

## **DOMESTIC AGENCY ADOPTION**

**Children.** All Age Adoptions Plus places babies and children of all ages directly from their birth families into adoptive families. Most often a woman or couple will make a decision to place their child for adoption while she is still pregnant and the child will be placed at the time of birth. Sometimes due to other issues parents will make an adoption plan for a child when the children are older. We have done only a few placements like this over the years. Choosing to place one's biological child for adoption is a difficult decision. We get as much information as possible about the biological family's medical and social history and you are given full disclosure when you are matched with the child. We place children of all races and backgrounds.

**Parent Qualifications.** Adoptive parents for this program should be of normal child-bearing years, with a minimum age of twenty-one. For children under three years old, this program is open to traditional married couples.

**The Wait.** Our waiting list for this program is kept small. We put the best interest of the child first when matching with a family. We include the biological parents' wishes as much as possible. We take into consideration the type of child you feel best able to parent. Therefore a child might match with you very quickly or it may take some time. Most of our families are matched within a year, but some as long as two or more years.

**The Process.** After completing the homestudy, you will make a photo album of your family and home to be kept at our office. We will also need several two-page picture profiles to give to birth families and to send to other agencies. You will be presented to birth families and other agencies based on the type of child you wish to adopt. If a child is out of your stated consideration yet we think you might be interested, we will contact you. We ask that you be willing to meet a birth family. If you are chosen we make placement arrangements that will best meet the child's needs. We think it is important for the bonding and attachment process that a child go directly from the biological family or hospital to the adoptive family; and coordinate with the hospital staff so they are informed. We try to do this whenever possible. You will need your own attorney to finalize the adoption. We will coordinate with that attorney and provide him or her with necessary information. Finalization takes at least six months.

### **IDENTIFIED ADOPTIONS**

An identified adoption is one where the adoptive family and birth family have already identified and agreed on each other for the placement of the child. We can provide you with all your adoption needs; including birthmother counseling and labor and delivery care, placement, relinquishment of parental rights, ICPC documentation, etc.

### **CONTRACT SERVICES**

Adoptions Plus can complete all or part of an adoption. Families often contract with us if they are completing an independent adoption, family adoption or working with other agencies. Please call us with your specific details and we can work out a plan. Individual arrangements can be made to meet your specific needs for any type of adoption service.

### **COORDINATION WITH ANOTHER AGENCY OR ATTORNEY**

All Age Adoptions Plus is able to work with many other agencies and attorneys to help place children from New Mexico, other states and other countries.

**For New Mexico Residents.** If you are a New Mexico resident and working with an agency out of state for either a domestic or international placement, we can provide for your in-state needs. These may include and are not limited to: your homestudy; parent training; coordination and communication with your placing agency USCIS, ICPC; dossier support; notarization; and post placement services.

**For Out of State Residents.** If you are an out of state resident and wish to work with our agency for our domestic program, you must complete the application process, submit your approved homestudy and follow the steps in the domestic program.