Lutheran Family Services
of Nebraska, Inc.

www.lfsneb.org

Infant Adoption Information

R0613

Schedule a time to meet with our Adoption staff to learn about the adoption process through Lutheran Family Services. The meetings are:

- Informal
- Informational
- One-hour long
- Filled with answers to your questions

Omaha: **(402) 661-7100 or (800) 267-9876**
124 South 24th Street, Suite 200
Omaha, NE 68102

Lincoln: **(402) 435-2909**
2900 O Street, Suite 200
Lincoln, NE 68510

Lexington: **(308) 324-6223**
200 West 7th Street, Box 3
Lexington, NE

Council Bluffs: **(402) 661-7100**
300 W. Broadway, Suite 7
Council Bluffs, IA 51503

E-mail: **ebader@lfsneb.org**

Our Adoption Program

Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska, Inc. offers its adoption services throughout the state in support of individuals and couples who have chosen to build their family through adoption. Education about adoption issues and preparation for parenting adopted children are fundamental to all of the Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska adoption opportunities.

The following services are available to Nebraska families:

1. Agency Adoption

This option is available to families who have met the eligibility requirements of Lutheran Family Services. After completion of the homestudy and the educational preparation process, each family provides information profiles, which are then shown to prospective birthparents that are planning for adoption. LFS strives to maintain a pool of up to 25 families waiting for placement. The Agency provides ongoing counseling for both birthparents and the adoptive family, in addition to facilitating the relinquishment and placement of the child.

The Agency Adoption Program prepares families for full openness in adoptions. Prospective adoptive couples pursuing closed or semiclosed placements may participate in all other adoption opportunities.

2. International Adoption

Lutheran Family Services works with sister agencies through the Lutheran Adoption Network (LAN) or an agency of your choice to provide international adoptive placements. Children from infants to teens in countries such as China, Haiti, Philippines, Colombia and many others need adoptive families. Eligibility requirements and fees vary and may include older couples and single applicants. Lutheran Family Services provides the homestudy and educational preparation and facilitates working with the placing agency in preparing the required dossier, identifying a child or children. Post placement supervision is also provided.

3. Identified Adoption

This option involves birthparents and adoptive families who have established an agreement for placement independently of Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska. In such instances the Agency provides the requested counseling to both the birthparents and the adoptive family in addition to facilitating the relinquishment and placement of the child.

4. Contractual Homestudy for Domestic

Nebraska law requires that a licensed child-placing agency complete a study of prospective adoptive homes prior to the placement of a child. This homestudy service is available to families pursuing adoption independent of Lutheran Family Services. Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska provides the required homestudy report as well as post-placement supervision.

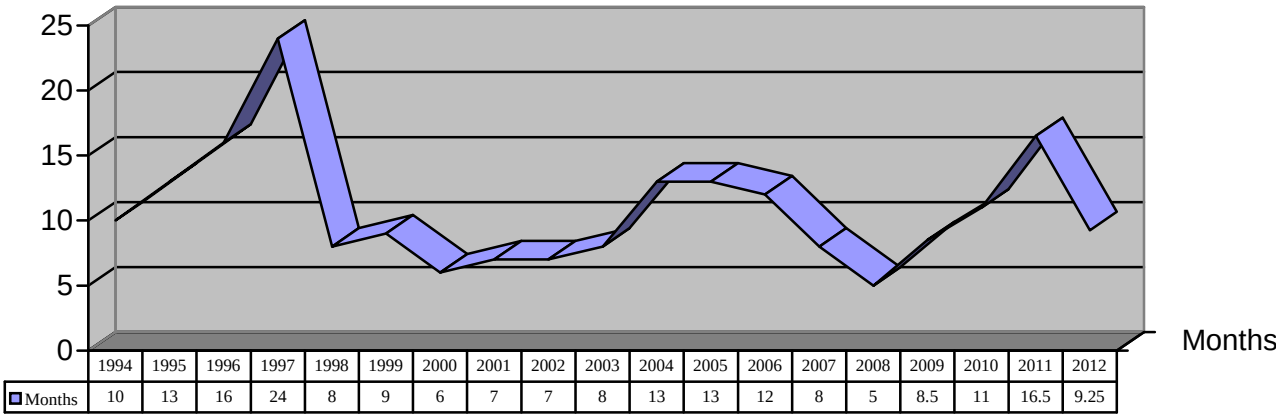
5. Adoption of Older Children

Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska, Inc. works in collaboration with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services to find permanent homes for children who are state wards and who are legally free for adoption.

INFORMATION REGARDING AGENCY ADOPTION

How Long Does it Take?

Average time families waited for placement after homestudy was completed:



How Many Adoptions Are Done Per Year?

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Total Adoptions	12	14	6	14	15	8	12	7	11	13	14	13	13	11	13	8
Agency	8	9	4	8	9	6	10	4	8	11	11	8	8	7	9	8
Identified	4	5	2	6	6	2	2	3	3	2	3	5	5	4	4	0

How Much Does it Cost?

Initial Application Fee	$ 100
Homestudy and Adoption Education	$ 5,100
Due at the Time of Child Placement	$ 6,100
Post-Placement Supervisions	$ 1,000
Total Fee for Agency Adoption	$12,300

Who is Eligible?

1. Married or adult single persons
2. Active members of a Christian Church in the community of family residence
3. Residents of Nebraska (unless military) or residents of Pottawattamie County in Iowa
4. Married at least two years
5. Must have major medical insurance
6. At least 21 years of age and under 45 years of age
7. Must not be pregnant or actively seeking fertility treatment

Where Do We Go From Here?

Step 1: The prospective adoptive family makes an inquiry call to Lutheran Family Services or consults the LFS web site (www.lfsneb.org) regarding adoption. Families call the office nearest them to schedule to have an individual informational meeting with an adoption therapist.

Step 2: The family attends an informational meeting in the LFS adoption office nearest their home. Details of all aspects of agency adoptions are discussed, and families are encouraged to begin educating themselves about adoption issues through reading and making contact with families in open adoptions.

Step 3: The family returns an application to the LFS adoption program. All families will be interviewed. The family will then be invited to begin the homestudy process, or to consider re-applying to the program at a later time. The adoption program attempts to have a pool of prospective adoptive families that is varied with regards to demographics. A decision to invite families to begin the homestudy process is based upon the current needs of the adoption program.

Adoptive Parent Reference List

These are adoptive parents living open adoption who have agreed to be available to prospective adoptive parents as a reference for Lutheran Family Services.

Mitchell and Tammy Homolka
Crete, NE
(402) 826-9098

Alan and Lisa Schrier
Omaha, NE
(402) 933-2892

Kevin and Jacalyn Kalsbeck
Kearney, NE
(308) 237-4486

Chad and Kiersten Hill
Seward, NE
(402) 450-7031 or (402) 469-7704

Chris and Tracie Tonniges
Omaha, NE
(402) 759-1531

Dean and Tara Schwartz
Lincoln, NE
(402) 363-2107

Corey and Andrea Fisher
Ravenna, NE
(402) 452-3033

Matt and Amy Auch Moedy
Lincoln, Ne
(402) 890-3749

Publications

Adoptive Parenting

- *Adoption is a Family Affair: What Relatives and Friends Must Know*—Patricia Johnston
- *Adoption Nation: How the Adoption Revolution Is Transforming America*—Adam Pertman
- *Adoption Parenting: Creating a Toolbox, Building Connections*—Jean MacLeod
- *Adoption Without Fear*—James L. Gritter
- *Dear Birthmother*—Kathleen Silber
- *Hospitious Adoption*—James L. Gritter
- *Raising Adopted Children*—Lois Melina
- *Real Parents, Real Children Parenting the Adopted Child*—Holly Van Gulden
- *Secret Thoughts of An Adoptive Mother*—Jana Wolff
- *Telling the Truth to your Adopted or Foster Child: Making Sense of the Past*—Betsy Keefer
- *The Family of Adoption*—Joyce Maguire Pavao
- *Twenty Things Adoptive Kids Wish Their Adoptive Parents Knew*—Sherrie Eldridge
- *Twenty Things Adoptive Parents Need to Succeed*—Sherrie Eldridge

Adoptees

- *Birth Bond: Reunions Between Birthparents and Adoptees*—Judith Gediman
- *Being Adopted the Lifelong Search for Self*—David Brodzinsky
- *Primal Wound-Understanding the Adopted Child*—Nancy Verrier
- *Questions Adoptees Are Asking*—Sherrie Eldridge
- *Twenty Life-Transforming Choices Adoptees Need to Make*—Sherrie Eldridge

Adopting the Older Child

- *Beneath the Mask: Understanding Adopted Teens*—Debbie Riley and John Meeks
- *Toddler Adoption: The Weaver's Craft*—Mary Hopkins-Best

Birth Parents

- *Birthmothers*—Merry Block Jones
- *Out of the Shadows: Birthfather Stories*—Mary Martin Mason

Children's Books on Adoption

- *"A" Is For Adopted*—Eileen Tucker Cosby
- *A Mother For Choco*—Keiko Kasza
- *Beginnings: How Families Come to Be*—Virginia Kroll
- *Brothers and Sisters in Adoption: Helping Children Navigate*—Arleta James
- *Did My First Mother Love Me?*—Kathryn Ann Miller
- *I Love You Like Crazy Cakes*—Rose A. Lewis
- *Jin Woo*—Eve Bunting
- *Over the Moon: An Adoption Tale*—Karen Katz
- *Tell Me Again About the Night I Was Born*—Jamie Lee Curtis
- *Tell Me a Real Adoption Story*—Betty Jean Lifton
- *The Mulberry Bird: An Adoption Story*—Anne Brodzinsky
- *Twice Upon a Time: Born and Adopted*—Eleanora Patterson
- *Under His Wings: Truths to Heal Adopted, Orphaned, And Waiting Children's Hearts*—Sherrie Eldridge

Infertility

- *Adopting After Infertility*—Patricia Irwin Johnston
- *The Long-Awaited Stork: A Guide to Parenting After Infertility*—Ellen Sarasohn Glazer
- *Sweet Grapes: How to Stop Being Infertile and Start Living Again*—Jean and Michael Carter

International Adoption

- *With Eyes Wide Open: A Workbook*—Margi Miller and Nancy Ward

Open Adoption

- *Hospitious Adoption*—James L. Gritter
- *Lifegivers: Framing the Birthparent Experience In Open Adoption*—James L. Gritter
- *The Open Adoption Experience*—Lois Melina, Sharon Kaplan Roszia
- *The Spirit of Open Adoption*—James L. Gritter

Trans-racial Adoption

- *Brown Like Me*—Noelle Lamperti
- *Black Children, White Parents: Putting The Pieces Together*—Tonya Moore
- *Inside Transracial Adoption: Strength-based, Culture-Sensitizing Parenting…*—Gail Steinberg

DVD's on Adoption

- Adopted *(by Point Made Films)*
- Adopted: For the Life of Me
- Struggle for Identity-Issues In Transracial Adoption