

The Legacy Of An Adoption

Once there were two expectant mothers,
One carried and cared for you beneath her beating heart.
She became your Birthmother.
The other carried the hope of you within her,
She became your Mom.

As the days passed, and you grew bigger and stronger,
Your First Mom knew that she could not give you
All you needed after your birth.
Meanwhile, your Mom was ready and waiting for you.

One day your Birthmom and your Mom found each other.

They looked into each other's eyes and saw a friend.
Your birthmother saw the life your Mom could give you.
Your Mom saw how much your Birth Mother loved and cared for you.
They decided that what you needed was both kinds of love in your life.

So now you have two families, One by birth, the other by adoption!

And now you have a home where you can get
Your questions answered, your boo-boos bandaged,
Your heartaches soothed, and much needed hugs.

And a place where you can find
Answers to your questions, your image in the mirror,
A part of yourself, and much needed hugs.

Two different kids of families.
Two different kids of love.
Both a part of you.





REGISTRATION DOCUMENTS FOR ADOPTIVE FAMILY



Dear Potential Adoptive Parent:

While domestic adoption is fraught with its own set of concerns, it remains the only method to adopt a newborn. Thus, making it the option of choice for many families. Last year, Creating Christian Families & Mother Goose Adoptions assisted with the adoption of almost 50 children, however with the addition of our national networking program, we hope to assist between 100-150 families build their dream of family this year

At Creating Christian Families & Mother Goose Adoptions, Inc., our programs are constantly growing and evolving. When we began, we offered domestic adoptions only. We later expanded our program to offer International adoptions. International programs are now on hold as the many challenges of Hague get worked through but domestic placements have increased. Currently we are working on implementing a foster care program and gestational surrogacy program.

Many people ask what the difference is between Creating Christian Families (CCF) and Mother Goose Adoptions (MGA). Our intention is that they will operate as two parts of a whole, with the CCF side handling the adoptive family process and the MGA side handling those women who come to us seeking assistance with unplanned pregnancies. Mother Goose works with and does many of their own placements and we offer those as adoption opportunities to our registered families. Creating Christian Families offers many more opportunities due to our national networking program. Many agencies and attorneys come to us when they need families for the birth moms they are working. We are then able to send your family for consideration. Agencies have reported a decrease in placements in the last 12-18 months (and in many cases substantial decreases). This will enable us to meet our mission of helping you to meet your adoption goals in a more timely manner. By registering, you are eligible to be considered for moms in both programs.

Families interested in harder to place children (full African American, partial African American and older children) will find their dreams of becoming a family realized rather quickly – usually within 3-6 months of a completed home study. Others will find their wait to be longer, with most families successfully adopting within about 12-18 months. We recommend that you spend some time learning about trans-racial adoptions as well as other issues in adoption like exposure to drugs or alcohol to the fetus.

The key to domestic adoption is flexibility – things often change and it is very important that you are able to “go with the flow” in an effort to insure a successful adoption (and your sanity). The women who place their babies for adoption are not the birth moms of the 1950’s. Often they do not live their lives or carry out their pregnancy like you would. While these issues can be a challenge emotionally, they often do not impact the ultimate goal; a healthy child and your building a family through adoption. They just require a degree patience and some humor.

Please do not hesitate to call our office if you have questions or concerns,

Blessings,

Deb O'Kane
Executive Director

Mailing Address
Main Office
15029 N. Thompson Peak Pkwy.
Ste 111-514
Scottsdale, AZ 85260



DOMESTIC ADOPTION REGISTRATION FORM:

INSTRUCTIONS: Please type this application form. Please note that this registration is good for one adoption. We ask you notify our office if you have adopted or are no longer interested in adoption. If we do not hear from you for an extended period of time (defined as three months), we reserve the right to close and destroy your file, as we will assume you either have adopted or are no longer interested in adoption.

APPLICANT INFORMATION		
Last Name:	First Name:	DOB:
Spouse's Last Name:	Spouse's First Name:	DOB:
Home Phone:	Mom's Cell Phone:	Dad's Cell Phone:
Full Address:	Primary Email address:	Religion:
Mom's Occupation:	Mom's Employer:	Mom's Salary:
Dad's Occupation:	Dad's Employer:	Dad's Salary:
Mom's Medical Conditions:	Dad's Medical Conditions:	List any previous marriages, divorces or arrest on back
PREFERENCES: Check all that apply		
Max Budget:	Gender: Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Either <input type="checkbox"/>	Adoption Type: Semi-open <input type="checkbox"/> Fully Open <input type="checkbox"/>
Racial Acceptance: Full Asian Asian/Black Asian/Caucasian Asian/Hispanic Asian/Native-American Circle all that apply Full Black Black/Caucasian Black/Hispanic Black/Native-American Full Caucasian Caucasian/Hispanic Caucasian/Native-American Full Hispanic Hispanic/Native-American Full Native American		
Health Issues: Heavy alcohol use <input type="checkbox"/> Light alcohol use <input type="checkbox"/> Major medical <input type="checkbox"/> Prematurity <input type="checkbox"/> Heavy drug use <input type="checkbox"/> Light drug use <input type="checkbox"/>		
Any additional comments?		
Submit 1) Registration Form, 2) Schedule of Fee agreements, 3) \$100 registration fee 4) home study that is less than a year old, 5) FBI criminal, state criminal and child abuse clearances that are less than a year old (full clearances, not just mention in study) 6) 5 profile booklets 7) a single pdf file of your study and clearances in same order as items 4-5 above 8) a pdf file of your profile (less than 15 mb) 8) a single jpg to use as website cover photo Please submit items 1-6 in one complete, hard-copy packet so items do not become separated. Items 7-8 can be emailed once approval into our program is received.		

How were you referred to our agency?: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____



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 Scottsdale, AZ 85260

Please note PayPal/Visa charges a 2.9% processing fee



Schedule of Fees: Domestic Adoption Program

Creating Christian Families and Mother Goose Adoptions, Inc. are sensitive to the rising cost of adoptions and thus strive to keep fees as low as possible, while still offering a quality program. We are, however, an independent adoption agency that must remain financially solvent without sponsorship from religious, humanitarian or governmental organizations. By far our largest expense is outreach and advertising; however, this marketing is what reduces your wait time from years to months. To help families who struggle to afford adoption, we make available to our families a host of resources that include low cost adoption loans, internal grant programs, outside private grant programs (generally for adoption of children who are special needs or who are harder to place), information on the tax credit, as well as information on a variety of fund raising options and ideas. Please see our resources page on our website for details.

We offer four programs to help meet your needs.

- The first is our **Full Service Program**. In this program we provide full case management services throughout your adoption and placement. This program is for cases where the moms are contracted with and placing their child for adoption through Mother Goose Adoptions.
- The second program is our **Special Beginnings** program. This option is for harder to place children: full African American, medically fragile or those older than five years of age. These clients receive all of the services offered in our Full Service program with a grant of 50% off of the current agency fee which is funded by yearly fundraising events.
- The third program is our **National Networking Program**. We work with many agencies and attorneys who come to us seeking families for the pregnant mom or the children they are working with. We pass these adoption opportunities along to our clients. A family is automatically registered in this program and eligible to be presented, with the fee being due only if they are selected.
- The fourth option is an **a la carte program** for those families coming to us already working with a mom and merely seeking assistance to complete an Independent or Direct Parental Placement adoption. These contracts will be offered on an hourly basis, charged only for services rendered, and will be individualized for each case. Typical total fees will be in the \$3,000-\$5,000 range for case management and counseling.

Full Service Program: \$23,000

This fee is for our Full Service Program which runs an extensive national advertising initiative to help identify pregnant women seeking to make an adoption plan for their unborn child. In this program, we assist with the location and coordination of your adoption plan.

This fee includes, but is not limited to the following services:

- Review of home study
- Case management (see addendum to schedule of fees for details on these services)
- Counseling (limited), support and education to our families
- Obtaining and reviewing proof of pregnancy, social/medical background information and medical records
- Notification to hospital regarding adoption plan and inquiry on hospital policies
- Identification of an attorney or agency local to birth family for execution of legal documents
- Coordination of legal plan (see addendum to schedule of fees for details on these services)

This fee will not include, as applicable per specific case:

- Networking fee



- Local agency/attorney
- Birth mom living expenses
- Birth mom medical expenses
- Home study
- Counseling, extensive face to face – defined as beyond \$500
- Post placement supervision reports
- Travel expenses
- Interstate compact fee, if applicable
- Finalization fee

Please note an entire fee package that covers the agency fee, as well as the anticipated legal and other cost, will be presented at time of match.

Special Beginnings Program: Current Agency Fee minus a 50% agency grant

This program is designed to help obtain families for harder to place children: full African American, special needs and children over five years of age. Please note that in this program, your family receives all the services offered in the Full Service Program at a reduced cost. Please see above for details. Families in this program are granted 50% off of the agency fee to offset cost.

National Networking Program: \$2,000

This fee is charged anytime you are matched with an expectant mom through another agency or attorney in which we were the referring source. Please note that in addition to our networking fee, you will have an agency, legal and living expense fee per the specific case, as posted. Generally, but not always, the agencies we work with will waive any up-front cost to present your family. Please carefully review fee agreements and policies with a placing agency before signing contracts. We will gladly help you review such documents.

A-la-carte Program: Fees are assessed individually for each case

These contracts will be offered on an hourly basis, charged only for services rendered, and will be individualized for each case. Typical total fees will be in the 3,000-\$5,000 range for case management and counseling.

Refund Policy:

In our Full Agency and Special Beginnings Programs, our promise to you is that we will continue to work with your family, at no additional agency fee, until you have adopted; provided that you maintain a current home study and that your actions are not the cause of the disruption. This policy helps insure against unnecessary loss while pursuing your dreams. Any non-agency fees (generally for legal work, case work or living expenses) dispersed on the disrupted adoption will be documented and the difference will need to be replenished. Fifty percent (50%) of the total agency fee is refundable if you opt to not pursue a rematch with our agency. In this event, any balance of unused living and legal expenses will be refunded as well. This refund must be board approved at a monthly meeting (they do not meet in July or December) and then will be paid out over several increments. If the adoption disrupts due to your actions, no portion of fees are refundable.

In our National Networking Program, the fee is not refundable but we will continue to assist you in your adoption efforts until you successfully adopt.



Registration Fee:

Our only upfront fee will be for the validation and review of your home study/clearances and the cost of managing your family profiles. This cost is \$100 per five profiles and is not refundable. The fee is due with each set of five profiles that you mail us.

Payment Schedule:

Fees are not due until family enters into an agreement to proceed toward adopting a specific child with a birth family identified through our efforts. If the expectant mom is a Mother Goose Adoptions client, a deposit of 50% (agency and legal) plus full living expenses are typically due at the time of match, with the balance due 6 weeks before expected delivery date.

If the mom is working with one of our partner agencies, in our National Networking Program, they will provide you with contracts and payment schedules according to their policies. Our networking fee is due at match.

Other Possible Fees Detailed:

These costs are not necessarily charged by our agency but are fees paid in compliance with your adoption plan.

Birth Family Living Expenses:

In many adoptions, birth families will request assistance with their living expenses from the adoptive family (as allowed by law). A portion of these expenses are "at-risk" if the adoption disrupts and what is allowable varies in each state. Whenever possible, adoptive families will be informed, before a match, of any expected living expenses. Furthermore, our agency mandates that living expenses be paid to a sister organization named Seedlings, Inc. who manages these living expenses. There is a 10% management fee to handle these expenses. This fee is then used to assist other women and children in crisis. Living expenses are escrowed at time of match and are estimated at match as closely as possible based on the circumstances at that time.

Legal Assistance:

Each adoption is unique, as are the laws of each state. This makes the cost of legal fees for termination of parental rights, Interstate Compact work, etc. hard to predict. However, legal assistance can generally be obtained in an independent, direct parental placement or agency adoption for approximately \$6,000-\$7,000 plus the cost of ICPC (average cost is \$1,500), if applicable. At the time of match, you will be presented a contract that incorporates the agency and estimated legal fee as one package. This legal fee is for an uncomplicated and uncontested adoption (typically defined as no more than two standard (no military personnel or Indian blood) biological parents). It does not include the cost of the finalization of your adoption which is typically done in your home state and is typically about \$1,500 and is done 3-12 months after placement.

Medical Expenses:

Adoptive parents are expected to cover medical expenses, including any applicable deductible, incurred as a result of the birth of their child unless otherwise covered by Medicaid or birthmother's insurance. Whenever possible, the adoptive family will be informed, in advance, if there is limited or no coverage. Please note that the majority of birth moms are eligible for Medicaid under the Medicaid Act of 2003. However, a new law effective July 1, 2006 requires mom to prove citizenship, by presenting an original birth certificate so there are often delays, or even denials, to being approved for Medicaid. The child's hospital stay is typically covered under the adoptive parents health insurance as long as placement documents are signed on the date of birth.

Agency Travel Assistance:

An additional fee will be assessed if family wishes to have an agency representative travel to assist the family at birth or to pick up their child, where appropriate. This fee covers not only the extra time but transportation, hotel etc.



Agreements, Warranties, Guarantees, & Indemnification

This Agreement is governed by the law of Arizona, regardless of conflicts of law. All disputes concerning this Agreement or the relationships of the parties must be litigated solely in the Courts of Arizona, and all parties agree to the personal jurisdiction of the Courts of Arizona. In the event of legal action, which is ruled in favor of the agency, Clients shall pay Creating Christian Families and Mother Goose's attorney fees, court cost and any other associated expenses for defense. Clients shall pay Creating Christian Families and Mother Goose's attorney fees, court cost and any other associated expenses for collection or arbitration. The only exception to this policy is if a subsequent agreement is reached and ratified by all parties

At the sole and exclusive option of Creating Christian Families and Mother Goose Adoptions, any controversy or claims arising out of this agreement, or any breach thereof, or arising out of the services provided by the agency shall be settled in accordance with the Commercial Rules of the American Arbitration Association, before an arbitrator and judgment upon the award rendered by the arbitrator shall be final and may be entered in any court having jurisdiction. No putative or non-compensatory damages shall be awarded. Cost of arbitration will be paid for by the party seeking arbitration. Arbitration will be held in location of Creating Christian Families and Mother Goose Adoptions choice.

If we refer a family to an outside agency or attorney and there is a misunderstanding or grievance, family understands that such issues are solely between the family and the "placing" agency. Creating Christian Families, nor Mother Goose Adoptions, can be held liable for errors on the part of placing agency or any disputes between the family and the placing agency. The family agrees that Creating Christian Families and Mother Goose Adoptions, as well as its employees, contractors, Board, heirs, executors, successors or assignees are released and forever discharged, for any and every claim, demand, right or cause of action arising between the actions of the family and the agency or attorney they were referred to.

The undersigned acknowledge and understand the above fee schedule. Each family will be presented with an individualized contract at time of acceptance into adoption a specific plan through the Full Service or Special Beginnings program. The individualized contract is the document of precedence regarding fees and fee structures. If no contract is issued, the family understands that fees are still assessed and due based on guidelines laid out in this agreement.

Signature of Applicant

Signature of Spouse

Date

Please send us the following to our main office:

- 1. Registration Form and Schedule of Fee agreements*
- 2. \$100 application fee (all pages)*
- 3. Current home study, FBI criminal checks, state criminal checks and child abuse checks (all needs to be less than a year old at placement). Clearances need to be full copies, not just references in the study.*
- 4. An electronic file of your study and clearances (in one file in the same order as #3)*
- 5. An electronic .pdf of your profile (less than 15 mb) so we can have on hand for "rush" cases and to put on our Waiting Families page*
- 6. A single .jpg file to use as a cover photo for the website*

Please send the documents in #1-3 in one hard-copy packet to prevent loss or misplacement of documents. The files in #4-6 can be emailed once you receive agency approval and welcome letter. Note: We charge \$100 fee to print documents from files

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Putting Your Profile Together

What Is A Photo Profile?

A photo profile is a photographic autobiography of your life as a couple or a family with children. Generally, it is like a scrapbook or a picture album that contains pictures of you, any children, close relatives, friends, vacations, holidays you celebrate, your home, hobbies and favorite activities.

What Is The Purpose Of A Photo Profile?

A photo profile can have several purposes. Primarily, it is designed to be given to your agency or adoption attorney so that the personnel can present a “picture” of your family to a birth mother. Even if you plan to advertise and are not expecting your attorney or facilitator to find a baby for you, a photo profile can be sent to or shared with a prospective birth mother. Once the baby is placed with you, a birth mother may want to keep the photo profile as a sentimental keepsake. Your original copy can be the beginning of your own family scrapbook.

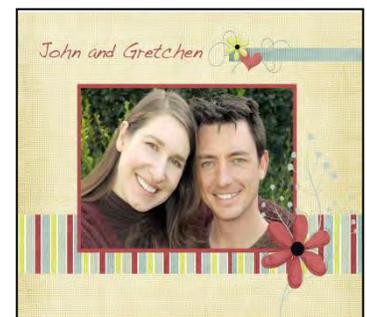
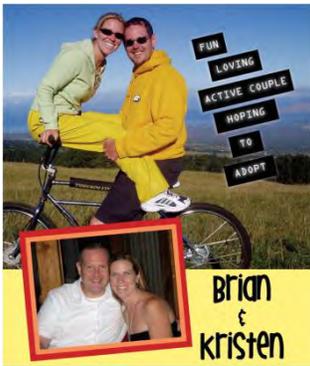
How Should I Design A Photo Profile?

First of all if the idea of a creative profile is too much to bear, let us know. We have several sources that design wonderful profiles for adoptive parents for a fee of \$250-\$500. You supply the pictures and letters and they return to you a finished product. No matter what option you choose, make sure you end up with a high quality, attractive printed profile and a .pdf file of less than 15mb. You will need both. A profile may not contain any identifying information like last names, emails, or phone numbers.

If you are going to create your own profile, the best option is to create the profiles through an online photo editing website like Shutterfly or SnapFish. If you are techie enough, you can also use a software program like PowerPoint or Photo Shop. The websites are typically more user friendly for those who aren't experienced users of graphic software. Both options allow you to insert photos, a Birth Mom letter, comments etc. The photo editing sites will even print them and mail them to you. You can opt for the “hard bound” or “paper bound” options. Truly, the paperbound options are just as attractive and cost much less.

If you are hand making your profile, DO NOT use bulky fabrics, binders etc. These are too difficult to store and mail. Also make sure you use paper 8 ½ X 11 or smaller. Send us high quality color copies of your original pages. Kinkos and such places will bind them for you for a nice spiral edge (not plastic comb or report clip). Leave a good margin on the left-hand side of the pages to allow for such binding and possibly even wind a ribbon through the spiral to add a nice touch. Look in your local craft shop, Wal-Mart, Creative Memories Consultant or local scrapbook store for ideas on cropping and creative background papers and stickers.

Place photos of yourselves and important people and life events in chronological order or thematic order. Such themes may be your wedding, holidays with family and friends, vacations, outings and picnics, your home, and your favorite activities or hobbies such as horseback riding, skiing, biking, gardening or sports. Select photos that are homey and provide a feeling of comfort, warmth and responsibility. The photos are the most important part of presenting your family. Crop them if possible and add captions etc. The quality of the photos is the most important piece. Poems can also be a touching addition.





Place about five to eight photos on a page. This may sound like a lot of photos, but if you cut and crop them, you can fit eight nicely on each page. Keep the profile bright and fun – the phrase we like to use is “funky fun”. Describe each set of pictures. When referring to yourselves, use only your first names.

Include your “Dear Birth Mother” letter. This letter describes the feelings you have for an expectant mom and the decision she is making. It also helps her know a little about you and why you want to adopt. While I believe that the letter is less important than the pictures; it is still key. Focus on the love that you have to offer her and her child. Your job is to “paint a picture” of what life would be like if she placed her child with you. However, please do not make comments or promises that you cannot keep about degrees of openness etc. Remember this is your one opportunity to “sell” your family and you will be up against other families that are attempting to do the same.

Hints for what works and what doesn't:

- Try not to make the profile too baby like. Motifs of bootie, diaper pins, pacifiers and the like are just “pouring salt into the wound”.
- It is best not to include specific biblical verses but stick to more general comments about attending services, having faith etc. Many moms do want Christian families for their child but will draw the line at what they call “holy rollers”.
- If you have children that are biologically born to you, don't differentiate between them and your adopted children or hopeful adopted children. They are merely your children. Many birth moms never even think to ask if a child is biological or adopted so there is no point in bringing it to their attention.
- If there are pictures of you in the profile with other children, add a comment like “Mike and his nephew enjoying a day of fishing”. You don't want the mom to rule you out because she assumes you already have multiple children based on the photos.
- Choose the “right” photos: Don't include photos of yourself in clothing that is inappropriate or photos that include alcoholic beverages. If your favorite cousin looks as though he belongs to a gang, you may want to leave him out. Play it safe. If you are considering the adoption of a child of a race other than your own, show the mom that you have friends and family of others races so her child won't feel lost. Don't spend more than a sentence or two talking about your struggles with infertility. It just isn't important to the mom. Do include photos of your home but only if they are focused elsewhere. (for instance, an idea to get pictures of a great back yard is during a family cookout). It just isn't fun for anyone to look at page after page of empty rooms. The mom can discern a lot about your lifestyle and “means” by the trips that you take and the backgrounds of your photos. The cover photo should be casual but of professional quality. Perhaps consider hiring a local photographer for a photo shoot.

How Many Copies Of The Photo Profile Should Be Made?

Start with 10, as well as your pdf version. Some places offer DVD versions of your profile but to be frank, very few moms have access to a computer to view such things.

How Many Pages Should The Photo Profile Be?

It will be approximately 20 pages MAX (10 front and back copies). This should be sufficient if careful thought is put into the layout and design.



We often have extra profiles of families who have already adopted if you'd like us to send you some samples. Just ask.