

**PROCEDURE OVERVIEW FOR ADOPTIVE PARENT(S)  
APPLYING WITH A CHILD'S DREAM LICENSED ADOPTION AGENCY**

1. Send your profile and adoption information with the following:
  - a. Dear Birth Parent(s) letter: Write a letter telling potential birth parent(s) as much as you can about yourselves. Include your hobbies and interests, your occupations, your personalities, your experience and loss at not having children (or more children), your pets, your favorite vacations, your extended family, your dreams, and a description of your home.
  - b. Pictures: Include at least ten to twenty pictures of yourselves, fun times, vacations, pets, your home, relatives, etc. Place your pictures on 8½ by 12 paper and write or type in captions explaining each photo. Then put them in a notebook with your birth parent(s) letter. You will not get your profile back, so you may wish to send us copies, which can be made at Kinkos or another copying facility. Be as creative as you wish when putting your profile together. Please send us two copies.
  - c. Home Study: If you do not have a home study, you will need to have one done and approved by a licensed Social Worker before you apply with this agency.
  - d. Enclosed you will find a Memorandum of documents needed to complete your application. Our office must have all of these documents in order to complete your adoption with our agency.
  - e. **\$500.00 non-refundable application fee. This application fee is good for one year.** A Child's Dream shows your pictures and letter to birth parent(s). Usually three or four couples are presented to each birth parent(s).
2. Once a birthparent(s) chooses you, you meet your birthparent(s). If you then feel like proceeding with the adoption you sign a contract and deposit agency fees and living expenses with our agency.
3. Keep in touch with us and with your birth parent(s) throughout the pregnancy.
4. Either an agency representative or the attorney representing the agency in the birth parent(s) state will meet with you and explain the laws of the jurisdiction as well as meet with you and the birth parent(s) jointly.
5. Travel to the birth parent(s) state of residence, when the agency notifies you. Sometimes you will be allowed to be present at the delivery. This is the birth parent(s) option. Usually you can be with the baby while she or he is in the hospital.

6. When the hospital releases the baby, an interview will be set up usually the same day you representative of A Child's Dream. At that time you will be given a temporary custody order. The temporary order should be faxed to your insurance company so they baby will have medical coverage. If your baby is delivered outside of Washington, other states have similar documents that you will need that will allow you to provide the child with medical care while you are waiting for a final decree.
7. You must stay in the birth parent(s) state until we receive approval from Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children, from both the birth parent(s) state and your state of residence. At least one adoptive parent and the child/ren being adopted should plan to stay in that state from approximately 7-14 days.
8. Return home and have the required in home post placement visits.
9. Once you have completed the required post placement visits, you will need to have your attorney write the central office in Washington a letter stating any documents he or she will need. Upon an audit of your file and A Child's Dream has all the documents needed to complete your file, we will consent to the adoption.
10. Once your attorney has the documents he or she needs, they set up a court date for finalization.

Congratulations! You now have a new member in your family and in addition have become a part of the larger family of A Child's Dream.

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