

PROGRAM STATEMENT

Adoption Associates, Inc. (AAI), founded in 1990, is a leading Michigan agency in the number of domestic infants placed for adoption. Agency staff are skilled and experienced professionals who combine the tested and safe methods of agency adoption with the exciting and successful marketing methods of private intermediary adoption as practiced today in most states. Participation and control are the key issues. Birth parents now expect to be very involved in planning adoption for their babies. Likewise, adoptive families also appreciate the greater degree of participation and control now being extended to them in the adoptive process. AAI heartily supports this trend as being in the best interests of everyone—first children, but also birth and adoptive parents.

Designated domestic adoptions, as promoted and facilitated at AAI, help to explain our high placement numbers. This form of adoption depends on the activities of adoptive parents to develop their own adoption opportunities. In designated domestic adoption, birth parents respond directly to networking adoptive parents. The role of AAI includes first educating adoptive families on how to reach birth parents, and then facilitating the placement when appropriate. Families working through AAI on a designated adoption pay only those expenses associated with serving them, or for services to birth parents on behalf of the adopting family. The adoptive home study, required post adoption supervision, required birth parent counseling, and all legal services are delivered efficiently and economically from one source—Adoption Associates, Inc. In addition, AAI is innovative and aggressive in reaching out to prospective birth parents. Our commitment to meeting their real needs and involving them in planning their adoptions is the other reason for our success.

International adoption is also an exciting and growing dimension of AAI. Infants, toddlers, and older children are available through AAI programs with China (accredited), China Waiting Children (accredited), China Special Focus (accredited), Ethiopia (licensed), Russia (accredited), Russia Waiting Children (accredited). Adoptive home studies complying with both Michigan and source country requirements and USCIS assistance are also available to families wishing to pursue their own international or domestic contacts.

TYPES OF CHILDREN PLACED:

1. Infants and babies less than one year, including Caucasian, African-American, mixed race, and other minorities
2. Medical and developmental special needs
3. Older domestic children privately released
4. International children of all ages

SELECTION OF ADOPTIVE PARENTS:

1. Birth parent selection from adoptive profiles
2. Agency determines placement
3. Birth parent and adoptive family pre-selected—designated adoption
4. International referrals

TYPES OF PLACEMENTS:

1. Agency-matched infants
2. Designated placements, providing all services
3. Private adoptions—home studies, birth parent counseling, representation of birth parent or adoptive parents, and post adoption supervision in cooperation with private attorneys
4. Transracial adoption
5. Interstate placements
6. International adoption
7. Special needs home studies and placements
8. Guardianships converted to adoptions

EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION:

1. Birth parent choice
2. Semi-open (pictures and letters after placement)
3. Full disclosure—open

ELIGIBILITY:

1. Heterosexual married couples
2. Single heterosexual female applicants are accepted for some international placements

AREA SERVED:

1. Michigan statewide
2. Any other state
3. Internet inquiries

SERVICES PROVIDED:

1. Information: group meetings and private interviews
2. Pre-home study consultation on adoption options, issues, and proposed private placements
3. Adoptive home study: emphasis on preparation for successful adoptive parenthood; compliance with Michigan and international regulations
4. Birth parent counseling and support groups prior to and following release of parental rights
5. Agency/Administrative services: direct and indirect services necessary for the continuation of domestic and international programs, agency administration, and internal operations which enable AAI to complete placements on behalf of adoptive families. The following lists are examples of, but are not limited to, expenses incurred in providing these services. Program expenses: compliance with state, federal, and international regulations, accreditation expenses, international humanitarian aid, domestic and international travel/communication, and consulting with prospective adoptive parents. Administrative expenses: employee compensation and training, agency legal, insurances, and professional/contractual services. Operational expenses: facilities, utilities, equipment, supplies, and advertising.
6. Legal facilitation: coordination of all legal arrangements for domestic adoptions
7. Interstate facilitation: coordination of interstate procedures and arrangements for domestic adoptions
8. Assistance with dossier preparation, guidance through the waiting period, and assistance with referral and travel for international adoption
9. Post placement/post adoption supervision: completion of mandated visitations and reports and continuing counseling as needed
10. Post legal services: counseling resources for children, birth and adoptive parents
11. Various pre and post placement/post adoption support group settings for both potential and actual adoptive families
12. Post-finalization services to adoptive parents and/or biological parents by referral upon the request of the involved parties

FEES:

1. Standardized fees for consultation, home study, post placement/post adoption services, agency fee, administrative fee, and international program fee
2. Birth parent services: charge on a time and expense basis to the adopting family
3. Supplemental Fee for Agency Services: to compensate for extended services (as listed above under Services Provided) provided to adoptive families during their adoption process as a result of unforeseen circumstances such as, but not limited to; regulatory changes in the U.S. causing delays in the adoption process, changes in country procedures resulting in delays in the adoption process, expiration of adoptive family documents such as home studies and immigration approval requiring updates, U.S. state department investigations of international programs causing delays or closings, adoptive families choosing to put their process on hold due to personal circumstances or due to the instability of the program they are enrolled in, delays to adoption processes caused by external influences, such as the media purporting instability of international adoption program(s), and/or societal/economic trends resulting in extended waiting time for domestic placements.
4. Specific fee information and refundability/non-refundability are described in detail on the AAI Fee Schedule(s) and the Agency Policies: Fee and Refund Policy which are appendices to this Program Statement