean and Michael Carter

### **International Adoption**

- With Eyes Wide Open: A Workbook - Margi Miller and Nancy Ward

### **Open Adoption**

- Hospitious Adoption - James L. Gritter
- Lifegivers: Framing the Birthparent Experience In Open Adoption - James L. Gritter
- The Open Adoption Experience - Lois Melina, Sharon Kaplan Roszia
- The Spirit of Open Adoption - James L. Gritter

### **Transracial Adoption**

- Brown Like Me - Noelle Lamperti
- Black Children, White Parents: Putting The Pieces Together - Tonya Moore
- Inside Transracial Adoption: Strength-based, Culture -Sensitizing Parenting... - Gail Steinberg

### **Adoption DVDs**

- Adopted (by Point Made Films)
- Adopted: For the Life of Me
- Struggle for Identity - Issues In Transracial Adoption