



Adoptive Family Information

To be given to Birthparents if Requested

AF 4

INFORMATION

	<u>Husband</u>	<u>Wife</u>
Birth Year		
Racial/ethnic background		
Education/ Degree		
Occupation		
Interests/ Hobbies		
Personality		
Health		
Relationship with Extended family		
Community Activity		
Describe Marital Relationship		
Parenting Philosophy/ Values and Goals		
Present/Future Child Care		
Lifestyle/Extended Family Involvement		
Openness with Birth Parents after placement		
Exchanging pictures and letters _____ Phone calls _____ Open to visits _____		



Adoptive Family Release of Information

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION

We do hereby give permission to the following agency to complete an Adoptive Home Study or obtain our Adoptive Home Study from another source.

HEART TO HEART ADOPTIONS, INC.
9669 South 700 East
Sandy, Utah 84070
Phone: 801-563-1000
Email: lisab@hearttoheartadopt.com

Our Home Study was done by: Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____ Fax: _____
Contact: _____
Email: _____
Date Completed: _____

- We give our permission to release the findings of this study, including opinions, medical histories, backgrounds, assessments and other data to **other agencies** or individuals that are working directly with Heart to Heart Adoptions in an effort to locate and procure a child or children in our behalf.
- We also agree that Heart to Heart Adoptions may release information relating to our adoption to the Utah Department of Human Services/Division of Family Services or its counterpart in other states in the case of an **interstate compact placement**. They may also give adoption related information to the **courts** of the State of Utah if the adoption is contested and at the time of finalization.
- We understand that Heart to Heart Adoptions must release information concerning us to **potential birthparents** interested in us.
- We understand that Heart to Heart Adoptions must involve witnesses or a **notary public** at the time of placement. We agree that we may be introduced, and those individuals may view any legal forms which we sign.
- We also give permission to Heart to Heart Adoptions to share information about us and our adoption with the nursing staff, billing office and others in the **medical community** that have a need to know.
- We release Heart to Heart Adoptions from any **liability**, damages, actions or suits arising from the release or exchange of the information given in the Home Study or related to an adoption done through Heart to Heart Adoptions.

Date: _____

Husband's Name (Please Print)

Signature

Wife's Name (Please Print)

Signature

APPLICATION OR ACTIVATION FEE: \$500

There are no additional fees due until you are matched with a birthmother.

TOTAL AGENCY FEES: \$46,000 without an Adoption Grant. This is a flat fee that covers all services provided by Heart to Heart Adoptions including services and costs related to caring for the birthmother. Following is a list of those services. This is not an inclusive list of all services provided. In addition, not all services are provided to in each situation.

BIRTH PARENTS SERVICES:

Covers the services that may be provided to Birth Parents. Including but not limited to:

- Options Counseling
- Emotional Support 24/7 ----adoption planning, and coordination
- Medical Support (out of state travel, support during labor, delivery, and placement)
- Assistance with public services when available and appropriate
- Financial Support (pregnancy related expenses: housing, phone, utilities, food, clothing)
- Education and Support with Adoption Planning, and After Placement Planning
- Case-manager support, medical coordination, and in state transportation
- Emotional Support and financial assistance during post placement confinement period
- Lifelong access to HeartsConnect, an online private, secure communication portal to facilitate a long term healthy relationship with the adoptive family and child
- Advertising and attainment of birthparents looking to place their baby for adoption

AGENCY FEE AND ADOPTIVE FAMILY SERVICES:

- Adoptive family application and file set-up.
- Pre-Match Support and Education
- Financial/Legal Risk Assessment
- Presentation to and match with Birthparents, with continued match support
- Support of adoptive family in hospital and coordination with medical services.
- Relinquishment of parental rights and placement with adoptive parents.
- Notification of birth father/husband if needed, paternity search(s).
- Completion of Interstate Compact for Placement of Children, as needed for interstate placements.
- Monitoring of post placement supervision.
- Court order of Determination of Parental rights when using Utah law.
- Coordination with adoptive family legal advisor.
- Representation at finalization (Utah) or agency consent for finalization (out of state).
- All overhead and business-related costs and services. It is sometimes necessary to subcontract some of these services to other providers
- Lifelong access to HeartsConnect, an online private, secure communication portal to facilitate a long term healthy relationship with the birth family and maintain and store photos and messages for the child

ADOPTION GRANTS

Families with limited funds may apply for an agency grant to offset the cost of their adoption. Grants will be awarded based on need and availability of funds. We strongly encourage families with adequate funds for their adoption to contribute to the grant fund, particularly after they have adopted. These contributions will assist other families with less resources to adopt.

Third Party Expenses

MEDICAL EXPENSES (Funds may be at risk)

Medical expenses are the responsibility of the adoptive family, though most of our birth mothers are on Medicaid or can qualify for it. When appropriate, the agency will assist birthmothers to enroll in Medicaid or private insurance but cannot guarantee it will apply.

If the delivery is in Utah, the agency has arranged for discounts from most medical providers if Medicaid or private insurance are not available. However there will likely be some expenses that will need to be covered by the adoptive family. All medical expenses must be paid at the time of placement to receive the medical discount. With the discount, in Utah, a normal delivery costs \$8000 to \$12,000. We have no arrangements with any hospitals outside of Utah, so all costs will need to be negotiated with the hospital by the adoptive family if the birth mother and child are not on Medicaid or private insurance.

Please check with your private insurance and ask when they start medical coverage for the child. Usually coverage will start at the time the child is placed with you, but it may also begin at the time of the child's birth. Occasionally, some insurance companies will even cover the costs of the birth mother.

LEGAL EXPENSES (Funds will be at risk)

Your agency fee will cover the legal expenses required to complete the relinquishment and placement. You will be responsible for attorney fees required to finalize the adoption, obtain a termination order (TPR), or protect against a contested adoption.

Determination of Birth Father Rights (DPR or TPR)

If the adoption is done in Utah or uses Utah law, we often need the assistance of a Utah attorney. We will ask you to contact and retain the attorney to assist with terminating birth parent rights and finalizing the adoption. We also use specific attorneys in other states to assure the adoption is done correctly.

ICWA-Indian Child Welfare Act

In some cases where the birth mother and/or father are part of a Native American or Alaskan Village tribe, additional court costs of about \$4,500 will be incurred. The birth mother must appear before a judge ten days after the birth.

Finalization

There is a period of time following placement before the adoption can be finalized. Finalization generally occurs around 6 months following placement and you may pay the attorney directly. Finalization can be done in the state where you reside, where the child was born or in Utah if the birth mother selected Utah laws to relinquish her rights.

Contested Adoption

Occasionally someone will contest the adoption. They will claim rights to the child that either are not acknowledged by law or need to be considered by the courts. This is generally the birth father, though other entities may try. If the adoption is contested and additional legal fees are required, those attorney fees will be your responsibility.

FAILED PLACEMENT POLICY 10% OF FUNDS ARE AT RISK

1. **Heart to Heart Adoptions, Inc. does not offer refunds.**
2. **If, before the time of relinquishment and placement, either the birthparents or the adoptive family choose not to move forward with the adoption, 10% of the total fee will be used to help cover expenses incurred by the agency. The remaining 90% of the total fee may be applied or rolled over to a new situation with Heart to Heart Adoptions, Inc.**
3. If the child is placed in your home, and later removed, **no fees** will be refunded or rolled over.

We have read the above payment agreement and failed placement policy. We understand that we will be required to sign an Adoption Services Financial Contract at the time a family match is completed in consideration for services rendered by Heart to Heart Adoptions.

ADOPTIVE FATHER: _____ **DATE:** _____

ADOPTIVE MOTHER: _____ **DATE:** _____

Biological (birth) parents and legal parents must be considered when assessing and addressing who has the right to receive notice about a potential adoption and/or give consent to that adoption.

We follow the laws of the state in which birth occurred. However, some states allow the laws of another state to govern the adoption process as long as there is a “Voluntary Jurisdiction Waiver” in place.

Laws to Consider

1. Time required prior to allowing the birth mother’s Relinquishment. This can range from no time to 72 hours. Utah law requires a birth mother to wait 24 after birth before she can voluntarily relinquish her rights to a child.
2. Revocation period. This refers to the amount of time that a birth mother can revoke or undo the relinquishment. In most states the relinquishment is irrevocable, (cannot be undone) but a few states allow anywhere from 48 hours to 30 days for the birth mother to revoke her relinquishment.
3. Laws concerning the rights of the Birth Father.
 1. Supportive father - In most states the birth father wishing to support the adoption may relinquish his rights any time before or after the child is born. With only a very few exceptions, that relinquishment is irrevocable.
 2. Legal father – Married to birthmother at the time of birth or conception – He is presumed to be birth father whether or not he is and must be given notice of the adoption proceeding.
 3. Unmarried father - In many states, unmarried birth fathers are required to make a timely and full commitment to the responsibilities of parenthood in order for them to have the right to receive notice of the adoption or the right to give or withhold their consent.

To show this commitment, the birthfather must do the following in Utah and many other states.

 1. File with the Putative Father Registry (Paternity Registry) indicating that he is ready and able to take responsibility for the child.
 2. Support the birth mother and child by offering or paying a fair and reasonable amount of expenses.

What We Do

1. We try to use the law that allows the birthmother to relinquish as soon as she wishes.
2. We try to avoid using laws that allow for a revocation period.
3. Concerning the birthfather
 - a. We try to contact him whenever possible and involve him in the process.
 - b. When she is married we must contact her husband whether or not he is the birth father.
 - c. We appropriate, we honor the birth mother’s right to privacy in cases where she is not married.
 - d. With unmarried birthfathers who don’t want to be involved, whenever possible, we give legal notice and allow them 30 days to respond.
 - e. When necessary, we obtain a Determination of Parental Rights (DPR) also considered a Termination of Parental Rights (TPR). If this is required, there will be an addition cost of about \$850.

Every adoption has legal risks! We cannot completely avoid them.

We have read the above statement of risks associated with adoption. We agree that it is a risk worth taking and wish to proceed with the process. We agree not to hold Heart to Heart Adoptions liable for the risks of a failed adoption.

Adoptive Father: _____ Date: _____

Adoptive Mother: _____ Date: _____

Research shows that adoptions are much more successful when parents are prepared for the adoption experience and their expectations and the reality of the situation are consistent. If you have training and education completed through your home study provider or through a consultant, please list out what classes or type of training was completed.

We require the you complete the Heart to Heart Orientation and 10 hours of adoption education.

Heart to Heart Adoption Orientation

Found at - [Hearttoheartadopt.com](http://hearttoheartadopt.com) - Hoping to adopt – Orientation or cut and paste the link below.
<https://heart-to-heart-adoption-academy.teachable.com/p/adoptive-family-orientation>

Online Courses

We highly recommend any of the following Online Courses we have listed below. If you have questions, please give us a call. **Plases print out the certificate once completed.** * found at www.adoptionlearningpartners.org

Online Courses and Books- General Adoption Education

Please choose FOUR of the following materials: (Or another approved resource)

- | | |
|--|---|
| Let's Talk Adoption* (Online) | <input type="checkbox"/> Date Completed _____ |
| The Journey of Attachment* (Online) | <input type="checkbox"/> Date Completed _____ |
| Find the Missing Pieces* (Online) | <input type="checkbox"/> Date Completed _____ |
| <u>The Open Adoption Handbook</u> By: Lois Melina & Sharon Kaplan Roszia | <input type="checkbox"/> Date Completed _____ |
| <u>Wounded Children Healing Homes</u> By: Schooler, Smalley, & Callahan | <input type="checkbox"/> Date Completed _____ |
| <u>Adoption Parenting</u> Edited by: Jean McLeod | <input type="checkbox"/> Date Completed _____ |

What did you Learn: _____

Transracial Adoption

If adopting a race other than your own, please read TWO of the following materials:

- | | |
|---|---|
| Conspicuous Families* (Online) | <input type="checkbox"/> Date Completed _____ |
| Beyond Culture Camp Webinar* (Online) | <input type="checkbox"/> Date Completed _____ |
| <u>I'm Chocolate, You're Vanilla</u> By: Marguerite A. Wright | <input type="checkbox"/> Date Completed _____ |
| <u>In Their Own Voices</u> By: Rita J. Simon & Rhonda M. Roosda | <input type="checkbox"/> Date Completed _____ |

What did you Learn: _____

Older Child Adoption

If open to adopting a child more than six months old, please read TWO of the following materials:

- | | |
|---|---|
| With Eyes Wide Open* (Online) | <input type="checkbox"/> Date Completed _____ |
| Adopting the Older Child* (Online) | <input type="checkbox"/> Date Completed _____ |
| <u>Toddler Adoption</u> By: Mary Hopkins | <input type="checkbox"/> Date Completed _____ |
| <u>Raising Adopted Children</u> By: Lois Melina | <input type="checkbox"/> Date Completed _____ |

What did you Learn: _____

Input from Other Adoptive Families

We find the best education comes from talking with other adoptive families. Please list at least 3 adoptive families you have talked with.

First Name	Why did you talk with this AP	What you learned from talking to this adoptive parent

Additional Education

If you have completed other education, please list the books, online course, workshop or agency training below, or fill out on a separate piece of paper.

Name of Material	What you learned from this material

The completed form and attached documents will show that you have completed the education requirements for adoptive parent raining. Your signature below verifies that you completed the education thoroughly and to the best of your ability.

Adoptive Father: _____

Date: _____

Adoptive Mother: _____

Date: _____



Adoptive Family Rights and Responsibilities

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The following pages outline your rights and responsibilities in working with the agency. The agency will assure that all your rights are protected and invite you to work as closely and openly with us.

It is your right that we read these pages out loud to you, so we give you a choice.
Please select one of the following:

_____ 1. Before I continue working with Heart to Heart, I would like my rights and responsibilities read out load to me as indicated on the following form.

If you select this option, please call the agency before sending in your packet.

_____ 2. I waive my right to have this document describing my rights and responsibilities read out loud to me at this time. I am able to read it myself and ask for clarification as needed.

If you select this option, please read the following document and Initial as follows

Page 2 – Initial

Page 3 – Initial again then Print and sign your name where it says,
“Adoptive Parent Name or Adoptive Parent Signature”.

Please mark any statement where you have a concern or question. Call us or write your concerns or questions below.

SIGNATURES

We/I, _____ recognize that it is my/our right to select from the options above.

_____ Adoptive Mother Name _____ Adoptive Mother Signature
Date

_____ Adoptive Father Name _____ Adoptive Father Signature
Date

Adoption Orientation Form for Adoptive Parents

This form is based on Child Placing Adoption Rule R501-7 located are accessed here: <https://rules.utah.gov/publicat/code/r501/r501-07.htm> or on the Office of Licensing Website: hslic.utah.gov

Rule and statute citations are listed where applicable on each line of this form for your information

This form shall be reviewed and signed by prospective adoptive parents upon initial application and prior to payment of any fees in excess of \$500.00.

This form does not constitute legal advice and is not required for public child welfare agency adoptions.

❖ **In addition to general client rights outlined in 501-1-12, as an adoptive parent in Utah you have the right to:**

1. Make decisions free from fraud, duress or undue influence. 501-7-4-1(d) and 62A-2-106
2. Determine the extent which your identifying information is shared with the birth parents through a release of information. 501-7-2-9(k)
3. Expect agency transparency regarding what other personal information is shared with the birthparents 501-7-11-2(h) and 501-7-2-9
4. Be provided the Adoption Orientation Form for Pre-existing Parents and have any questions answered regarding the rights and responsibilities of pre-existing parents. 501-7-9-c(i)
5. Seek medical, emotional, legal and social work advice from independent resources prior to becoming matched or accepting placement. 501-7-4-1.d(v)
6. Be notified of what services will be provided by your Child Placing Adoption Agency, including but not limited to: pre-adoption counseling, training, home study, birth parent services, matching and placement services, post placement support groups and visit(s). 501-7-6-1&6 and 501-7-9-2(b)
7. Ask to participate in an open or closed adoption and ask to meet birthparents prior to placement with the understanding that any agreements regarding post placement contact are not enforceable under Utah Law. 501-7-11-2.r(i)&(2)
8. Meet in-person (including video/telephonic contact) privately for an agency representative to read aloud and explain this orientation form prior to match or payment of any fees exceeding \$500.00 501-7-9-2(a)
9. Be informed by the agency prior to being matched and ongoing through the adoption process regarding the legal status of any known potential father and any efforts regarding the notification process. 501-7-9-2(c) and 501-7-11-3(d)
10. Retain legal counsel 501-7-4-1.d(v)

11. Be provided sufficient information prior to accepting a match 501-7-8-1(c) and 501-7-8-4(c)
12. Be informed of what a “match” means to the agency you are working with. 501-7-4-2(k) and 501-7-8-3
13. Receive a fee disclosure statement prior to entering into any agreements that outlines all agency fees and the agency’s policy of charging either fixed (estimated) or actual adoption related expenses. If providing an estimated range of fees, the agency shall additionally provide average costs for the past 2 years of each itemized fee or expense and the refund policy 501-7-6-6
14. Obtain a copy of any home study or pre-placement evaluation you have purchased from the agency, recognizing that such a copy is for personal use and not necessarily valid to provide to other agencies or the court for future use. 501-7-6-1(j) and (k)
15. Receive in writing non-identifying information (if known) concerning the child and his or her birth family. 501-7-9-10(e) and 501-7-2-10
16. File and work to resolve any grievance directly with the agency. If there is a question or complaint regarding a Licensing rule violation you may contact the office via email:licensingconcerns@utah.gov or by calling 801-538-4242. 501-1-9-2(b)
17. Understand that your child will have an original birth certificate retained at the Office of Vital Records with their birth name on it as given at the time of delivery.
18. Request identifying information from birth parents. 501-7-9-4(a)
19. Be informed that your child has special needs if they are between the ages of 5-18 with known evidence of a physical, emotional or developmental disability or is the member of a sibling group placed for adoption. The agency is required to provide additional training to you in regard to special needs children. 501-7-8.d(i)&(ii) and e
20. Be informed that your child might qualify as a “high needs” child if they have an attachment or trauma-related disorder, suffered from prenatal exposure to alcohol or drugs, are subject of an intercountry adoption or was previously in foster care. 62A-4a-609
21. Receive training on all adoption related issues including additional training regarding special or high needs children if applicable. 501-7-8-1-E(v) and 501-7-8-2(b)
22. Be informed of legal risks of a placement as known to the agency at the time of placement or as they arise 501-7-9-10(c)
23. Be informed that Utah has a voluntary Mutual Consent Registry that can connect adoptees and birth parents after the adoptee is 18 years old if both parties have registered. 501-7-11-2(x) and 501-7-11-3(p)

I/We have read all 23 items above and had all questions answered by an agency representative to my/our satisfaction.

Initials: _____ **Initials:** _____

❖ **As an Adoptive Parent you have the responsibility to:**

1. Obtain the necessary approved home study and documentation in order to adopt under Utah Law. 78B-6-128
2. Not coerce or pressure a pre-existing parent to make a plan of adoption. 76-7-203
3. Pay all contracted service fees and adoption related expenses in a timely manner.
4. Cooperate in obtaining the necessary training on adoption related issues. 62A-4a-609
5. Cooperate with post-placement monitoring and support. 78B-6-129
6. Keep your agency informed of new relevant information about your family.
7. Follow-through on good faith commitments made regarding post-placement contact.
8. Provide for the care, maintenance and support of any child placed in your home. 78B-6-134
9. Be forthcoming and honest with accurate and thorough information.

I/we understand my/our responsibilities and agree to abide by them.

Initials: _____ **Initials:** _____

❖ **Signatures**

Verify that you have read this 3-page form in its entirety. Only sign once you have had the opportunity to ask clarifying questions and had all questions answered to your satisfaction.

Adoptive Parent Printed Name

Adoptive Parent Signature

Date

Adoptive Parent Printed Name

Adoptive Parent Signature

Date

Agency Representative Printed Name and Credentials

Agency Representative Signature

Date

Types of Adoption

Agency - Using an agency like Heart to Heart Adoptions

Direct – Usually done with the help of an attorney.
Birth parents relinquish directly to the adoptive family.

Foster Care – The child is in the custody of the Division of the Human Services who can place with a foster family as a temporary or permanent placement.

There are many children in Foster Care. We encourage you to consider that as an adoption option.

There Are No Fees

For adopting Children who live in Foster Care

To learn more about Foster Care in Utah- please go to this link for details

WWW.UTAHADOPT.ORG/CONSIDERING-ADOPTION



UTAH'S ADOPTION CONNECTION
CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

Utah department of
human services
Child and Family Services

THERE ARE OVER
400 Children
IN FOSTER CARE IN
WHO NEED /
ADOPTIVE FA

THERE ARE
NO FEES
FOR ADOPTING CHILDREN WHO LIVE IN
FOSTER CARE
WHEN A PARENT RELINQUISHES TO US

WWW.UTAHADOPT.ORG/CONSIDERING-ADOPTION