



# Adoption Services



Lutheran  
Family Service

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*For Nothing is Impossible with God*

# Your Adoption Journey

We walk with you...

When you partner with Lutheran Family Service, you are partnering with a team of compassionate and experienced adoption professionals. As a fully licensed child-placing agency, we will walk with you on the entire journey and will be there for you every step of the way.



## Leaders in Christian adoption since 1901

**Since 1901**, Lutheran Family Service, a not-for-profit ministry, has been helping create families through adoption by matching thousands of children with their forever families.

Lutheran Family Service was first established as a mission of the church to help orphaned children find loving, Christian homes. Over the years, our programs evolved to meet the needs of not only orphans, but to also meet the needs of women experiencing crisis pregnancies, couples experiencing marital challenges, and individuals and families experiencing various life challenges.

Lutheran Family Service continues to hold true to our Christian foundation and principles and offers the following programs: Adoption Services, Surprise Pregnancy Counseling, Mental Health Counseling, Marriage Counseling, Church Worker Wellness, Youth Outreach, and Congregational Services.

## Our Mission

To walk with people who are experiencing hard times and to be there for them, just as God has been there for us.

# Adoption Program Christian Foundation

**The Adoption Program at Lutheran Family Service is built on the belief that:**

- All human life is precious in the sight of God.
- Every child has the right to grow in families where their emotional, developmental, spiritual, and physical needs will be adequately met.
- Adding a child to a family by adoption is a valid means of creating a family.
- Adding a child to a family by adoption is unique in many ways, and special preparation and planning must accompany the adoption process.
- Adoption is a unique, life-long experience for the adopting parents, the adopted child, and the birth parents, that requires ongoing education, reflection, and participation in the adoption process.

## Adoption Options Through Lutheran Family Service

**Lutheran Family Service offers the following adoption options to consider:**

- Domestic Infant Adoption
- Embryo Adoption
- Down Syndrome Domestic Infant Adoption





# Adoption Options in Detail



## Domestic Infant Adoption

Lutheran Family Service is licensed as a child-placing agency for the states of Iowa, Illinois, Nebraska and South Dakota and are currently able to work with families that reside in Iowa, central and eastern Nebraska, north and central Illinois and South Dakota. The primary type of adoption work by Lutheran Family Service is that of infant adoption.

### Requirements For All Adoption Programs

Applicants must meet the requirements of their specific State Code regarding adoption as well as the following Lutheran Family Service requirements:

1. Must reside in Iowa, Eastern/Central Nebraska, North/Central Illinois or South Dakota
2. Must be male/female couples married for at least three years (some exceptions for length of marriage are considered).
3. Must be active in a Christian congregation
4. Must be in good mental, emotional and physical health

### Domestic Infant Adoption Costs

The cost of the Domestic Infant Adoption program is \$32,000. This includes the costs of social work, placement, and legal costs of termination of parental rights. *Please see the fee sheet for a detailed explanation.*

### Selection

Families are selected for the placement of an infant by the women we serve in our pregnancy counseling program using a profile book. The profile book is designed by the family to introduce themselves to a woman who is seriously considering placing her infant for adoption.

Once a woman becomes interested in a potential family, Lutheran Family Service will host a face-to-face match meeting with the group where the plan can be further explored. Lutheran Family Service remains a neutral party during the decision-making process. *Lutheran Family Service does not make any guarantee of placement, nor guarantee a placement within any given time frame.*

### Domestic Infant Adoption Program Options

There are two program options to consider for Domestic Infant Adoption:

1. Tier-One Domestic Infant Adoption Program
2. Tier-Two Domestic Infant Adoption Program

## Tier-One Domestic Infant Adoption Program

The Tier-One program allows adoptive parents to have their profile books shown first in all adoption opportunities that meet their requirements. Most Tier-One families work exclusively with Lutheran Family Service, as the fees for the program are pre-paid before a match is made. Working with other agencies is not prohibited, although families may find it more financially difficult to do so. Lutheran Family Service has a self-imposed limit to the number of couples allowed into this program at one time. Couples can expect to be placed on a waitlist to enter this program and will be offered a Tier Two contract while they wait.

## Tier-Two Domestic Infant Adoption Program

Tier-Two program couples have their profile books shown when a woman does not find the “right” family in the Tier-One options, or there are no Tier-One options available for her particular need.

Tier-Two families oftentimes have their home studies completed elsewhere. However, Lutheran Family Service can complete a home study if needed using our individual adoption service pricing. *Please see the fee sheet for a detailed explanation.* The Tier-Two program allows families the financial flexibility to work with multiple agencies if desired.

*The program fee for both Tier-One and Tier-Two are the same. However, Tier-One is largely paid in increments upfront and prior to the placement while Tier-Two is paid in increments following a match & placement. Details of the fee structure for both Tier-One & Tier-Two Domestic Infant Adoption Programs are outlined on the LFS Adoption Fee Sheet.*

## Helping Local Women & Infants in Need

The Domestic Infant Adoption Program is supported through the Pregnancy Counseling Program offered by the Many Hearts division of Lutheran Family Service. Pregnancy Counselors provide support to women throughout Iowa, Eastern and Central Nebraska, North and Central Illinois and South Dakota who are going through a crisis pregnancy and considering parenting their baby or placing their baby for adoption. Women are never pressured to choose parenting or adoption. Lutheran Family Service counselors walk with them in their journey of seeking information, making a decision, and planning their life-affirming decision.



Positive and long-lasting relationships with schools, community professionals, medical providers and crisis pregnancy centers result in many referrals to Lutheran Family Service. The majority of women considering adoption today desire some openness with the adoptive family she selects.

Openness can include pictures, texts, emails, letters, visits and direct exchange of contact information. Lutheran Family Service seeks to help the prospective adoptive couple and birth parents to jointly design a level of ongoing openness that is comfortable and healthy for all parties. Honor, respect, neutrality and care are the pillars of our pregnancy counseling and adoption programs.



## Embryo Adoption

Lutheran Family Service is committed to supporting unborn children at all ages, including embryos! Embryos are created through a process called In Vitro Fertilization or IVF. It is estimated that there are over one million frozen embryos in the U.S. today with many available for adoption if there were couples willing to receive them.

Some couples experiencing infertility have chosen IVF. In that process, many embryos are created, but only a few of them may be implanted and born; thus, there are remaining embryos suspended and frozen in time. Once families feel they are complete, they seek options for their remaining embryos so that they too may grow and be born.

These embryos are not just potential life, they are life with potential. Embryo Adoption is a life affirming option for embryos that remain frozen from couples' IVF procedures. Embryos are never created for the purpose of adoption.

Lutheran Family Service provides couples with the pre-adoptive education and assessments needed to prepare for an embryo adoption. Through a partnership with Nightlight's Snowflake Program, a match is made with a couple who has remaining embryos for donation. Families must meet requirements outlined on page 4.

When a match is found, a legal process for property transfer occurs before the embryos are implanted. Many believe they would not be an ideal candidate for Embryo Adoption because of their own infertility. The truth is, only a healthy uterus is necessary, not a healthy cycle.

### Embryo Adoption Costs

Total costs for Embryo Adoption are estimated to range from \$13,000 to \$16,000. Lutheran Family Service collects the fee for a home study only, which is \$2,600 and does include a single post-birth visit (*see Fee Sheet*).



## Domestic Infant Down Syndrome Adoption Program

Recent estimates state that nearly 70 percent of babies with a prenatal diagnosis of Down Syndrome are aborted. In order to continue standing up for the value of all life, and in this case, pre-born children diagnosed with Down

Syndrome, Lutheran Family Service will complete two home studies free of charge per calendar year for any family approved for the program.

Lutheran Family Service also performs the other duties of adoption such as placement, supervision, and receiving custody of children being placed through this program as is necessary on an annual basis. All women within our service area have always, and will always, receive birth parent counseling free of charge. This remains true for women whose babies have a prenatal diagnosis of Down Syndrome.

Applicants to this program must meet the requirements outlined on page 4. In addition, special consideration and preference will be given to applicants who possess a background that is especially suitable for the caregiving of a child with Down Syndrome. For example, a family who already parents a child with this condition or an applicant who has special medical or educational training such as a nurse, doctor, or special education teacher. Contracts are valid for two years from the signed approval date of the home study. After two years expires, it will be determined if the Down Syndrome adoption program is still appropriate for the applicants.

Once two couples are approved for the Down Syndrome Adoption Program during a calendar year, all other applicants will be placed on a waiting list for the program. Being approved for the Down Syndrome infant adoption program does not guarantee that a child will be placed with the applicants, nor does it guarantee a home study approval. Waiting applicants are free to pursue other adoption programs with Lutheran Family Service as available and could receive an infant with Down Syndrome through those other channels. The difference being the cost of the program.

Home Studies will be approved for the adoption of an infant who has a prenatal or post-birth diagnosis of Down Syndrome. If a couple wishes to extend their home study to give approval for children who are not diagnosed before or after birth with Down Syndrome, they may do so. They must withdraw from the Down Syndrome Adoption Program and re-apply to a different Lutheran Family Service program. However, all fees of the new adoption program will apply. No discount for being “home study ready” will apply to these families, as the home study was “gifted” to the family by Lutheran Family Service already.

Upon the joyous occasion of a child born without Down Syndrome who had a prenatal diagnosis of Down Syndrome, the birthmother will be assisted in finding a new couple to adopt her child if she desires an adoption plan. Couples in the Down Syndrome adoption program are not eligible to receive a child who does not have the condition.

## Costs Associated with Down Syndrome Adoption

The following costs are gifted, free of charge to approved applicants in the Down Syndrome Adoption Program. The total gifted amount will vary widely depending upon the birthmother's location but is estimated to be between \$4,000 and \$32,000.

- \$250 Registration fee
- \$2,600 Home Study fee
- \$1,600 Post-placement supervision visits and reports
- Pregnancy counseling for mothers residing where Lutheran Family Service provides service (licensed locations are currently Iowa, Eastern/Central Nebraska, North/Central Illinois and South Dakota within a 3-hour drive from Sioux Falls)
- Facilitating match meetings
- Receiving custody / responsibility for infant
- Coordination with attorney for parental rights termination
- Coordination with attorney for finalization of adoption
- Coordination and assistance with subsidy requests.
- Coordination and assistance with social security / disability requests

The following costs will be paid by the approved applicants in the Down Syndrome Adoption Program. Costs will vary but are estimated to be between \$4,300 and \$6,500.

- Mileage of Lutheran Family Service staff at the current IRS mileage reimbursement rate
- FBI background checks – approx. \$50 per applicant and payable to the service directly
- IA, NE, IL or SD background checks – approx. \$15 annually
- Any fees associated with out-of-state child abuse checks (price varies)
- Cost of education, including Conspicuous Families Online Course, if wanting approval to adopt a child of a different race – approx. \$30
- Cost of any specialized training/education pertaining to a child with Down Syndrome
- Printing cost of seven profile books – approx. \$52.50
- Pregnancy related expenses as allowed by law (optional and varies in different states) – approx. \$2,000
- Legal fees associated with the Termination of Parental Rights – approximately \$3,800
- Legal fees associated with finalization of adoption – approximately \$1,200

## Approval for Picture / Story Use by Lutheran Family Service

It is the intent of Lutheran Family Service to use this philanthropic program to inform our congregations, donors, and others of the risk of abortion that pre-born persons face who have a diagnosis of Down Syndrome. We anticipate using pictures of approved applicant families and their stories to inform others of this plight through digital, print and electronic media.

We require families being approved for this program to allow Lutheran Family Service to use a picture of the family prior to placement and after placement (with child placed for adoption) to help tell that story. Only first names and general locations (like Eastern Iowa) will be used unless the family expressly permits otherwise.



# Adoption Through Foster Care

Lutheran Family Service does not offer a foster care program. However, foster care is an adoption option in some circumstances for some families.

Foster care is a temporary home for a child with a caring family. The goal is to safely reunite these children with their birth families. However, in some situations, the courts decide reunification with the birth family will not be possible and then the child is legally available for adoption.

Most every state has an ongoing need for foster and adoptive parents, especially those who are interested in caring for sibling groups, teenagers and children with significant needs. Depending upon which state you live in, becoming a Foster Parent does require a training course and licensing.

There is typically no cost to become trained and licensed for foster care. More information on foster care can be found through your state or state foster care program website.



# Adoption Affordability

## Adoption Fund



Lutheran Family Service has created The Lutheran Family Service Adoption Fund to assist our families with adoption expenses. The fund was created in partnership with Lifesong for Orphans, a like-minded organization, whose goals include mobilizing the church so each member can provide a unique and special service: some to adopt, some to care, and some to give. While the fund provides some financial assistance, it also provides an opportunity for adopting families to involve others in fundraising for the adoption expenses to bring a child into their family.

Unique fundraising ideas and an account where tax-deductible donations for a specific family can be kept are all included. Involving others in the cost of an adoption allows them to follow God's word. He is calling all of us to care for the fatherless, not just those who are willing and able to parent them. Applications can only be obtained through Lutheran Family Service and are exclusively reserved for families working with Lutheran Family Service. Applicants must have a completed and approved home study in order to apply.

## Tax Benefits For Adopting Parents

### FEDERAL TAX CREDIT

The adoption tax credit is now partially refundable for tax years beginning after December 31, 2024, allowing taxpayers to receive up to \$5,000 as a refund. Any remaining unused credit (after the refundable portion) can be carried forward and used to offset your tax liability in up to five future tax years. The maximum adoption tax credit for 2025 is \$17,280 per eligible child, subject to income limitations based on your modified adjusted gross income (MAGI). The credit begins to phase out for taxpayers with MAGI above \$259,190 and is eliminated for those with MAGI over \$299,190.

### STATE TAX CREDITS

Your state may offer a tax credit. In Iowa, the state credit amount is \$5,000. This can be carried over into the following years to take advantage of the full \$5,000 credit (assuming they have at least that much expense). In Illinois, the state credit amount is \$1,000 to \$5,000. Currently, Nebraska and South Dakota do not have a state credit. Exact information for each state can be obtained through your tax professional.

Those families adopting embryos may be eligible for a partial tax credit. The fees for a home study and post-placement services would be considered adoption expenses. The medical procedures and legal fees are not. Lutheran Family Service hopes you find this information helpful; however, we do not provide tax advice. Please consult and review the information with your tax professional, as the laws can change frequently.



# Grant and Loan Opportunities

We encourage families to pursue grants through all possible organizations. Each organization will have their own set of rules. However, having a completed and approved home study will likely be one of the universal application requirements. Be prepared to be “home-study approved” prior to filling out grant applications.

Show Hope	<a href="https://showhope.org/">https://showhope.org/</a>
National Adoption Foundation	<a href="https://www.fundyouradoption.org/adoption-grants/">https://www.fundyouradoption.org/adoption-grants/</a>
Pathways for Little Feet	<a href="https://pathwaysforlittlefeet.org/">https://pathwaysforlittlefeet.org/</a>
Abba Fund	<a href="https://www.abbafund.org/">https://www.abbafund.org/</a>
Gift of Adoption Fund	<a href="https://giftofadoption.org/">https://giftofadoption.org/</a>
God’s Grace Adoption Ministry	<a href="https://ggam.org/">https://ggam.org/</a>
America’s Christian Credit Union	<a href="https://www.americaschristiancu.com/">https://www.americaschristiancu.com/</a>
His Kids Too!	<a href="http://www.hiskidstoo.org/">http://www.hiskidstoo.org/</a>
A Child Waits	<a href="https://www.achildwaits.org/">https://www.achildwaits.org/</a>
HelpUsAdopt.org	<a href="https://www.helpusadopt.org/">https://www.helpusadopt.org/</a>
Brittany’s Hope Foundation	<a href="https://www.brittanyshope.org/">https://www.brittanyshope.org/</a>
HANDinHAND Christian Adoption	<a href="https://www.handinhandadopt.org/">https://www.handinhandadopt.org/</a>
JSC Foundation	<a href="https://www.jscfoundation.org/">https://www.jscfoundation.org/</a>
Lifesong	<a href="https://lifesong.org/">https://lifesong.org/</a>
Katelyn’s Fund Orphan Ministry	<a href="https://katelynsfund.org/">https://katelynsfund.org/</a>
Adopt Together	<a href="https://adopttogether.org/">https://adopttogether.org/</a>
Both Hands	<a href="https://bothhands.org/">https://bothhands.org/</a>

*\*Information and sites listed are subject to change. Organizations listed are not affiliated with Lutheran Family Service. Lutheran Family Service does not necessarily promote the same ideas or concepts. We encourage you to do your own additional research for other grant possibilities.*

# Starting the Process

## Next Steps

Lutheran Family Service would love to explore the idea of adoption with you.

Simply complete the Adoption Registration Form. Then send in the completed form together with the non-refundable fee of \$250 to Lutheran Family Service.

As a reminder, applicants must meet the requirements of their specific State Code regarding adoption as well as the following Lutheran Family Service requirements:

1. Must reside in Iowa, Eastern/Central Nebraska or North/Central Illinois or South Dakota (within three hours of Sioux Falls)
2. Must be male/female couples married for at least three years (some considerations for length of marriage will be considered).
3. Must be active in a Christian congregation
4. Must be in good mental, emotional and physical health

**Mail Your \$250 Check & Registration Form to:**

Lutheran Family Service  
6200 Aurora Ave, Suite 410W  
Urbandale, IA 50322

**Or Email Your Registration to:**

[ksmith@LutheranFamilyService.org](mailto:ksmith@LutheranFamilyService.org)

**And Pay \$250 Online at:** [LutheranFamilyService.org/adoption-services](https://LutheranFamilyService.org/adoption-services)

Scroll until you see the "MAKE ONLINE PAYMENT" button

After receiving and reviewing your registration form, you will be contacted by Lutheran Family Service to set up an orientation. At the orientation, we can cover the programs in greater detail, explore the various options, and answer any additional questions you may have. Once a decision is reached about the type of adoption that best suits your needs, Lutheran Family Service will guide you through the next steps in the process.

Attending an orientation does not obligate a couple to enroll in a program nor assure acceptance into a program.

**For Illinois applicants only:** Lutheran Family Service does not conduct the pre-adoptive investigations, also called a home study, instead, we have you conduct this with a third-party provider nearest you and we give you a discount on your adoption program fee. We will help you find a provider and we encourage you to register for a consultation where we will explain this process in more detail.

***The Lutheran Family Service team looks forward to walking with you on your adoption journey!***

### A word of advice...

Beyond any other advice we can give as adoption professionals is the advice to pray daily, together as a couple. Pray for your future child, their birth family, the fears you face, the finances you need, and for the peace that passes all understanding when you bring it to the Lord.

Philippians 4:13 • Matthew 19:26 • Proverbs 3:5-6 • James 1:27



# FEES

Adoption Fees are carefully considered. Fees help pay for licensing Lutheran Family Service as a Child Placing Agency in Iowa, Illinois, Nebraska and South Dakota and other states that we are called to serve. They also support our outreach programs to women experiencing unplanned pregnancies, crisis pregnancy centers, marketing and social media outreach to women experiencing unplanned pregnancies and couples interested in adoption, professional staff in adoption and pregnancy counseling, caseworker travel to birth mothers, administrative staff, our physical presence (rent) in several Iowa & Illinois communities, on-going training of our professional staff, and other agency expenses.

Lutheran Family Service attempts to make adoption as affordable as possible through the setting of our fees and The Lutheran Family Service Adoption Fund. Congregational and individual contributions are used in conjunction with fees collected to cover the additional expenses of the Pregnancy Counseling and Adoption Program at Lutheran Family Service. The information below gives specific details about program fees (page 15) as well as adoption-related social work that can be purchased separately (pages 13 & 14). Fees are subject to change upon notification of our clients.

## REGISTRATION:

**\$250**

Registration fees must accompany a registration form and are non-refundable. Registration fee applies to the adoption program as well as individually priced adoption social work applications. All new clients, regardless of the program or individual adoption service they are applying for, must register. All returning clients must register unless Lutheran Family Service has kept their home study valid through required home study updates. Registration initiates a consultation with an Adoption Caseworker.

## INDIVIDUALLY PRICED ADOPTION SOCIAL WORK FEES

### MILEAGE:

**\$0.67 per mile**

The current IRS mileage reimbursement amount is consulted when setting this fee. When options are available for a client to come to our offices, we will let the client know of that option. Lutheran Family Service attempts to send the nearest caseworker to a client; however, the timing of the client's need may also necessitate sending a caseworker further away. It is the discretion of the Director to determine the most effective way to assign the work. *Clients enrolled in the Domestic Adoption Tier-One Program are exempt from mileage fees. If a couple began on Tier-Two and moved into the Tier-One Program, the mileage fees they have paid will be credited toward their Tier-One fees.*

### HOME STUDY – PRE-ADOPTIVE INVESTIGATION:

**\$2,600**

*Individual, non-program price*

Domestic, and embryo adoption home studies can be provided. The payment of fees does not guarantee the approval of the applicants to adopt.

Included are state-specific Criminal Background Checks, Sex Offender Checks, Adoption Caseworker visits, Interviews for each applicant and all members of the household, and an original home study investigation report with proper signatures and notarization, as necessary. For Embryo Adoption Clients, one post-birth visit with a report is included with the home study fee.

Not Included are FBI fingerprint fees, child abuse investigation fees outside of your state of residence, specialists' fees if required including physician fees, mileage of the caseworkers, travel costs for the clients, books or other educational materials.

Payment of a \$1,300 fee is due to begin the home study process and is non-refundable. The other half (\$1,300) is due at the completion of the home study and before it is released. If applicants withdraw from the home study process prior to its conclusion, it is up to the Director to individually determine if the remaining \$1,300 will be collected depending on the percentage of work completed before the withdraw request.

South Dakota Residents Only: The State of South Dakota will pay for a home study up to \$1,500. The home study fee of \$2,600 will be partially paid by the State of South Dakota (\$1,500) and partially paid by you (\$1,100 + mileage).

## HOME STUDY UPDATE:

**\$600**

### *Individual, non-program price*

Home studies are typically valid for 24 months in Iowa and 12 months in Illinois, South Dakota and Nebraska.

Included is the cost of state-specific Criminal Investigation Checks, Sex Offender Checks, Child Abuse Checks, a visit from the caseworker during the update and a visit from the caseworker within the year following (Iowa only), and an original home study update reports signed and notarized as is necessary.

Not Included is the cost of caseworker mileage, costs of any specialists required including physicians, cost of any FBI fingerprint checks necessary.

Payment of Fees is billed and due at the time the request is made for the update. The fee is non-refundable. Payment of fees does not guarantee an approved home study update.

## AMENDMENT OR ADDENDUMS – NO VISIT:

**\$200**

### *Individual, non-program price*

## AMENDMENT OR ADDENDUMS – WITH VISIT:

**\$350**

### *Individual, non-program price*

Amendments or addendums are occasionally needed due to family changes. An Adoption Caseworker may or may not be required to come to your home based on the type of change that is occurring.

Included is the written report with the necessary changes and an original report with signatures and notarization, as necessary.

Not Included are any specialist fees including physician fees or caseworker mileage fees.

Payment of Fees is due at the time the amendment or addendum is requested. The fees are not refundable.

## POST PLACEMENT SUPERVISION:

**\$1,600**

### *Individual, non-program price*

A minimum of three post-adoption visits with reports are required for all children.

Included are three visits from Adoption Caseworkers with written reports for each visit with recommendations for continued supervision, removal of a child, or finalization of adoption. Additionally, referrals for special assistance can be given.

Not Included is caseworker mileage or the fees for a specialist or physician that could be recommended.

Domestic client fees will be billed the time post-adoption supervision is requested. Payment for fees is required before the post-adoption documents will be released. Post-adoption fees are not refundable. Mileage will be billed at the time it is incurred for these post-adoption visits.

## EXTENDED POST-ADOPTION SUPERVISION:

**\$350**

### *Individual, non-program price*

If post-adoption visits and reports are required beyond the initial three, each additional visit with a report is subject to this fee.

Included is the adoption caseworker visit with a written report including recommendations. Additionally, referrals for specialized services may be included.

Not Included are fees for specialists that may be recommended including physicians, and caseworker mileage.

Domestic client fees will be billed at the time post-adoption supervision is requested. Payment for fees is required before the post-adoption documents will be released. Post-adoption fees are not refundable. Mileage will be billed at the time it is incurred for these post-adoption visits.

# DOMESTIC INFANT ADOPTION PROGRAM FEES

## TIER-ONE DOMESTIC PROGRAM:

**\$32,000**

This program is designed to be financially all-inclusive with very few exceptions. See program description on pages 4 & 5.

Program Includes training, education, caseworker mileage, a completed home study, home study update reports, annual caseworker visits prior to placement, child abuse and criminal investigations costs, addendums, amendments, post-adoption support & reporting, profile book advice, placement of an infant (not guaranteed), termination of parental right legal fees (up to \$3,800), ongoing birth parent counseling, match meetings, ongoing support with birthparent relationship, a child study report, coordination with an attorney of the client's selection for finalization of adoption.

Not included in this program are profile book printing fees, FBI criminal investigation fees, additional books or training materials, cost of applicant's travel, legal fees beyond \$3,800 for termination of parental rights, legal fees for the finalization of adoption, birthparent expenses or other specialist fees.

Payment of Fees: \$16,000 is billed and is due at the time of acceptance into the program. If you have paid agency fees for a home study and mileage prior to enrollment into the program, those payments will be credited toward the first Tier One Adoption payment. The final payment of \$16,000 is due 9 months following. All but \$11,000 is refundable if they withdraw from the program. Payment of fees does not guarantee an approved home study or home study updates nor the placement of a child.

South Dakota Residents Only: The amount paid to Lutheran Family Service by the State of South Dakota for your home study (\$1500) will also be credited toward your Tier One Domestic Program fee.

## TIER-TWO DOMESTIC PROGRAM:

See program description on pages 4 & 5.

### **Domestic Tier Two Education / Enrollment Fee**

**\$750**

Payment of this fee is required upon acceptance into the program. Applicants who are completing a home study through Lutheran Family Service (using our individual pricing found on page 13) are exempt from paying this fee. Many couples who enroll in the Tier Two Program are waiting for a place to open up in the Tier One Program. When that occurs, the \$750 fee paid on Tier Two will be applied to the Tier One fee.

### **Domestic Tier Two Program Fee**

**\$32,000**

The program description is found on pages 4 & 5.

*\*does not include discount*

Please note, applicants to this program will either be using an outside source for their home study and updates or they will be paying Lutheran Family Service through individual pricing. *\*Those receiving home studies & updates outside of the program will receive a discount of \$2,600. Those who have paid Lutheran Family Service for a home study, update & mileage will have those payments credited toward their Tier Two Program Fee. Fees paid for home studies by the State of South Dakota will also be credited toward the Tier Two Program Fee.*

Program Includes ongoing pregnancy counseling, match meetings, assistance with birth parent relationship, termination of parental rights legal fees up to \$3,800, caseworker mileage, placement of the child (not guaranteed), post-adoption support and reports, coordination with the client's attorney for the finalization of adoption, and a child study report.

Not included in this program are legal fees for termination of parental rights beyond \$3,800, therapy or other specialist services, printing costs for profile books, legal fees for the finalization of adoption, or any birth parent expenses.

Payment of Fees: \$11,000 (less any discount or credits) is billed and due at the time a match is made with an expectant parent, which is not refundable. If the match does not result in a finalized adoption, the \$11,000 will be credited towards another adoption opportunity at LFS but will not be refunded even upon withdrawal from the program.

\$10,500 is due when a child is placed in the home and \$10,500 is due before the finalization of adoption, which is typically six months following the placement. These two payments would be refundable if the placement did not result in a finalized adoption.

### **ADOPTION REGISTRATION FORM**

*The following disclosure questions are to provide us required information about you prior to beginning the process of adoption. You will have plenty of time to provide detailed explanations during our consultation.*

<b>\$250.00 Non-Refundable Registration Fee:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Check Enclosed <input type="checkbox"/> Paid Online at Website <input type="checkbox"/> Waived for Down Syndrome Adoption Applicants
<b>Husband's Full Name include any aliases:</b>	
<b>Your Heritage</b> (ie. German, Irish)	
<b>Birth Date and Place:</b>	
<b>Height &amp; Weight:</b>	
<b>Eye &amp; Hair Color:</b>	
<b>Social Security #:</b>	
<b>Your Employer &amp; Address:</b>	
<b>List addresses where you have resided in the past five years.</b>	
<b>Wife's Full Name, Maiden Name, &amp; Any Aliases</b>	
<b>Your Heritage</b> (ie. German, Irish)	
<b>Birth Date and Place:</b>	
<b>Height &amp; Weight:</b>	
<b>Eye &amp; Hair Color:</b>	
<b>Social Security #:</b>	
<b>Your Employer &amp; Address:</b>	
<b>List addresses where you have resided for the past five years.</b>	
<b>Home Address:</b>	
<b>His Email Address:</b>	
<b>Her Email Address:</b>	
<b>His Cell Phone:</b>	
<b>Her Cell Phone:</b>	
<b>Wedding Date &amp; Location:</b>	



<b>Child's Full Name:</b> <b>Birth Date:</b> <b>Social Security #:</b>	
<b>Child's Full Name:</b> <b>Birth Date:</b> <b>Social Security #:</b>	
<b>Child's Full Name:</b> <b>Birth Date:</b> <b>Social Security #:</b>	
<b>Child's Full Name:</b> <b>Birth Date:</b> <b>Social Security #:</b>	

**Questions to be answered by the Husband;**

1. Have you been married before? ..... ☐ YES ☐ NO  
If yes, when and for how long? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Have you ever been arrested? ..... ☐ YES ☐ NO  
*If yes, please explain:*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Have you ever been involved in a situation where a law officer made an investigation, even if it did not lead to arrest? ..... ☐ YES ☐ NO  
*If yes, please explain:*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Do you use tobacco products? ..... ☐ YES ☐ NO  
*If yes, please explain:*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Do you have a history of substance abuse? ..... ☐ YES ☐ NO  
*If yes, please explain:*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Have you ever participated in professional counseling? ..... ☐ YES ☐ NO  
*Dates:* \_\_\_\_\_  
*Reason/s for counseling:* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Do you have a history of gambling? ..... ☐ YES ☐ NO

*If yes, please explain:*

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8. Do you have a history of sexual abuse, either as a victim, caretaker, or a perpetrator? ..... ☐ YES ☐ NO  
*If yes, please explain:*

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9. Do you have a history of being abused physically, sexually, or emotionally as a child? ..... ☐ YES ☐ NO  
*If yes, please explain:*

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10. Do you have a history of child abuse, as a victim, caretaker, or perpetrator? ..... ☐ YES ☐ NO  
*If yes, please explain:*

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11. Do you have a history of domestic violence even if it did not result in arrest or conviction? ..... ☐ YES ☐ NO  
*If yes, please explain:*

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12. Do you have a criminal record? ..... ☐ YES ☐ NO  
*If yes, please explain:*

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13. List any medications that you are taking and for what condition. \_\_\_\_\_

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14. Name and city of the church you are a member of and what church activities you are involved in. \_\_\_\_\_

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15. Who is your current employer? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your annual income? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your job title? \_\_\_\_\_

What are your typical work hours? \_\_\_\_\_

16. List your hobbies and interests. \_\_\_\_\_

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**Questions to be answered by the Wife;**

1. Have you been married before? ..... ☐ YES ☐ NO  
If yes, when and for how long? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Have you ever been arrested? ..... ☐ YES ☐ NO  
If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Have you ever been involved in a situation where a law officer  
made an investigation, even if it did not lead to arrest? ..... ☐ YES ☐ NO  
If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Do you use tobacco products? ..... ☐ YES ☐ NO  
If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Do you have a history of substance abuse? ..... ☐ YES ☐ NO  
If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Have you ever participated in professional counseling? ..... ☐ YES ☐ NO  
Dates: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reason/s for counseling: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Do you have a history of gambling? ..... ☐ YES ☐ NO  
If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Do you have a history of sexual abuse, either as a victim,  
caretaker, or a perpetrator? ..... ☐ YES ☐ NO  
If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Do you have a history of being abused physically, sexually,  
or emotionally as a child? ..... ☐ YES ☐ NO  
If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. Do you have a history of child abuse, as a victim caretaker or perpetrator? ..... ☐ YES ☐ NO  
*If yes, please explain:* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Do you have a history of domestic violence even if it did not result in arrest or conviction? ..... ☐ YES ☐ NO  
*If yes, please explain:* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. Do you have a criminal record? ..... ☐ YES ☐ NO  
*If yes, please explain:* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. List any medications that you are taking and for what condition. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
14. Name and city of the church you are a member of and what church activities you are involved in. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
15. Who is your current employer? \_\_\_\_\_  
What is your annual income? \_\_\_\_\_  
What is your job title? \_\_\_\_\_  
What are your typical work hours? \_\_\_\_\_
16. List your hobbies and interests. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### **Questions as a Couple**

1. Did you ever file for bankruptcy? ..... ☐ YES ☐ NO  
*If yes, when?* \_\_\_\_\_
2. Have you ever been rejected as prospective adoptive parents? .. ☐ YES ☐ NO
3. Have you been the subject of an unfavorable home study? ..... ☐ YES ☐ NO  
*If yes, please explain:* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



4. List the name and address for all other agencies that have completed a home study for you. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Has any member of the household ever been involved in a situation where a law officer made an investigation, even if it did not lead to arrest? ..... ☐ YES ☐ NO  
*If yes, please explain:* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Does any family member have a history of substance abuse? ..... ☐ YES ☐ NO  
*If yes, please explain:* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Have any other immediate family members participated in professional counseling? ..... ☐ YES ☐ NO  
*Dates:* \_\_\_\_\_  
*Person in counseling:* \_\_\_\_\_  
*Reason/s for counseling:* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Do other family members have a history of gambling? ..... ☐ YES ☐ NO  
*If yes, please explain:* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. List any hobbies and interests you enjoy as a family or couple. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. What is your Annual household adjusted gross income? \_\_\_\_\_

11. Please check the type(s) of adoption program(s) you are interested in so we can add it to our plans for your consultation:

\_\_\_\_\_ **Domestic Infant Adoption**

\_\_\_\_\_ We are interested in Tier One and acknowledge there is a waitlist at this time. While we wait, we are interested in the Tier Two Program.

\_\_\_\_\_ We are only interested in the Tier Two Program and do not wish to be added to a waitlist for the Tier One Program.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Embryo Adoption**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Domestic Infant Down Syndrome Adoption**

\_\_\_\_\_ We are seeking **only a home study, home study update, or post-adoption work** at Lutheran Family Service, and are not planning on proceeding with any LFS program. (A consultation visit will not be required for clients seeking only these

services.) Please list the contact information of the agency you are working with for the placement of a child.

Name of Agency: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Agency Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide details of any predefined time frame your requested report must be completed by. \_\_\_\_\_

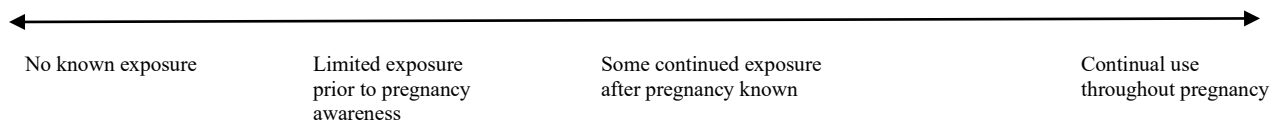
12. Please list the races of children who would be acceptable for adoption into your family.

13. At the time of home study, a thorough list of possible conditions of an adoptive child will be discussed and considered. It is helpful for LFS to get a general idea of your thoughts now, during the registration process, on the following broad categories. Please place an “X” on the spectrum below where you currently gauge your comfort with the following circumstances. We understand that changes may occur as we visit further at the time of your home study.

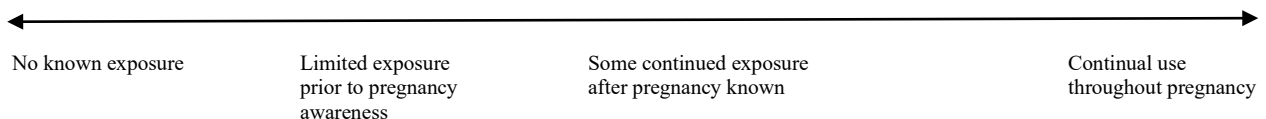
### **Child’s General Health**



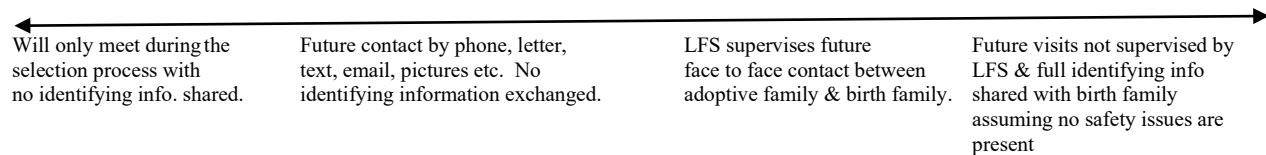
### **Exposure to Drugs in Utero**



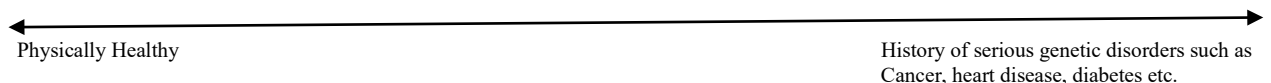
### **Exposure to Alcohol in Utero**



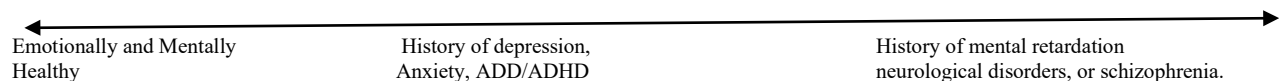
### **Openness with the Birth Family**



### **Birth Family Physical Health**



### **Birth Family Mental Health**



### **Mail Registration Form and \$250 Check to:**

Lutheran Family Service 6200 Aurora Avenue Suite 410W Urbandale, IA 50322

**Or**

**Email the Registration Form to:** [Ksmith@lutheranfamilyservice.org](mailto:Ksmith@lutheranfamilyservice.org) and pay the registration fee online at [www.lutheranfamilyservice.org](http://www.lutheranfamilyservice.org) (go to the adoption tab and scroll down to locate the secure payment option).