



Choosing an adoption agency

Adoption is a wonderful way to build a family! Choose an agency that will work for you, and one that is honest and will look out for your best interests. Only then will you find that your adoption experience will be as successful as possible.

WYNNEWOOD, PA OFFICE
610.642.7200

ALLENTOWN, PA OFFICE
610.432.2384

CENTRAL PA OFFICE
717.399.7766
717.232.1787

PITTSBURGH, PA OFFICE
724.853.6533

NEW JERSEY OFFICE
856.665.5655
732.335.8883

DELAWARE OFFICE
302.658.8883

VIRGINIA OFFICE
757.361.0008
804.218.2569

NEW YORK OFFICE
800.355.5500

CONNECTICUT OFFICE
860.657.2626

24 HOURS A DAY
800.355.5500

WEBSITE:
www.afth.org

AFTH is a nonprofit agency licensed in PA, NJ, NY, DE, VA, and CT.



Choosing an adoption agency is one of the most important decisions you will make in your adoption pursuit. For a successful adoption, you should take the time to choose an agency that meets the needs of you and your family. There are many things to consider when choosing an agency such as making sure they are licensed and a non-profit agency. Here are some of the most important considerations:

How long has the agency been in business?

Look for an experienced and established agency with a solid record. A new agency may not have the experience to provide a successful placement or remain in business long enough to assist you with ongoing medical and social information that you and your child might need.

How many children does the agency place a year and what are the ages of the children?

This will give you further information as to whether this is the right agency for you.

What are the qualifications and experience of the agency staff?

Experienced and bachelors and masters level Social Workers and Counselors are able to help families navigate the process and counsel adoptive families and expecting parents in domestic adoption.

How and when are fees collected?

Fees should be earned as services are delivered. Get the agency fee schedule. Beware of trick advertising like “no placement fee” or paying fees broken up in equal portions (not for services) because if you don’t continue with the adoption you will lose those fees.

What are Matching fees?

Some agencies require what is called a matching fee, this is typically a large portion of the placement fee that is due when an adoptive family is chosen by an expecting mother. This fee is usually non-refundable, even if a placement does not occur.

What are the agency requirements?

Most agencies have specific requirements that adoptive parents must meet in order to apply for adoption. Such requirements may include age, marital status or whether or not the parents already have children. Find out what these requirements are before investing any money.

What are the agency’s policies?

Most agencies have policies that families must comply with. Policies should be clear and provided to you in writing prior to making any payments to the agency. What is the agency’s policy in regard to fees if an expecting parent changes his/her mind and decides to parent the baby or if the birth parent changes his/her mind after placement but before their parental rights are terminated?