



2022

PROGRAM STATEMENT

PARTNER FAMILY

R 400.12602 | R 400.12702

Child Welfare Licensing Rules

Office Location:

2453 28th Street SW
Wyoming, MI 49519

PROGRAM PARAMETERS

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA COVERED

Michigan statewide. Any other state if one party involved is a Michigan resident.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR ADOPTIVE PARENTS

Well-adjusted married couples or non-cohabiting singles may apply to adopt. It is believed that in order to meet the wide range of needs that children have, there must be a range of family types available. Any family could be a desirable adoptive family if they are able to lovingly embrace the adoptive child, his birth family, his culture, and possible difficult behaviors.

TYPES OF ADOPTIONS PROVIDED BY THE AGENCY

We assist in voluntary domestic adoptions in which placing parents have selected the adoptive family. The agency accepts children released under the Safe Delivery of Newborns Act.

SELECTING ADOPTIVE PARENTS FOR A CHILD

A parent with parental rights to their child who is making an adoption plan selects the adoptive parents. A newborn assigned to Greater Hopes through the Safe Delivery of Newborns law will be placed based on the availability of a family able to meet a specific child's needs.

EXCHANGE OF IDENTIFYING INFORMATION OR CONTACT

We fully support an ongoing and open relationship between adoptive parents and placing parents.

TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

(a) Separation; (b) Attachment and Bonding; (c) Child Development, including safe sleep practices for children under 1 year of age; (d) Behavioral and Emotional needs of adoptive children; (e) Impact of adoption on the family (f) Post-adoption service availability; (g) Discipline that is free of corporal punishment; (h) Families may also have other specific training requirements as required by any of our agency-generated assessments.

PROGRAM FEE SCHEDULE

Partner Family Fee \$ 28,000

County Fees see next page

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Due at application signing: \$4,550 Initiation of Services Fee and County Fee I. (see next page)

Due one month after application and monthly thereafter: \$350 Monthly Participation Fee (MPF).

Due at Legal Consent By Parents: The County Fee II current at that time, which can be found at greaterhopes.org/county-fees, plus the Calculated Balance Due. The balance due is calculated by subtracting the \$4,550 Application Fee and all \$350 MPFs paid to date from the \$28,000 Program Fee.

All fees are non-refundable.

Fees do not include amounts paid to other agents such as attorneys and processing companies.

CURRENT COUNTY FEES

COUNTIES	FEE I	FEE II	COUNTIES	FEE I	FEE II
Alcona	1,632	3,531	Keweenaw	3,871	8,009
Alger	2,686	5,639	Lake	681	1,629
Allegan	271	809	Lapeer	1,318	2,902
Alpena	1,727	3,721	Leelanau	1,171	2,609
Antrim	1,186	2,638	Lenawee	1,076	2,419
Arenac	1,252	2,770	Livingston	776	1,819
Baraga	3,447	7,161	Luce	2,379	5,024
Barry	293	853	Mackinac	2,064	4,395
Bay	1,069	2,404	Macomb	1,281	2,829
Benzie	1,098	2,463	Manistee	1,003	2,273
Berrien	637	1,541	Marquette	3,096	6,458
Branch	725	1,716	Mason	681	1,629
Calhoun	652	1,570	Mecosta	498	1,263
Cass	644	1,555	Menominee	3,067	6,400
Charlevoix	1,340	2,946	Midland	864	1,994
Cheboygan	1,647	3,560	Missaukee	901	2,068
Chippewa	2,196	4,658	Monroe	1,259	2,785
Clare	871	2,009	Montcalm	381	1,029
Clinton	513	1,292	Montmorency	1,523	3,312
Crawford	1,391	3,048	Muskegon	344	955
Delta	2,745	5,756	Newaygo	366	999
Dickinson	3,176	6,619	Oakland	1,047	2,360
Eaton	476	1,219	Oceana	564	1,394
Emmet	1,515	3,297	Ogemaw	1,274	2,814
Genesee	871	2,009	Ontonagon	3,798	7,863
Gladwin	1,032	2,331	Osceola	644	1,555
Gogebic	3,125	6,517	Oscoda	1,413	3,092
Grand Traverse	1,018	2,302	Otsego	1,384	3,034
Gratiot	586	1,438	Ottawa	140	546
Hillsdale	952	2,170	Presque Isle	1,742	3,751
Houghton	3,718	7,702	Roscommon	1,083	2,433
Huron	1,449	3,165	Saginaw	798	1,863
Ingham	666	1,599	St. Clair	1,310	2,887
Ionia	337	941	St. Joseph	571	1,409
Iosco	1,464	3,195	Sanilac	1,303	2,873
Iron	2,825	5,917	Schoolcraft	2,430	5,126
Isabella	659	1,585	Shiawassee	732	1,731
Jackson	805	1,877	Tuscola	1,113	2,492
Kalamazoo	418	1,102	Van Buren	505	1,277
Kalkaska	1,083	2,433	Washtenaw	1,040	2,346
Kent	169	604	Wayne	1,157	2,580
			Wexford	835	1,936

ADOPTIVE FAMILY SERVICES

Preparatory Services

Orientation To Adoption: Discussion topics include types of adoptions, types of children available for adoption, the adoption process, current laws, agency policies, fees, and information regarding support services available.

Formal Application: A formal application is required by the State of Michigan before we can begin adoption services.

Adoptive Family Evaluation: Also known as a Pre Placement Assessment or Home Study. This necessary and intensive assessment of an adoptive family and their desires is handled with utmost care. An experienced specialist will collect information about the adoptive applicants over the course of several meetings. Included in the Pre Placement Assessment packet is the Home Study and supporting documents such as reference letters, Medical Statements, a financial evaluation, birth certificates, and marriage and divorce decrees.

Expedited Adoptive Family Evaluation: If requested, a PPA may be completed sooner than the standard 89 days. This requires that the family is providing documentation to us in a timely manner. There is an additional \$ 1,000 fee for this service.

Adoption Education & Support Meetings:

Adoption education sessions occur regularly to address common issues in adoption. We require all families to participate in our monthly support group meetings

Pre Placement Services

Pre Placement Support: Adoptive families and adopted children find that support from an experienced professional is comforting and helpful when experiencing the roller coaster of adoption. They find relief in consulting with their specialist. Sensitive to the existing issues of loss and frustration, the specialist eases adoptive applicants through complex issues. This support happens in a variety of settings including:

- Adoption Education Sessions
- Live and Online Support Groups
- Child Placement Specialist Support
- Hosting and Facilitating Meetings with Birth Parents
- Being Present for the Birth at the Hospital
- Attending Court Hearings

Placing Parent Hospital Plan: Planning ahead for how things will be managed at the hospital is an important component in planning an adoption. A well-conceived hospital plan can create ease and peace of mind for the placing parents and the adoptive parents. It also creates a positive rapport with the hospital staff making the hospital experience easier for everyone involved.

Hospital Services: The birth of the baby and the time spent at the hospital can be a very challenging time for everyone involved. Hospital staff needs to be able to focus on providing medical care to the mother and baby, and they are not in a position to manage the adoption-related aspects of the hospital experience. Your adoption specialist is well equipped to work with the hospital staff in ensuring that necessary paperwork and forms are gathered and properly completed. It is important that every detail is handled correctly so that the baby can be discharged to the adoptive family if possible and so that important documents are collected for court processes.

Transition Of Child To Adopting Family Care:

Our staff works with both sets of parents to make the best plan possible while paying attention to everyone's needs in your unique situation. Agency caseworkers guide and help you through the myriad of emotions and questions you will have about moving the child from the placing parents' care to the adoptive family's care. The impact of this move affects everyone differently and profoundly.

Child Evaluation Report: Information about the adoptee and his family is collected through this process and is compiled for the court. A copy will be provided to the adoptive parents.

Legal Services

Legal Relinquishment and Adoption Filings:

Experienced adoption professionals will carefully prepare legal paperwork for all parties to complete the release/consent process. We will submit the legal packet to the court in a timely manner and follow up with the court to help ensure the process goes as smoothly as possible.

Court Appearances: Our knowledgeable staff is experienced in attending court hearings with you or on your behalf. Our team members are very comfortable presenting information to the court. Our staff will go with you or the placing family whenever this is needed.

Interstate and Multiple Agent Services:

Domestic adoptions involving multiple agents or an attorney must coordinate services. Interstate Compact: Domestic adoptions involving two states require communication with and approval from each state and each agency. Your specialist will ensure that all state laws are being met to ensure a solid legal placement of the child.

Post Placement Services

Post Placement Supervision: Required by the court, this is an important part of the adoption process. Your specialist can help you understand your child's cues and can help you find ways to enhance your child's adjustment. Your specialist will provide support and advice if you or your child encounter any adjustment issues. Your specialist will review attachment and bonding concepts with you and can assist in linking you up with medical, educational, counseling, and social services if needed.

Post Placement Court Reports: Your specialist will prepare Post Placement Supervision Reports which are required by the State of Michigan. The reports are also sent to the ICPC (Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children) if your child was placed across state lines. Your specialist will also provide this written report to the court. This report includes a recommendation of whether your adoption should be finalized, thus allowing your child to be legally adopted by you.

Post Adoption Support Services: As difficult issues arise over time, an adoption specialist is available for necessary support for members of the adoption triad.

PLACING PARENT SERVICES

Support Services

Support Counseling: Placing families and their children need support and encouragement from an experienced professional while undergoing the crisis leading to an adoption plan. They find value in talking about and problem-solving their situation with someone whose only goal is to help them. Our counselors are sensitive to the issues of grief and loss, trauma, indecision, frustration, and intensified interpersonal relationships that accompany this situation.

Transportation & Housing: Along with you, our staff can assist with transportation to things like appointments. We can also help with access to community transportation. We can assist in locating housing resources. And in some cases, we can help with emergency programs for housing when necessary.

Medical Care: We can help find clinics and doctors. We can also file Medicaid applications.

Financial Issues: Under the Michigan Adoption Code, adopting families can pay for qualified adoption expenses. If this issue arises from the placing parents, we can act as an intermediary. This is important so that placing parents do not come to look to you for ongoing financial support.

Birth Mothers Support Group: We have an active and involved group of birth mothers who provide care and support to one another. We can assist in helping your placing mother plug into this group so that she can hear firsthand the experiences these birth mothers have had in placing their children for adoption and the positive outcomes for their children as a result.

Post Adoption Support Services: As difficult issues arise over time, an adoption specialist is available for necessary support for members of the adoption triad.

FEE AGREEMENT

I understand that it is not possible to move forward in the process until all fees are paid on time.

I understand that there is no guarantee that a child will be placed with me as a result of working with this agency.

I understand that these fees cover the costs of services related to making an adoptive placement and that fees paid are non-refundable. In the event the agency elects to refund any fee, a Refund Verification Record must be completed in full and signed by the client.

I understand that should I complete a Pre-Placement Assessment I may be approved or not approved to adopt by this agency and that the fee for this service is non-refundable.

I understand that if my account is not paid in full that the agency may decline my request to complete further work related to my case. Additionally, if the participation fees are not paid, the agency reserves the right to place a family on hold until fees are paid up to date.

I have the remaining questions about fees and services with this agency:

Fee agreements that vary from any part of this program statement shall be made in writing and signed by all parties. I understand and agree to the statements made above.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Staff Person Signature: _____ Date: _____