



Dear Adoptive Family,

Welcome to *A Guardian Angel Adoptions, LLC*. We are a fully licensed adoption agency located in the state of Utah and Florida. We would like to thank you for your interest in adoption and in our agency. We hope this packet will be informative and helpful as you prepare for your adoption.

First let us introduce you to our organization. *A Guardian Angel Adoptions, LLC* was founded by adoption professionals with a combined 30 years experience in the field and who have together completed more than 1,000 adoptions. In addition, the managers of *A Guardian Angel Adoptions, LLC* have been touched by adoption in their own lives as adoptive mothers. These qualifications give us unique insight, compassion and love for birth mothers, adoptive families and especially adopted children.

At *A Guardian Angel Adoptions, LLC* it is our dream to serve both adoptive families and birth mothers by providing them with a positive adoption experience. We will continually strive to do so through integrity, education, opportunity, information, service and compassion. Some of the services we provide for adoptive families include:

- Home Studies
- Educational Opportunities
- Interstate Compact Services
- Legal Services
- Counseling
- Profile Counseling and Creation
- Short Waiting Periods
- Transracial Education
- An Available Caring Staff

At *A Guardian Angel Adoptions, LLC* we understand that the process of adoption can be an overwhelming and emotionally challenging time. With our combined experience and committed staff, we will be there for you to walk you step by step through your adoption experience.

With *A Guardian Angel Adoptions, LLC* as soon as you are home study ready and approved as an adoptive family by our Social Work Department you will be eligible to be presented to birth mothers. It is our goal to help you adopt in months, not years.

In addition, with *A Guardian Angel Adoptions, LLC* you will not be required to pay any kind of application fee. This will enable you to network with other agencies. No money is required until you are matched with a birth mother.

In order to be qualified to adopt with *A Guardian Angel Adoptions, LLC* you must meet the following requirements as well as receive a favorable home study evaluation by a licensed social worker in your state.

ELIGIBILITY FOR ADOPTION

- Couples must be married for at least one year and have a stable marriage. Single parents are also welcome to apply.
- Couples should exhibit high moral standards, be emotionally stable, and have good parenting skills.
- There is no age requirement; however, adoptive couples should be in good physical health and must have a life expectancy long enough to raise their children.
- Couples should have sufficient income to care for their family, and also be able to provide medical insurance and life insurance for the child's protection.
- Couples must clear a criminal background and child abuse background screenings.
- Couples must have a favorable current adoptive home study evaluation, and be able to provide the agency with all other necessary documentation concerning their family circumstance.
- Additional items may be required by your state.

In the packet you are receiving from *A Guardian Angel Adoptions, LLC* you will find the following items:

- Welcome Letter;
- Adoption Process;
- Adoptive Family Application;
- Payment Agreement;
- Release of Information;
- Criminal Background and Child Abuse Screenings (same form);
- Creating your Profile;
- Adoptive Family Agreement;
- Adoptive Family Information Sheet (to be given to the birth mother if she requests it.);
- Grief Fact sheet;
- Clients Rights and Responsibilities
- Adoptive Family References (two acquaintances and one family);
- Medical References;
- Required Clearance Information Sheet.

Please complete and sign the applicable forms.

If *A Guardian Angel Adoptions, LLC* is completing your home study we will need additional forms as well.

We will also need certified copies of birth Certificates, marriage licenses, and divorce decrees. You will need to complete the Office of Licensing Background Screening Application (BCI) for each adult, 18 years or older, living in your home. Please complete the form, sign it and include a copy of the front and back of your driver's license AND Social Security Card before mailing it to our office for processing. Your social worker will let you know of other documents that will be required to complete the homestudy.

As you prepare for your adoption, we hope that you will feel free to contact us if we can answer any questions or be of help to you in any way. We look forward to assisting you as you begin this new chapter of your lives.

Sincerely,
The Staff at *A Guardian Angel Adoptions, LLC*



A Guardian Angel Adoption Process

Application: You have already begun the application process by requesting an information packet from *A Guardian Angel Adoptions, LLC*. In order to become an approved adoptive family with *A Guardian Angel Adoptions, LLC*, you will need to complete all the necessary paperwork. If you already have a current home study please send us all of the completed documents along with your home study and supporting documents as well as 4 profiles to be presented to the birth mothers. Our social work department will then review your information and send you an approval letter if everything is found in order. At this point you will be ready to be presented to birth mothers upon your approval.

The Home Study Process: The home study is to help prepare you for your adoption and to insure that you meet the requirements of *A Guardian Angel Adoptions, LLC* as well as the requirements of the state of Utah. The home study includes information given to your social worker during your home study visits as well as written information given to the social worker by yourself as well as letters of reference by friends and family and your medical providers. The information included in your home study offers a look at the relationships within your family, your parenting styles, your financial status as well as your overall physical and emotional health. We accept completed adoptive home studies from other sources that adhere to similar professional adoption standards as *A Guardian Angel Adoptions, LLC* provided the individual or agency completing the home study agrees to release it to us. In addition, if we complete an adoptive home study for you, we are happy to forward it on to other adoption agencies with which you may be working. You will be required to sign a release to have the home study forwarded. It is necessary for your home study to be updated annually.

Presentation: After you have become an approved adoptive family by our licensed social work department, you will be eligible to be presented to birth mothers upon your approval. A representative from the adoptive family department will contact you and share with you the non-identifying information about each particular case. Included in the information will be the legal risk involved, the medical and psychological background, if possible the race and sex of the child, any reported history of drug and alcohol abuse, and the financial obligation associated with the case. You will then have the option of being presented on the case or of waiting for another.

Match: Once the birth mother selects you, you are considered matched. At this point you will be contacted by the financial department, sent a financial contract to review and sign and will then be required to wire transfer the birth mother expenses. At this time a conference call may take place if all parties are in agreement. A member of the adoptive family department will be on the line to guide you through this process. You will then begin to receive weekly updates on your birth mother and establish a relationship with her if both parties agree.

Delivery: When your Birth mother goes into labor she will contact her case manager. The case manager will then contact the adoptive family department who will in turn contact you. At this point you should start considering travel plans but not purchase a ticket or leave. After monitoring the Birth mother for about an hour at the hospital the medical staff will make a decision as to whether she will be admitted to the hospital for delivery or will be sent home. You will then be notified of the outcome and assisted in making plans to arrive at the hospital if necessary. If you are flying in from out of state a representative from the Adoptive Family Department will meet you at the airport, assist you in getting your rental car and take you to the hospital. While the Birth mother is in the hospital you will be assisted in interacting with her, the medical staff and the baby.

Placement: If your birth mother delivers in Utah placement may occur at 24 hours after delivery provided that she is free of any narcotic drug. The social work staff will work closely with the nursing staff to insure the birth mother is ready to sign. Signing of the documents will take place separately. The adoptive family may sign the placement documents after the relinquishment documents are signed by the birth mother. In the State of Utah a

notary is required to be present at the signing. Copies of the documents will be given to the nursing staff to be included in the charts of both the baby and birth mother. When the pediatrician deems the baby ready to leave the hospital the baby will be released directly to the adoptive family. Please note that it is Agency policy that the baby never leaves the hospital prior to the birth mother.

Interstate Compact (ICPC): If you are a family from out of state, it will be necessary for ICPC to be cleared by Utah as well as your home state before you will be permitted to leave the state with your baby. ICPC will be started as soon as the medical records are received from the hospital. This usually takes 24-48 hours Monday through Friday. The Medical Records Department is not in the office on the weekends. The medical records will complete the ICPC package and it will be hand delivered to the ICPC office in Salt Lake City. If upon receiving your packet your home state office or the Utah office requests any additional documents they will be sent to them as soon as possible. You will then be notified when your ICPC clearance is faxed to our office and will be allowed to return home. Please note that ICPC is a government agency which we have no control over, however, we will do our part to process your request in a timely manner.

A Word about Legal Risk: Every adoption has legal risks! They are unavoidable. Some of these risks are obvious while others are hidden. It is the responsibility of *A Guardian Angel Adoptions, LLC* to watch for signs of these risks and share them with the adoptive family. Although we are experienced at adoption and will submit to you the risks we see for your evaluation, we can never guarantee the outcome of an adoption.

Following are general descriptions of situations that have varying degrees of risk. These are guidelines only; a situation with minimal risk could result in losing a child, on the other hand a high-risk situation may finalize without a problem.

Minimal Risk: There are very minimal risks when;

- The birth mother and birth father sign in a state where relinquishment is irrevocable. or
- The birth mother is not married, or she is married to the birth father and he is willing to relinquish his rights as well.

Mild Risk: There is a mild risk in the following situations.

An unmarried birth mother signs in a state where the relinquishment is irrevocable and though the birth father doesn't relinquish at the time the birth mother does, either

- The conception was in a state with a Putative Birth Father Registry, or
- The birth father is not named, or
- The birth father is fully aware and supportive of the adoption plan.

Mod Risk: There is a moderate risk if an unmarried birth mother

- Signs in a state where relinquishment is revocable for a short period of time or
- The birth father is known and cannot be contacted, or
- The birth father is aware of the pregnancy and is not supportive, or
- The birth mother is married to someone other than the birth father. Any time the birth mother is married it is important to determine if the birth mother's husband would like to parent the child.

High Risk: There is a high risk if the birth mother

- Signs in a state where relinquishment is revocable for an extended period of time, or
- The birth mother is married and the husband wants the child whether he is the father or birth father and has been financially and emotionally supportive of the pregnancy and does not want the child placed for adoption.

FYI...Birth father: Unless the birth father gives consent for the adoption at the same time the birth mother does, the adoption is considered a "Legal Risk Adoption." Consequently, it will become necessary to determine then terminate his rights in accordance with the laws of any states involved with the adoption.

It is ultimately the responsibility of adoptive family to consult with an attorney of their choice about the laws of their state and the risk associated with their adoption.

Going Home: Supervisory Visits: There is a supervisory period of generally six months (each state is different) before finalization is allowed. You will visit with a representative on two or three occasions to help ensure you and your child are adjusting to each other and to confirm the success of the placement. Additional visits may be scheduled as needed.

Insurance: Notify your health insurance company of your new addition. Many companies will reimburse some expenses. Also check with your employer regarding additional benefits, and be sure to take advantage of all tax breaks. You will use your "Adoption Placement Agreement" as your birth certificate until you receive an amended Birth Certificate after finalization. You may need to fax this document to your insurance company to add your baby to your policy.

Finalization of the Adoption: This is an exciting time and can take place after a successful supervisory period generally of 6 months. You are responsible for any legal fees associated with finalization. Talk to your attorney about getting an amended birth certificate, which will list you as parents and include your child's name as shown on the adoption decree.