

 **Lutheran Family Services**
of Nebraska, Inc. www.lfsneb.org



Infant Adoption Information

Schedule a time to meet with our adoption staff to learn about the adoption process through Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska. 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) 661-7100
2301 "O" Street
Lincoln, NE 68510

Lexington: (402) 661-7100
200 West 7th Street, Box 3
Lexington, NE

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

Program Contact: Renee Ambrose
Permanency Services Supervisor
rambrose@LFSneb.org

Our Adoption Program

Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska, Inc. (LFS) offers adoption services 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 LFS adoption opportunities.

The following services are available in Nebraska and Pottawattamie County, Iowa:

1. Infant Adoption

Infant Adoption is available to families who meet LFS eligibility requirements. After completion of the home study 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. LFS provides ongoing counseling for both birthparents and the adoptive family, in addition to facilitating the relinquishment and placement of the child.

This service prepares families for full openness in adoptions. Prospective adoptive couples pursuing closed or semi-closed placements may participate in all other adoption opportunities.

2. International Adoption

LFS works with a child placing 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. LFS provides the home study and facilitates working with the placing agency. 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 LFS. In such instances we provide the requested counseling to both the birthparents and the adoptive family in addition to facilitating the relinquishment and placement of the child. LFS can also provide home study services to the adoptive family if they reside in the state of Nebraska or Pottawattamie County, Iowa.

4. Contractual Home Study for Domestic Adoptions

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

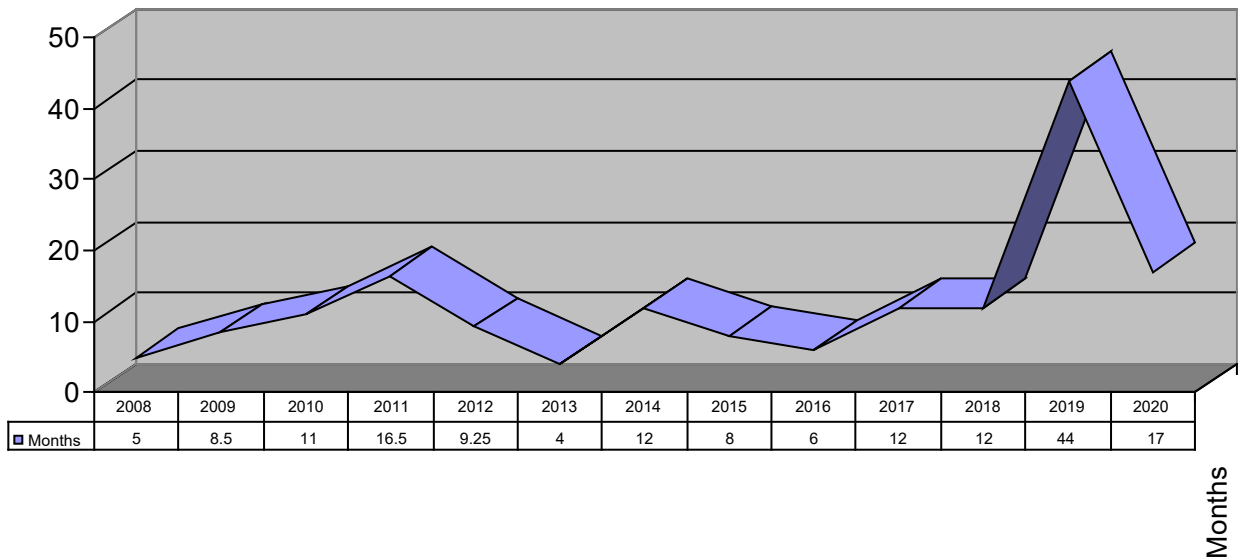
5. Foster Care Adoption

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

INFORMATION REGARDING INFANT ADOPTION

How Long Does it Take?

There is no guarantee of placement. This graph shows the average time families that adopted waited for placement after home study was completed:



Adoptions Per Year

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total Adoptions	13	13	11	13	8	3	9	2	5	9	6	1	4
Infant	8	8	7	9	8	2	6	2	3	6	4	1	2
Identified	5	5	4	4	0	1	3	0	2	3	2	0	2

Cost

Initial Application Fee	\$ 100
Home Study 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 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 calls LFS at (800) 267-9876 or visit LFSneb.org regarding adoption. Families may also call the office nearest them to schedule an individual informational meeting with an adoption therapist.

Step 2: The family attends an informational meeting. Details of all aspects of the adoption process 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 home study 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 home study 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.

Matt & Amber Dyer

Glenwood, IA
(402) 250-9381

Matt and Anja Loftus

Omaha, NE
(402) 699-5226

Tom & Jessica Niemann

Omaha, NE
(402) 680-5097

Joel & Stacey Houston

Lincoln, NE
(402) 429-2438 or (402) 560-3233

Barry & Cami Erb

Milford, NE
(402) 560-7600

Randy & Amy Garton

Lincoln, NE
(402) 658-0559 or (402) 658-2899

Recommended Readings



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

Transracial 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

Adoption DVDs

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