



United States

Program requirements are subject to change without prior notice

GENERAL INFORMATION

Who can adopt?

- Heterosexual or same sex couples between 30 to 50 years old are preferred.
- Single parents are accepted.

Type of children generally proposed

- Newborns
- Children of African American decent, mixed race heritage and Caucasians.

Background risk factors will depend on the individual birthparents involved. The availability of toxicology reports, HIV and hepatitis testing varies. The agency will inform you directly of the particulars for your case.

Waiting period

Birth parents will be choosing the adoptive parents from their Dear Birthparent letters, photos, and family profiles. Just like private domestic adoption, the waiting period is difficult to predict. However, our experience is that families have been matched within 6 months to 1 year.

Type of adoption

- The adoption will be finalized in a U.S. court approximately 6 months after the birth of the child.
- There will be an open adoption agreement with the birthparent(s) and the contact may be maintained through phone, email, skype, etc.

Cost of an adoption

- The total cost of an adoption for a couple is about \$80,000-100,000 CAD.
- These fees include expenses incurred in the U.S. and in Canada.
- Expenses related to the homestudy, travel, accommodation and immigration are also included in this amount, but are paid directly to the service provider and not to TDHO.

DOSSIER REQUIREMENTS

- Birth certificates
- Marriage certificate or cohabitation agreement
- Passports
- Driver`s license
- Letters of reference
- Homestudy
- Ministry approval
- Notice of assessment
- Letter from employer
- Financial statement
- Police clearance report
- Physician`s report including lab results
- Adoptive Parent`s Medical History form
- FFTA Child welfare report
- FFTA Criminal Release form
- FFTA Adoption Application form
- Dear Birthparent letter
- FFTA fee agreement
- FFTA confidentiality waiver

Documents are valid for 1 year.

The documents will be notarized by TDHO.

ADOPTIVE PARENT SELECTION

Our U.S. partner agency “Forever Families Through Adoption” will give the prospective adoptive parents’ profiles to the birthparent(s) in order for them to choose a prospective adoptive family. After the match is made, TDHO will contact the prospective family to determine a convenient time to meet the birthmother and the U.S. agency will supervise a mutually agreed-upon contact.

The prospective adoptive parents will have contact depending on the birthmother’s wishes. The prospective adoptive parents will be asked to assume some financial responsibility for the living expenses of the birthmother.

ADOPTION PROCESS

- As soon as the baby is released from the hospital, the prospective adoptive parents will be given custody of the child.
- The prospective adoptive parents must stay in the U.S. during the 30-day potential revocation period.
- The prospective adoptive parents and the approved adoption practitioner will receive the medical report and the child study in order to complete a report required by the provincial ministry.
- The prospective adoptive parents will need to schedule a phone/skype appointment with the private adoption practitioner before signing the acceptance of the child proposal.
- Once these steps are completed, TDHO will obtain the Letter-Of-No-Objection.
- The prospective adoptive parents must petition to the court the guardianship/custody order so that the child may come to Canada before the final adoption order. The U.S. agency lawyer will do this on behalf of the prospective adoptive family. In general, it takes less than a week, depending on the State.
- A U.S. passport will be issued for the child to enter Canada in an average process of 3-4 weeks.
- Upon return to Canada (30 days minimum), the adoptive parent should expect 6 months before returning to the U.S. court for the final adoption order.

POST-ADOPTION REPORTING

- Progress reports must be completed by an approved adoption practitioner and submitted to TDHO. Depending on the State, the adoptive family will need to provide a minimum of 3 follow-up reports.
- The adoption practitioner will need to complete the three first reports. The first report will need to be completed when the child is 1 month old, the second report at 3 months old, and the third report at 6 months old.
- Some States require follow-up reporting within 2 weeks or 1 month after placement and then bi-monthly prior to finalization.
- Additional reports could be required, depending on the agreement between the birth parent and the prospective adoptive family.