

# Questions people ask about Adoption Services

## What is the actual name of the agency?

Our legal name is Adoption Services Inc., but we are generally known as Catholic Adoption Services.

## Do you have to be Catholic to work with the diocesan agency?

No, we work with birthmothers of all faiths, though many choose us because they are Catholic and are looking for Catholic families. Some birthparents prefer a family that is not Catholic and an effort is made to help them find a family of another faith. We welcome inquiries for information.

## Where do your birthmothers come from?

Birth parents find out about our services in a variety of ways. Many of our clients are referred by pregnancy resource centers or local hospitals. Often they hear about us through a friend or family member who has worked with our agency. Referrals from priests, religious and deacons are welcomed. Some birthmothers will find us through our website or other sources online. We are always trying to get the word out about our licensed adoption agency. We do not pressure birthparents to choose adoption as we respect that this is their difficult



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decision to make and they need to choose what is best for them and for their child. We will provide information, counseling and support.

## What fees are there for an adoption?

Agency services to birthparents are free. Referrals are made for medical services and Medicaid, if necessary. Reasonable fees are charged to adoptive parents for actual services delivered prior to a placement. This generally includes the application, homestudy, background checks and profile fees.

Placement fees are due at the time of the legal adoption and are based on a sliding scale depending on the adoptive parents' income. Generally, the medical costs and legal fees are included in this placement fee. Many families may be eligible for state and federal tax credits, which can cover a lot of the expense.

## How does a family get selected?

Prospective adoptive parents complete their homestudies and are then ready and waiting. Birth parents let us know what they are looking for in a family for their

child. Birth families then choose the new parents by looking at confidential profile books that the adoptive parents create to show what they are like, individually and as a family. Most of the birth parents choose to meet the pre-adoptive parents prior to or soon after the birth of their child. A staff member from Adoption Services is present to assist with these confidential meetings. Both parties need to have peace about working together toward an adoption plan for us to proceed.

## What is "cradle care" or short-term foster care for an infant awaiting adoption?

Birthparents generally do not sign a consent to an adoption until after the birth of their child. Then the birth mother chooses either a five or 10-day waiting period to be sure about the decision to place her child. She may change her mind for any reason during the waiting period. If the adoptive parents care for the baby during this time, they are doing so under legal risk. Some adoptive parents choose to have our licensed foster parents take care of the child for this period of time. Our foster parents are trained volunteers who love children and respect and appreciate the gift of adoption. Foster

parents are not eligible to adopt from our agency.

## Are the adoptions open or closed?

At this time we conduct semi-open adoptions, which means we do not exchange last names, addresses and phone numbers. Most of the birth and adoptive parents choose to meet each other and often participate in a very meaningful blessing service all together. Adoptive parents are required to send pictures and updates of the baby through the agency for the birth families once a month for the first year. Pictures, updates and further contact are handled on a case-by-case basis in the following years. Adoptees age 18 and older and their birth parents can choose to participate in an adoption reunion by mutual voluntary consent. For more information on this service for our previous placements, feel free to contact the agency.

## Do you take donations?

We always gratefully appreciate any type of financial donation, memorial or honorarium. Your monetary contribution can be made by check or credit card. For more information, call Antje Harris at (501) 664-0340 or visit [catholicadoptionsservices.org](http://catholicadoptionsservices.org).

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For more information, contact Dianne Brady, Director of Stewardship and Development for the Diocese of Little Rock, at (501) 664-0340.

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Photos: (foreground) Sister Rita Polchin, SSCM, 87; (background) visit [retiredreligious.org/2016photos](http://retiredreligious.org/2016photos) for a list of names. © 2016 United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved. Photographer: Jim Judkis.

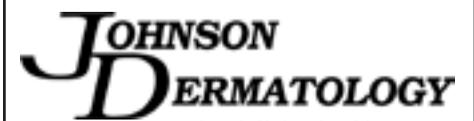
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