



**Adoption Resources of Kimberly Home Inc.
A registered DBA of The Kimberly Home Inc.**

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Dear Family:

Thank you for taking the time to contact us. As a licensed agency in the State of Florida, we are very familiar with the challenges of adoption. Adoption Resources of Kimberly Home, a non-profit agency, was founded to find permanent families for children. We work professionally to place children locally and into homes throughout the United States. Here in Florida we work with Birthmothers who are making an adoption plan to find a loving family to parent their child. We can network with other agencies to place children from many countries.

We know from years of experience, just as the backgrounds of all of the children we place are different, so are the needs and hopes of all of the families we serve. We have trained and professional staff to support and guide you through this important and often complex process. From the first informational meeting until your child comes home - and then- for as long as you need us. We are here and available to assist you whenever you need us.

It is our goal to include other services that make life better for children in need. We provide support for pregnant and/or parenting young women. This is done by offering referrals, counseling, education, transportation, food and in some case residential assistance. If a young Mom needs housing she can stay in an apartment close to our office. This also allows us to provide ongoing support throughout her pregnancy.

We take great pride in knowing that we are helping children - while building so many wonderful families through adoption. If you're ready we would like to help you build your family.

If you are interested in learning more about our programs and our services, please give us a call today. We will be happy to consult with you over the phone or in person at the office. This initial meeting is a free service, designed to help you as you make important decisions about adoption and about which of our programs can best serve your needs.

We look forward to hearing from you.

**Cheryl G. Huston
Program Director
Email: cghuston@aol.com**

THE PROCESS

Congratulations! You're about to take the first step in the adoption process: tackling the information packet. As you read it through, we hope you'll find answers to some of your questions and that you will gain a better understanding of the steps involved in this wonderful - though sometimes complicated - journey. Remember, we'll be here to support and guide you in any way we can, from this moment until your child comes home - and then for as long as you need us!

- ***Welcome/Intake***

This first meeting gives us a chance to get to know each other. You'll learn more about adoption and our agency, and we'll learn more about you and your expectations. That way, we can help you make some important decisions and guide you toward the domestic or international program that best matches your needs. If you'd like, we'll give you a preliminary application at this meeting.

- ***Application***

Whenever you're ready, you may complete the disclosure, the application and send them along with a 600.00 fee (1,000 fee for out-of-state families) and picture of yourselves. Just give us a call if you have questions along the way. Once the preliminary application is received, you will receive a full application packet and instruction to complete the packet.

- ***Home Study Preparation***

After we receive your completed application packet, we will assign you a caseworker that will support and advise you throughout the entire adoption process. Your caseworker will also compile your Home Study, a report that is required before you can adopt a child. The Home Study is based on a variety of information, including medical and reference checks, interviews with family members and at least one visit to your home. If you choose to adopt through our Domestic Infant Program, you will also need to create a profile - a letter illustrated with photos that tells prospective birthparents a little about you, your home and your lifestyle.

- ***Adoption Education***

Adoption Resources offers an excellent adoption education course for all prospective adoptive parents. During these classes, you'll discuss a wide variety of adoption related topics and learn about the different types of adoptions available to you. This course also offers many opportunities to discuss your questions and concerns - and to meet and talk with other waiting families.

- ***Placement***

After your paperwork is completed, you're ready to be matched with a child. You will wait to be selected by a birthmother. You'll then wait for the birth of the baby.

- ***Post-placement***

Your child is home! During the next six months, your caseworker will visit you up to four times to make sure that your family is adjusting well. Post-placement visits are required and they must be completed prior to the finalization process. These visits also give you a chance to ask questions, share concerns - and show off your child.

REQUIREMENTS

Requirements

include that you must...

- be at least 25 years old and usually not more than 45 years older than the child you seek to adopt. Actual age requirements depend on the program/country you choose to work with.
- be in good physical, emotional, and mental health, and able to parent a child.
- have established and maintained a stable home life for at least two years.
- have or complete a current homestudy that meets state licensing requirements for domestic adoption.
- meet additional requirements specific to each program (see following pages).

Fees

Call for a consultation to discuss fees.

Program choice and child referral

Once you have chosen a program and your homestudy has been completed, the referral process begins. Our goal is to find the best home we can for each child that we place. That means you must be involved in the process! Before you accept a referral, we will provide you with as much information as possible about the child. The length of the referral process depends on the program you've chosen, but generally you can expect that within one to two years, your child will be home with you.

Post-placement supervision

After a child is placed in your home, your caseworker will visit your family up to four times to offer support as you adjust, and to prepare the reports necessary for the courts to finalize your adoption.

Other services

Adoption Resources also provides full or partial Home Study and post-placement services to families who adopt through other agencies or who choose private adoptions through an attorney. Families returning to Adoption Resources for subsequent adoptions, will receive full services at reduced rates.

WHY CHOOSE ADOPTION RESOURCES?

- **Our experience:** Our expertise, reputation and strong relationships with other agencies means your adoption experience will go as smoothly and move as quickly as possible.
- **Our staff:** You'll work with profession caring staff who will lead you through the adoption process, help you compile and prepare the documents required for a domestic or international adoption and support you after your child comes home. You won't find more knowledgeable, caring adoption professionals anywhere. Some are adoptive parents themselves.
- **Our service:** Adoption Resources provides individualized case-management, home study services, adoption and cultural education, networking with international programs, post-placement services and guidance through every step of the adoption process.
- **Our mission:** Adoption Resources mission is clear: we want to make life better for children everywhere. We do that by finding loving, permanent homes for as many children in need as possible; by helping pregnant teens and young women learn to parent or make an adoption plan; by doing whatever we can for the children who still live in orphanages and poverty around the world.

We hope you'll become part of our team!

Financing Options

Although Adoption Resources does its best to streamline fees and keep the cost of adoption down, the expense may make your dream seem out of reach. Here are several options that might help as you seek to finance your adoption.

- **A Tax Credit** of up to \$12,500 is available to adoptive parents whose income falls below \$190,000. This tax credit began for all adoptions finalized after 2002. Ask your accountant or call Adoption Resources of Kimberly Home for more information. See additional information below.
- **Many employers now offer Adoption Benefits.** Check to see what yours offer.
- **The National Adoption Foundation** offers unsecured and home equity, credit lines & grants for adoptive parents. They can be reached at 100 Mill Plain Road, Danbury, CT 06811; Tel (203) 791-3811; Fax (203) 791-3801, or www.nafadopt.org
- **A Child Waits Foundation** 1136 Barker Rd, Unit 12; Pittsfield, MA 01201 (413) 499-3992; Fax (413) 499-2338; email: achildwaits@poboxes.com or www.achildwaits.org
- **MBNA** offers "line of credit" loans, home equity and other secured loans. For these options call (888) 621-6262 or (800) 626-2760
- Your **LOCAL BANK or CREDIT UNION** may also be a good resource for home equity loans, lines of credit, or second mortgages.

Domestic Adoption

Through our domestic infant program, we counsel both birthmothers and birthfathers. Some decide to make an adoption plan for their baby, which means we need families ready and willing to love and parent these new lives! Our **Domestic Infant Adoption Program** makes that happen. If you choose to adopt through this program, you will prepare a profile - a letter illustrated with photos of you, your home and loved ones. This profile, along with the assistance of a caseworker, helps the birthmother choose the family she feels is best for her baby. The decision to place a child for adoption demands great strength, love and courage on the part of every young woman who makes this choice. It also requires a lot of strength, love and understanding on the part of you, the adoptive parents.

We understand the many emotions, concerns and hopes that are part of the adoption process, no matter which program you choose, and we'll support you every step of the way. If you work through our Domestic Infant Adoption Program, we'll work with you and the birthmother/father to create the "ideal" adoption plan for everyone, from when and where you'll pick up the baby to how much you'll stay in touch with each other through visits, photos or letters. Most placements occur directly from the hospital and you may be able to be at the birth. We'll also carefully counsel each birthmother through the process and support her through the natural feelings of pain and loss she will experience.

Some adoptive parents find a birthmother on their own, but still come to us to complete their adoption through our **Identified Adoption Program**. We can provide the birthmother with the services and counseling she needs, and we'll support you, the adoptive parents, through the entire adoption process. If you identify a birthmother and complete your adoption through an attorney, you can still come to us for adoption education classes, your Home Study and one post-placement visit required by the court.

We also collaborate with other agencies to find families for waiting children. Through our **Interagency Adoption Program**, we place both healthy infants and children of color as well as special needs infants and children - children who face mental, emotional or physical challenges, or who simply are older, or part of a sibling group that must be placed together.

On the next few pages, you will find some additional information about these programs, which are open to families living in the state of Florida. It is our sincere hope that a child in need will soon find his or her home with you.

U.S.A. Infant Adoption Programs

Fees are effective as of 01/01/2012 and are subject to change.

Domestic Infant Adoption

This program finds loving families for babies born to women who are participating in our Domestic Infant Program who choose to make an adoption plan.

Children: Newborn to three years: Caucasian, Hispanic, African-American, Bi-racial and mixed race.

Family requirements: No more than 45 years between the youngest parent and child. Must be willing to meet a birthmother and send annual pictures for 18 years be willing accept a child of either gender and take your baby from hospital as a legal risk.

Time frame: Two to 24 months between Home Study and child referral. Up to five months between referral and placement. During this time a birthmother may choose you and later change her mind before placement but this very seldom occurs after placement. (Less than 1%)

Identified Adoption

You may identify a birthmother on your own and then complete your adoption through us. You'll benefit from the expertise of our staff and the birthmother will receive the counseling services that are so crucial to her well-being and a successful placement.

Children: Historically, children adopted through this program are newborn to two years old, though any age and gender is possible.

Family requirements: No agency requirements; birthparents agree to enter the program for the same full services provided in the Domestic Infant Program.

Time frame: The time frame is dependent upon you and the birthmother's due date.

Interagency Adoption

We network with many agencies in other states to place healthy infants and children with loving families.

Children: Newborn to four years; Caucasian, Hispanic, African-American, Bi-racial and mixed-race; some programs offer opportunity to choose gender.

Family requirements: No more than 45 years between youngest parent and child; sometimes no age requirement; singles accepted by most agencies.

Must be willing to travel to meet with networking agency's staff, the birthparents, and complete paperwork and to pick up your child. You will most likely need to stay for two weeks if your child is from out-of-state to clear Interstate Compact.

Time frame: One to 24 months between Home Study and child referral; up to three months between referral and placement in your home.

U.S.A. Special-Needs Adoption Programs

Fees are effective as of 01/01/2012 and are subject to change.

Domestic Special-Needs Adoption

Through our Domestic Special Needs Program, Adoption Resources places infants who are mentally, physically or emotionally challenged as well as some children who are over age three. Some of their issues are minor and correctable; some are more serious.

Children: All ages and races; minor to more serious special-needs.

Family requirements: Age requirements are flexible. Single parents accepted.

Time frame: One to 24 months between Home Study and child referral. Up to three months between referral and placement.

Interagency Special-Needs Adoption

Adoption Resources works with other agencies to find permanent homes for special-needs infants and children. Many of the issues these children face can be helped greatly with therapy and/or medical attention - and a loving, supportive family.

Children: All ages and races; minor to more serious special-needs.

Family requirements: No age requirements in most cases; singles accepted; must be willing to travel to meet with networking agency and to pick up the child.

Time Frame: Two to 24 months between Home Study and child referral. Up to three months between referral and placement in your home.

State Agency Adoption

There are nearly 700,000 infants and children living in state-run foster care across the United States. Most are school-aged, but more toddlers and pre-school children are available for adoption than ever before.

Children: Mostly school-age children; minor to more serious special-needs; sibling groups.

Family requirements: No age requirements, single parents accepted.

Time frame: Two to nine months between Home Study and child referral. Up to five months between referral and placement in your home.

Fees: No fees; subsidies are available for most children.

THE ADOPTION TAX CREDIT

Taken from <http://www.irs.gov/taxtopics/tc607.html>

For 2010 and 2011, you may be able to claim a refundable tax credit for qualified expenses paid to adopt an eligible child (including a child with special needs). For tax years prior to 2010, the adoption credit is not refundable. Apart from the credit, you may be able to exclude from your gross income amounts paid to you, or for you by your employer, for qualified adoption expenses under a qualified adoption assistance program. You can claim both the exclusion and the credit for expenses of adopting an eligible child. However, you cannot claim both a credit and exclusion for the same expenses.

For expenses paid prior to the year the adoption becomes final, the adoption credit is generally allowed for the year following the year of payment. For expenses paid in and after the year the adoption becomes final, the credit is allowed in the year of payment. If a taxpayer pays qualified expenses for an adoption in the current year and prior years and the adoption becomes final in the current year, the taxpayer may be eligible to claim the credit on the return for the current year for the expenses paid in the current year as well as for any expenses paid for that adoption in the prior years.

For both the credit and the exclusion, qualified expenses include reasonable and necessary adoption fees, court costs, attorney fees, traveling expenses (including amounts spent for meals and lodging while away from home), and other expenses that are directly related to and the principal purpose of which is the legal adoption of an eligible child. An eligible child must be under 18 years old, or be physically or mentally incapable of caring for himself or herself. You may not claim an adoption credit or exclusion for a child who is not a United States citizen or resident unless the adoption becomes final. In the case of an adoption of a special-needs child, you may be eligible for a certain amount of credit or exclusion regardless of actual expenses paid or incurred. A child has special-needs if all of the following conditions are met:

1. The child is a United States citizen or resident
2. A state determines that the child cannot or should not be returned to his or her parent's home, and
3. A state determines that the child probably will not be adopted unless assistance is provided

The credit and exclusion for qualified adoption expenses are each subject to a dollar limitation and an income limitation. The amount of your adoption credit or exclusion is limited to a specific dollar amount (\$13,360 for tax year 2011) for each effort to adopt an eligible child. If you can claim a credit and exclusion, this dollar amount applies separately to each. For example, if in 2011 you paid \$10,000 in qualified adoption expenses for a final adoption, and your employer paid \$4,000 of additional qualified adoption expenses, you may be able to claim both a credit of up to \$10,000 and an exclusion of up to \$4,000 in employer-provided adoption assistance. The dollar limit for a particular year must be reduced by the amount of qualified expenses taken into account in previous years for the same adoption effort.

The income limit on the adoption credit or exclusion is based on your modified adjusted gross income (MAGI). If your MAGI is below the beginning phase out amount (\$185,210

for tax year 2011), the income limit will not affect your credit or exclusion. If your MAGI is more than the beginning phase out amount your credit or exclusion will be reduced. If your MAGI is above the maximum phase out amount (\$225,210 for tax year 2011), your credit or exclusion will be eliminated.

Generally, if you are married, you must file a joint return to claim the adoption credit or exclusion. If your filing status is married filing separately, you can claim the credit or exclusion only if you meet special requirements.

To claim the credit or exclusion, complete [Form 8839](#) (PDF), *Qualified Adoption Expenses*, and attach the form to your [Form 1040](#) (PDF) or [Form 1040A](#) (PDF). You must attach one or more adoption related documents (identified in the form instructions) with the completed Form 8839, and attach the Form 8839 to your Form 1040 or Form 1040NR. The required documents vary depending on whether the adoption is foreign or domestic, whether it becomes final in the tax year, and whether it is for a special-needs child.

Thank you for your recent inquiry. We look forward to hearing from you.