

INHERITANCE ADOPTIONS ADOPTIVE COUPLE POLICIES

The following are policies approved by the Board of Directors of Inheritance Adoptions and applicable to prospective adoptive parents. It is important to adhere to all policies; there is a reason for each, be it practical or legal, but regardless Inheritance Adoptions expects good-faith compliance and **may terminate the relationship between it and a couple found to have violated these rules**. Please contact Leslie Howard if there is a question about the application of any policy.

- 1) Leslie Howard is the staff liaison for the adoptive couples. If a couple has questions or information for the agency or birthmother please contact Leslie Howard. If a couple has a complaint or concern, please refer to the appeal process.
- 2) Adoptive couples are not allowed to purchase items on behalf of the birth parents at any time during the adoption process. All birth parent expenditures must be paid by the agency and passed through to the couple.
- 3) Adoptive couples are required to attend training offered by the agency on a quarterly basis before being placed on the agency's website or profile shown to a birthmother. The cost of the training is \$200.00 per couple.
- 4) Adoptive couples shall be required to remit one third of the full placement fees prior to their profile being distributed to any prospective birthmother, or any adult with the rights to make such decisions for a child. Adoptive couples shall then be required to remit an additional one third of the full placement fees prior to the first match meeting with any prospective birthmother or any adult with the rights to make such decisions for a child. The final one third of the full placement fees is to be remitted at the time of placement of a child with the adoptive couple. If placement of a child is made prior to the pre-placement fee being paid in full, then the pre-placement fee shall be paid in full at the time of the adoptive placement. If the couple or agency chooses to end the relationship with one another prior to placement of a child, the amount paid to that point is non-refundable. If the placement of a child is disrupted for any reason, the placement fee will be transferred to the next placement. It is the responsibility of the couple to contact the agency if there will be an interruption in this payment.

- 5) Adoptive couples will be entitled to a copy of the home screening once the home screening fee is paid. However, under no circumstances will the couple be reimbursed for the home screening fee.
- 6) In the case of emergency placement, the adoptive couple will be responsible for completing training under the direction of the agency.
- 7) Couples are expected to respect the time at the hospital when the baby is born as the birthparent's time. The adoptive couple will come to the hospital only by invitation from the birthmother, and the amount of time spent at the hospital will be in accordance with the birthmother's wishes. The couple will not invite family and friends to the hospital unless the birthmother has approved their presence.
- 8) Adoptive couples are expected to respect the confidentiality of the birthparents and other adoptive couples they meet through Inheritance Adoptions. We understand that you will want to share your experiences with others and be asked many questions about the biological parents. We request that you respect the privacy of others and their right to share information that they are comfortable with sharing. We promise our birthparents confidentiality. We ask that you use discernment when discussing your situation with others, including extended family. Deidentifying information is helpful, unless birthparents have granted you permission for disclosure. For example, couples who are matched or recently placed should not post pictures of the birthmother on the internet.
- 9) Adoptive couples are expected to fulfill commitment made to birthparents in regard to type and amount of contact with them after the birth of the child.
- 10) When couples are in an open adoption with the birth family, couples need to be aware that open adoption is limited to the contact between the child and the birth family. Open adoption does not allow couples to purchase items for the birth family. Open adoption does not mean for the adoptive couple to take the role of counselor for the birth family. Boundaries must be established and adhered to.
- 11) Adoptive couples that suspect any abuse by birth families to siblings of the adopted child must report the suspected or known abuse to the agency immediately.
- 12) Adoptive couples are expected to understand the risks involved in adoption. The risks may include a birthmother changing her mind after an adoption plan is in place; for example, the birth mother may choose to parent her child after the

baby is born, as is her right; or perhaps meeting a birthmother who may choose another couple. Another consideration is a birth mother failing to be completely honest with agency staff about her prenatal care, use of drugs or alcohol, or health care during pregnancy. Inheritance Adoptions will disclose to the couple all history of the birthparents that relates to the pregnancy and health of the child.

- 13) The adoptive couple understands that once accepted, Inheritance Adoptions reserves the right to terminate or change the acceptance status of an adoptive couple's home study if sufficient reason is found. This decision can be made by an agent of Inheritance Adoptions, including but not limited to the Executive Director. The Executive Director may require an adoptive couple to undergo additional counseling or complete other tasks to assist and benefit the adoptive couples in the adoptive process. The adoptive couple may be asked to comply with additional requirements at any point in the adoption process if the agency finds sufficient reason. The Executive Director has the right to change the status of an adoptive couple from acceptable to unacceptable, with sufficient reason. This decision can be made at any point in the adoption process. Sufficient reason is based upon the expertise and is at the discretion of Inheritance Adoption and is exercised solely by Inheritance Adoption and its agents, including but not limited to the Executive Director.
- 14) The adoptive couple has reviewed the Inheritance Adoption fee schedule and understands that all fees paid to Inheritance are non-refundable. Please note that this non-refundable clause also includes status changes. If an adoptive couple status changes from acceptable to unacceptable the fees paid to Inheritance Adoption are non-refundable.
- 15) Inheritance Adoptions or any agents representing Inheritance Adoptions make no guarantees, promises or agreements that a child will be placed with an adoptive couple. The adoptive couple understands that the placement of a child involves many facets including, but not limited to, decisions made by the birthmother and what is in the best interest of the child.
- 16) Inheritance Adoptions or any agents representing Inheritance Adoptions will never make any guarantees, promises or agreements that a child will be placed with an adoptive couple within a specified time. It is not possible to predict when a child will become available for an adoptive couple. Inheritance Adoptions can

provide average wait times for the previous years but the agency cannot tell an adoptive couple how long the wait will be before they are placed with a child.

By signing this document, I am agreeing that I have read this document as well as the "Inheritance Appeal Process" document supplied to me via the website. By signing this document, I am acknowledging that I understand the policies stated in these documents and agree to abide by all of them.

Wife's Printed Name

Wife's Signature

Date

Husband's Printed Name

Husband's Signature

Date

Subscribed and Sworn to me this the _____ day of _____ , _____
Day Month Year

Notary Signature

My commission expires: _____
Date