



Designated Adoption: *We live out of state but have been contacted by an expectant mother in Colorado who would like place her child in our home for adoption.*

LFS provides a full range of services to a birth parent and to you as an adoptive parent.

- Birth parent counseling
- ICPC assistance
- Legal process of relinquishment for mother
- Relinquishment or termination of rights as to the father(s)
- Birth plan coordination
- Agency coordination

Home Study Process

If you do not have a current home study, you will need to contact an agency in your state that will help you in this process. Your agency will complete your home study, provide training and provide post placement services in accordance with the regulations in your state. If you need help finding an agency in your area, we may be able to offer suggestions.

Birth Parent Counseling

Our experienced pregnancy counselor will meet with the expectant parents and will be their advocate and support person through her journey. During the initial meeting, we discuss their interest in making an adoption plan and make sure that she is able to access health services, prenatal care and is able to meet her basic needs. If the father is not available for counseling, we will contact him to inform him of his rights.

There is no charge to you for the initial meetings with a birth parent. After two sessions, we will contact you to inform you of the birth mom's current plan for making an adoptive plan with your family and the initial assessment of the father's intent to intervene. If you choose to go forward, you will be billed for birth parent counseling. Her decision may change and is not meant to be considered a guarantee that the child will be placed for adoption with you. The cost is for services provided and not for the child.

Birth Parent Expenses

At this time, we may also have an estimate of possible birth parent expenses. It is important not to send money directly to the birth family. Regulations exist regarding what can be provided to the birth parent and all money or substantial gifts need to go through an agency. Colorado law states that all approved birth parent expenses cannot be reimbursed to the adoptive family in the event that the birth parent

changes her mind and decides not to place with your family. You will be responsible for all medical expenses not covered by insurance.

Placement

We will keep you informed about the hospital plan that we have developed with the birth parents. Often this is an exciting but stressful time and an adoption worker will be available to assist you in the hospital stay and with discharge planning.

Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children (ICPC)

LFS is the contracted ICPC coordinator and we are experts in this process. ICPC is a process of both states approving a placement prior to the child being allowed to return to your state. We will coordinate with your agency to receive the home study and other necessary documents from your state. Until the ICPC office in your state approves the placement you will need to remain in Colorado. The average time is from 7 days to three weeks. Since the baby may be discharged sooner than you receive approval, you will need to prepare a temporary place to stay.

Once the child is placed with you, the agency in your state will provide post placement visits and reports. You may finalize the adoption in your state after having the child in your home for six months.

Legal Process

Colorado mandates that every birth mother be provided with counseling before a relinquishment will be approved by the court. The length of counseling varies but we are committed to working with a parent for as long as she needs our support.

Birth fathers have many rights, one of which is to contest the adoption and parent their child. We often do not know of the birth fathers intent to parent prior to placement. If the birth father is able to parent and follows through with the court process, he most likely will receive custody.

As part of the fee for birth parent counseling, LFS will provide legal services relating to the relinquishment or termination of parental rights. The majority of cases are done without a court hearing and relinquishment paperwork will be completed by the pregnancy counselor. The process includes legal notification to all potential birth fathers, the preparation and filing all relinquishment documents, appearance in court if necessary and compliance with Indian Child Welfare Act.

An attorney is not necessary to file relinquishment and termination cases with a Colorado Court. However, you are encouraged to seek legal counsel in order to obtain a better understanding of the adoption laws in the state of Colorado at your expense if you choose.

For a complete copy of our fee agreement or for any other questions or concerns, please contact the office at 303-217-5863 or at adoption@lfsrm.org. It is our honor to be part of your adoption journey!