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ADOPTIONS

## POLICY CHANGES 2022

Here at Mother Goose Adoptions we are making two major policy changes for 2022. We believe these changes will allow us to better meet the needs of our clients and, most importantly, allow our adoptive parents to better meet their needs of their child(ren).

### Openness

Starting in 2022, all of our adoption will be fully open, which will stipulate a minimum of a yearly visit. The exception to this policy will be cases that come in already matched, seeking case management services for this privately matched adoption.

We have seen a rising trend, over the last few years, of birth families hesitating over their adoption plan at the hospital. Many moms have expressed that they would not be able to place unless the adoption was fully open, with visits. The sentiment is that saying goodbye to their child forever was not something that they were able to do, nor do they believe it is what is ultimately best for the child. Many peer reviewed research studies support this concept. As you can imagine, this major shift has created some tense situations at the hospital. Thus, our policy change.

Moving forward, all of our adoptions will adhere to the following minimum schedule of openness. Please make sure that you are comfortable with this degree of openness prior to registering with Mother Goose and definitely prior to presenting to any cases.

### Details of Minimum Agreement:

- Updates/Photos: a minimum of 1, 3, 6, 9, 12, 18, 24 months. Then yearly.
- Text: same as above
- Phone/Video Chat: quarterly.
- Visits: yearly

### Internet Platform for Sharing

Furthermore, we are asking all adoptive parents to set up a closed, private Facebook or Instagram page where you will post photos and updates on a regular basis. Please only add yourselves, birth family, and agency employees to this page so that confidentiality is maintained. We will be asking for the name of this page at the time of match so please prepare ahead.

### Adoptive Parent Training

Additionally, we are now requiring all of our adoptive parents to take a minimum of 8 hours of adoptive parent training. These training hours can be from any source that offers certificates or documentation for the hours you spent in training. They may be in person or virtual.

The training topics will be required as follows:

Topic	Hours Required	Who is Required to Take
Openness in Adoption	2	All Adoptive Parents
Transracial Adoption	2	Any family adopting outside of their race/ethnicity
Substance Exposure	2	Any family approved to adopt a substance exposed child
Electives	2-6	
Total Minimum Hours Required	10	

We will provide a list of resources on the website that is by no means exhaustive. Please spend some time in researching topics that will most benefit your family. If you have completed hours for your home study, they may be used towards the 8 hours. If they do not meet the topic requirements then you will still need to have those topic specific additional hours.

We believe that this changes will enhance our programs and better able us to meet the needs of everyone in the adoption triad. Please do not hesitate to reach out to our Adoptive Family Coordinators with any questions.

As always, wishing you peace and joy!

*The Staff of Mother Goose Adoptions*

Main Office • 11602 N 88th Place • Scottsdale, AZ 85260  
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## The Legacy Of An Adoption

Once there were two expectant mothers,  
One carried and cared for you beneath her beating heart.  
She became your Birthmother.  
The other carried the hope of you within her,  
She became your Mom.

As the days passed, and you grew bigger and stronger,  
Your First Mom knew that she could not give you  
All you needed after your birth.  
Meanwhile, your Mom was ready and waiting for you.

One day your Birthmom and your Mom found each other.

They looked into each other's eyes and saw a friend.  
Your birthmother saw the life your Mom could give you.  
Your Mom saw how much your Birth Mother loved and cared for you.  
They decided that what you needed was both kinds of love in your life.

So now you have two families, One by birth, the other by adoption!

And now you have a home where you can get  
Your questions answered, your boo-boos bandaged,  
Your heartaches soothed, and much needed hugs.

And a place where you can find  
Answers to your questions, your image in the mirror,  
A part of yourself, and much needed hugs.



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Two different kinds of families.  
Two different kinds of love.  
Both a part of you.



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## REGISTRATION DOCUMENTS FOR ADOPTIVE PARENTS

- Registration Form
- Schedule of Fees (return the entire document)
- Acknowledgement of Agency policies
- Five copies of your profile book (please be sure there is no identifying information included in your book- last names, email, website, etc.) \*
- \$250 fee (You may pay by check, Venmo, or PayPal. If using the PayPal option (deb@mothergooseadoptions.com), please check "friends and family" to avoid the additional 3% surcharge. Venmo: Deb CrandellOKane )
- Current Home Study (include a copy of the agency license)
- Post Placement Supervision Letter (from your home study agency)
- FBI Criminal Clearances (one per adult in household)
- State Criminal Clearances (one per adult in household)
- Child Abuse Clearances (include all adults in household)
- Certificates of Training Hours

- \*PROFILE SAMPLES  
See samples of profile books on our website [www.mothergooseadoptions.com](http://www.mothergooseadoptions.com)
- ALL CLEARANCES  
*All clearances need to be full copies of the actual clearances, not just referenced in the home study.*

Once we have reviewed your information and approved your clearances, home **study and training hours**, we will email you a welcome letter and ask that you THEN email the following items:

1. An electronic .pdf of your profile (less than 15 mb). Name the file with your first names only (example: Mickey and Minnie profile).
2. A single .jpg file to use as a cover photo for the website. Name the file your full name, followed by cover photo (example: Mickey and Minnie Mouse cover photo).

Note:

- Typical turn around for registration approval is one week from receipt of complete packet. Expect delays in December and July.
- Print all documents single sided
- We cannot print documents or profiles

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## GETTING STARTED

Simply put, we LOVE adoption! Working in child placement is not just a job for us, but a mission to love on the women and families we work with. While domestic adoption can be challenging, it is also rewarding. Domestic adoption also remains the only method to adopt a newborn. Thus, making it the option of choice for many families. In a typical year we assist with the adoption of almost 75 children and expect to equal that number this year.

Families interested in harder to place children (medically fragile, older children + sibling groups) will find their dreams of becoming a family realized rather quickly – usually within 3-6 months of a completed home study. Others may find their wait to be longer. In typical years, most families successfully adopt within about 12 months but wait times are impossible to predict. We recommend that you spend some time learning about trans-racial adoptions, as well as other issues like exposure of drugs and alcohol to the newborn.

The key to domestic adoption is flexibility – things often change and it is very important that you are able to **“go with the flow” in an effort to ensure a successful adoption.** The women who consider placing their children for adoption do not live their lives nor carry out their pregnancy like you or I would. While these issues can be a challenge emotionally, they often do not impact the ultimate goal- a healthy child and building a family through adoption. They just require some patience and a degree of humor.

In order to start the adoption process, you will need to have a completed home study evaluation. If you are in Arizona, Florida, or Utah, we can complete this process for you. If you are in another state, we can help you identify another agency qualified to complete the home study. Local families can call our office and let us know that you would like to begin the home study process. The agency will then assign a social worker to your case and he/she will contact you to schedule your first appointment. The social worker will need to meet with your family a minimum of twice if you live in Arizona, once if you live in Florida, and once if you live in Utah; at least one meeting must be in your home. Our office needs back all required paperwork before your meeting can be scheduled. For families who have a completed home study and wish to register in our domestic adoption program, please mail the completed packet to our main office in Arizona.

At Creating Christian Families and Mother Goose Adoptions, our programs are constantly growing and evolving. Our hope is that our programs continue to meet the needs of the communities we serve.

Best wishes on your adoption journey,

Blessings,

Dr. Deb O'Kane  
Executive Director

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## DOMESTIC ADOPTION REGISTRATION FORM

INSTRUCTIONS: Please fill in this registration form completely. We ask that you notify our office if you have adopted or are no longer interested in adoption. If we do not hear from you for an extended period of time, defined as 3 months, we reserve the right to close and destroy your file.

Are you using Mother Goose Adoptions as your home study agency? Please check one:      No              Yes

APPLICANT INFORMATION		
Last Name:	First Name:	DOB:
Spouse's Last Name:	Spouse's First Name:	DOB:
Home Phone:	Mom's Cell Phone:	Dad's Cell Phone:
Full Address: (street, city, state, zip)		Religion: ----- Email:
FaceBook ID:	Instagram ID:	List any previous marriages, divorces or arrests on back or separate page
Mom's Occupation:	Mom's Employer:	Mom's Salary:
Dad's Occupation:	Dad's Employer:	Dad's Salary:
PREFERENCES: <small>Check all that apply</small>		
Max Budget:	Gender: Male      Female      Either	Adoption Type: All adoptions will be OPEN
<b>Racial Acceptance:</b> Full Asian                      Asian/Black                      Asian/Hispanic                      Asian/Native-American                      Asian/White Full Black                      Black/Hispanic                      Black/Native-American                      Black/White Full Hispanic                      Hispanic/Native-American                      Hispanic/White Full Native-American                      Native-American/White		
<b>Health Issues:</b> Light alcohol use                      Light Drug Use                      Prematurity Heavy alcohol use                      Heavy Drug Use                      Major Medical		
Additional comments?		

Who can we thank for referring you to our agency?: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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## SCHEDULE OF FEES: DOMESTIC ADOPTION PROGRAM

Creating Christian Families and Mother Goose Adoptions, Inc. are sensitive to the cost of adoption and thus, strive to keep fees as low as possible while still offering a quality program which allows us to properly serve the needs of the expectant women who come to us for assistance. It is important to note that we are an independent adoption agency that must remain financially solvent without sponsorship from religious, humanitarian or governmental organizations. To help families who struggle to afford adoption, we make available to our families a host of resources. These resources include low cost adoption loans, internal grant programs, external private grant programs, information on the adoption tax credit, as well as information on a variety of fund- raising options and ideas.

We offer two programs to help meet your needs.

- Full-Service Program
- Designated Adoption Program

Full Service Program:   \$28,000

This fee is for our Full-Service Program, which runs an extensive national advertising initiative to help identify expectant women seeking to explore options for their pregnancy. We provide full case management services throughout the adoption and long after placement. This program is for the majority of our cases where the moms contract with and place their child for adoption through Mother Goose Adoptions.

This fee includes, but is not limited to the following services, as applicable:

- Review and approval of home study
- Counseling (limited), support and education to our clients
- Obtaining and review of g proof of pregnancy, social/medical background information, and medical records
- Notification to hospital regarding adoption plan and inquiry on hospital adoption policies
- Identification of a case manager, counselor, attorney or agency local to birth family for services
- Coordination of legal plan, if necessary
- Review and approval of supervisory visits
- Mediation of ongoing contact with the biological family

This fee may not include:

- Networking/advertising fee
- Local agency/attorney for birthparent representation
- Birth mom living expenses
- Birth mom medical expenses
- Home study
- Counseling, extensive face to face – defined as beyond \$500
- Case Management
- Post placement supervision reports
- Travel expenses
- Interstate compact fee, if applicable
- Finalization fee

Please note an entire detailed contract that covers the agency fee, anticipated legal fees, and any additional costs will be presented at the time of match.

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Designated Adoption Program: *Fees will be assessed individually for each case*

This program is for those families coming to us already matched with a mom and merely seeking assistance to complete an Independent or Direct Parental Placement adoption. Contracts will be individualized for each case with typical total fees being in the \$4,000-\$10,000 range for case management, counseling and coordination of legal process.

Refund Policy: *Our Guarantee*

In our Full-Service Program, our promise to you is that we will continue to work with your family, at no additional agency fee, until you have adopted. This offer is valid provided: (1) that you maintain a current home study and (2) that your actions are not the cause of the disruption. If the adoption disrupts due to your actions, no portion of fees are refundable. This policy helps ensure against unnecessary loss while pursuing your dreams.

Any external, non-agency fees (legal work, case work, or living expenses, etc.) dispersed on a disrupted adoption will be documented and are the maximum you are at risk for financially. Furthermore, we do offer a 50% cash out option for those wishing to cancel their contract. If you opt out of the contract with a cash refund, any balance of unused living and legal expenses will be refunded. This refund must be board approved at a monthly meeting (they do not meet in July or December) and the agency reserves the right to pay out the refund in installments. We further guarantee that contracts are accurate within 10% and that no monies above that 10% will ever be spent without prior permission.

Registration Fee:

Our only upfront fee is for the review and approval of your home study/clearances and the cost of managing your family profiles. This cost is \$250 per five profiles and is not refundable. The fee is due with each set of five profiles that you provide us.

Payment Schedule:

Fees are not due until the family enters into an agreement to proceed toward adopting a specific child. If the expectant mom is a Mother Goose Adoptions client, a deposit of 50% of the total contract (agency, case mgmt., and legal), plus full living expenses are due at the time **of match. The balance is due at 34 weeks of the expected mother's pregnancy. If the match** occurs on or after the 34<sup>th</sup> week of pregnancy, then the entire contract(s) is due at match.

Other Possible Fees Detailed:

These costs are not fees retained by our agency but are fees that are common in many cases and are in addition to the agency fee. We do our best to post all anticipated fees at the time we present the case to you but adoption is fluid and those fees can change if the original parameters of the adoption changes (change in birth father cooperation, additional birth fathers, delays in anticipated delivery dates etc.).

*Birth Family Living Expenses:*

In many adoptions, birth families will request assistance with their living expenses (as allowed by law). Whenever possible, adoptive families will be informed, before a match, of any expected living expenses. Living expenses are escrowed at the time of match with an expectant mom and are estimated as closely as possible based on the circumstances at that time. Our agency requests that living expenses be managed and paid to a sister organization named Seedlings, Inc. There is a 10% management fee to handle these expenses. This management fee is used, not for administrative costs, but goes directly to assist women and children in crisis. This management fee allows the agency to reduce the overall risk of adoption for all parties through the use of these monies to fund immediate crisis.

*Legal Assistance:*

Each adoption is unique, as are the laws of each state. This set of facts makes the cost of legal fees for termination of parental rights, Interstate Compact work, etc. hard to predict. However, legal assistance can generally be obtained in an independent, direct parental placement, or agency adoption for approximately \$6,000-\$7,000, plus the cost of ICPC (average cost is \$1,500), if applicable. At the time of match, you will be presented a contract that incorporates the estimated legal cost in one contract. This estimate of legal cost is for an uncomplicated and uncontested adoption (typically defined as no more than two standard [no military personnel or Indian blood] biological parents. It does not include the cost of the finalization for your adoption which is generally done in your home state and averages \$2,000. Depending on the applicable **state's laws**, finalization will occur between 3-12 months after placement and we will provide all necessary documentation to the finalizing attorney.

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Medical Expenses:

Adoptive parents are expected to cover medical expenses, including any applicable deductible incurred as a result of the birth of their child, **unless otherwise covered by Medicaid or birthmother's insurance. Whenever possible, the adoptive family will be** informed, in advance, if there is limited or no coverage. Please note that the majority of birth moms are eligible for Medicaid under the Medicaid Act of 2003. However, there are often delays, or even denials, to being approved for Medicaid due to the complicated paper process that is required. We provide as much assistance as possible to the birth mom but it is a process that only she can complete (by law); **we can't do it for her.** The child's hospital stay is typically covered under the adoptive parent's health insurance, **not Medicaid. If your child has an extended hospital stay we are happy to discuss option for Medicaid for the baby.**

Agency Travel Assistance:

If you are matched with a mom who lives in a state where we do not have a case worker available, an additional fee will be assessed if the family wishes to have an agency representative travel to assist the family at birth or to pick up their child, where appropriate. This fee covers not only the extra time but transportation, hotel etc.

Advertising Expense:

It occasionally becomes necessary for the agency to assess an advertising surcharge. If this is the case, families will be informed before presentation on a case.

Case Management:

The agency will assess a fee for management of each case, as necessary. These fees will be disclosed prior to presentation.

Grants:

Special Beginnings Grant: \$8,000

This grant offers potential adoptive families an opportunity to have \$8,000 taken off of the full agency fee and is designed to help obtain families for harder to place children: sibling groups, medically fragile, and children over five years of age. Please note that in this program, your family receives all the services offered in the Full-Service Program at a reduced cost. Please see above for details.

Sibling Grant: \$5,000

For the adoption of a biological sibling to a previously adopted child.

Agreements, Warranties, Guarantees, & Indemnification

This Agreement is governed by the law of Arizona, regardless of conflicts of law. All disputes concerning this Agreement or the relationships of the parties must be litigated solely in the Courts of Arizona, and all parties agree to the personal jurisdiction of the Courts of Arizona. In the event of legal action, which is ruled in favor of the agency, clients shall pay Creating Christian Families and Mother Goose Adoption's attorney fees, court costs, and any other associated expenses for defense. The only exception to this policy is if a subsequent agreement is reached and ratified by all parties.

At the sole and exclusive option of Creating Christian Families and Mother Goose Adoptions, any controversy or claims arising out of this agreement, or any breach thereof, or arising out of the services provided by the agency shall be settled in accordance with the Commercial Rules of the American Arbitration Association, before an arbitrator, and judgment upon the award rendered by the arbitrator shall be final and may be entered in any court having jurisdiction. No putative or non-compensatory damages shall be awarded. The Petitioning party will be responsible for the full cost of arbitration for all sides. Arbitration will be held in location of Creating Christian Families and Mother Goose Adoption's choice.

If we refer a family to an outside agency or attorney and there is a misunderstanding or grievance, family understands that such issues are solely **between the family and the "placing" agency or attorney. Neither Creating Christian Families, nor Mother Goose Adoptions, can be held liable for errors on the part of placing agency or attorney nor any disputes between the family and the placing agency or attorney.** The family agrees that Creating Christian Families and Mother Goose Adoptions, as well as its employees, contractors, Board, heirs, executors, successors or assignees are released and forever discharged, for any, and every claim, demand, right, or cause of action arising between the actions of the family and this agency or the agency or attorney they were referred to.

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Clients give permission for Mother Goose Adoptions to show their letters and photos to expectant parents and other professionals working on our behalf in order to connect clients with an expectant mother who wishes to consider adoption for her child. Clients give Mother Goose Adoptions permission to display photos of the baby and/or family, with use of first names only, on various agency platforms for marketing purposes. Clients further agree to share their adoption story with Mother Goose Adoptions within 14 days of placement, with non-disclosing information, and 3-4 photos of the baby and their family to be used for marketing purposes, including on agency social media. At no time will identifying information be used.

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AGENCY POLICIES  
REGARDING ACCEPTANCE OF ADOPTIVE PARENTS  
INTO OUR DOMESTIC ADOPTION PROGRAM

To be approved and accepted into our program, it is important that we establish that Mother Goose Adoptions is a good fit for your **family's** goals, and that your family is a good fit for who we are striving to have available for the expectant moms we represent.

To that end, the agency's policies for acceptance of adoptive parents into our program are listed below. There are occasionally exceptions to these policies so please ask if you have a concern. Typically though, exceptions are made only in cases that are pre-matched prior to coming into the agency's programs.

Age

All adoptive parents must generally be 25 years of age or older. One of the adopting parents must be less than 55 years of age.

Marriage

All adoptive parents, who are in a committed relationship and adopting together, must be married. No individual may have been married more than two times and it is desired that the couple, if applicable, has been married at least two years.

Singles/Same Sex Relationships

We welcome these potential adoptive parents into our programs, but the same guidelines need to be adhered to.

Details Of Minimum Agreement:

- Updates/Photos: a minimum of 1, 3, 6, 9, 12, 18, 24 months. Then yearly.
- Text: same as above
- Phone/Video Chat: quarterly.
- Visits: yearly

Internet Platform for Sharing

Furthermore, we are asking all adoptive parents to set up a closed, private Facebook or Instagram page where you will post photos and updates on a regular basis. Please only add yourselves, birth family, and agency employees to this page so that confidentiality is maintained. We will be asking for the name of this page at the time of match so please prepare ahead.

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Additionally, we are now requiring all of our adoptive parents to take a minimum of 10 hours of adoptive parent training. These training hours can be from any source that offers certificates or documentation for the hours you spent in training. They may be in person or virtual.

The training topics will be required as follows:

Topic	Hours Required	Who is Required to Take
Openness in Adoption	2	All Adoptive Parents
Transracial Adoption	2	Any family adopting outside of their race/ethnicity
Substance Exposure	2	Any family approved to adopt a substance exposed child
Electives	2-6	
Total Minimum Hours Required	10	

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The undersigned acknowledge and agree that they fully understand the above fee schedule and policy disclosures. Each family will be presented with an individualized contract at time of match for adoption with a specific case. The individualized contract is the document of precedence regarding conflict, disputes, fees and fee structures. If no contract is issued, the family understands that fees are still assessed and due based on guidelines laid out in this agreement.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Applicant*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Spouse*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

MAIL TO:  
*Please return ALL pages to our office*

Mother Goose Adoptions  
Main Office  
116902 N 88<sup>th</sup> Place  
Scottsdale, AZ 85260

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