

Wait No More®



Finding Families for Kentuckiana's Waiting Kids



Next Steps

Today: Please utilize the information on the following pages of this guide and your opportunity to interact directly with those organizations today to select the agency that seems best for your family.

Next Steps:

- Visit the agency booths
- Determine which agency you prefer to work with
- **Fill out and turn in the green initiation form**
- Obtain any relevant paperwork
- Find out their orientation and training schedule

If you are planning to further explore adoption, please fill out the green initiation form and place it in the marked boxes throughout the church or hand it to one of our event volunteers.

It is important to do this even if you are not sure which agency you prefer to work with yet.

In the Future: Each of the adoption agencies and ministries listed in this attendee guide has specifically identified the next step for an interested family to take as you explore your role in meeting the needs of a waiting child.

For more information on any of the orientations, trainings, or other events listed on the pages that follow, please contact the agency hosting the particular event. Thank you again for your willingness to help Kentuckiana's waiting kids!

Next Steps:

- Continue to pray about how God will use you and His specific plan for your family
- Tell someone you trust about how God is leading you and the steps you are taking
- If you have not heard from an agency after three weeks, contact the agency you listed on your initiation form or Focus on the Family
- Be proactive about any paperwork, training or requirements

Tips on How to Choose an Adoption Agency¹

Adoption is a life long process for parents and children, and it is important to choose an agency that can help you assess your readiness to adopt and has the expertise to help you through the process. Child placement agencies must meet the licensing standards for Child Placement Agencies to provide adoption services in Kentucky and Indiana. A personal evaluation prior to selection of an agency will generally lead to positive results for families. The following points may be helpful in choosing an agency:

1. Learn about adoption and the issues involved

- Read books and articles on adoption
- Attend an adoptive parents' group
- Talk to other adoptive parents
- Attend agency orientation and information meetings

2. Determine the type of child you are interested in adopting

- Infant or older child
- Domestic or International
- Special needs (emotional problems, mental or physical handicaps) or minimal challenges.

3. Contact the agencies and learn about their programs

- Ask about any requirements/restrictions on adoptive parents such as length of marriage, age, etc.
- Ask for brochures on their program
- Attend orientation/information meetings

4. Evaluate the agency's program (some good questions to ask)

- Ask about the steps in the agency's process such as orientation, application, study, parenting classes and the estimated time frames involved. Make a list of special questions you want answered.
- Make sure the agency is licensed; ask when was the last time the agency was visited by a representative from the licensing unit.
- Find out if complaints have been filed against the agency and if so, how they were resolved.
- Find out the staff's education, background and experience in adoption.
- Ask about the services the agency gives to birth parents and evaluate the completeness and sensitivity of this work.
- Learn the costs involved for the screening, orientation meeting, home study, supervisory visits, court reports, educational groups, services to and expenses in connection with birth parents in designated adoptions, extra work in connection with interstate placement and other possible expenses. Obtain written detailed information on all costs involved including the agency's policy on refunds.
- Ask about any support groups the agency facilitates and any post finalization services they might offer.
- If possible, talk to other adoptive parents about their experience with the agency.

5. After you have chosen the agency

- Keep in regular contact with the agency but be realistic with the staff's time.
- If you have a complaint or are dissatisfied, talk honestly to the person with whom you are working and, if this is unsatisfactory, then talk to the director.

¹ Adapted from Colorado Department of Human Services/Division of Child Welfare "Tips for Selecting An Adoption Agency"

Agency and Ministry Overview



Department for Community Based Services

Service area: All 120 Counties in Kentucky

SNAP is the Special Needs Adoption Program within the Department for Community Based Services that operates statewide to recruit families to adopt and/or foster Kentucky's waiting children.

Contact Information:

Sara Lovorn—SNAP Program Coordinator

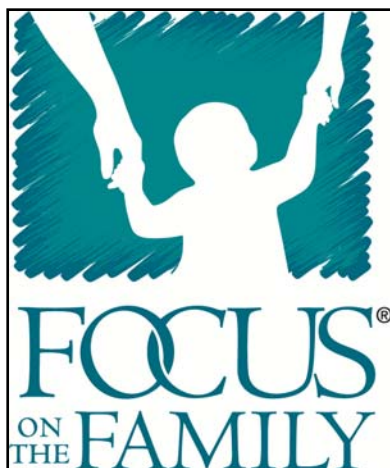
275 E. Main St. 3 C-E

Frankfort, KY 40621

Phone: (502) 564-2147, x3585; Fax: (502) 564-5995

Email: Sara.Lovorn@ky.gov

Website: <https://apps.chfs.ky.gov/SNAP>



Focus on the Family

Service area: National

At Focus on the Family we believe that every child deserves to know the love of a forever family. Therefore, our goal is to raise awareness of and recruit families for the children and youth waiting in foster care.

Our awareness and recruiting efforts are complemented by desperately needed post-placement resources for adoptive families that are both biblically based and relevant to their unique struggles. These resources also provide practical ways for churches and individuals to support the adoptive families in their communities.

And while not every family is called to adopt, we believe everyone can play a role through prayer support, mentoring, giving, or mobilizing the church.

Contact Information:

Email: orphancare@family.org

Website: www.iCareAboutOrphans.org

Home of the Innocents—Therapeutic Loving Foster Care

Service area: Northern Kentucky, Southern Bluegrass Region, Louisville, Bowling Green and Southern Indiana

We are a therapeutic foster care agency, which means that the majority of the children in our program have been through some type of traumatic event, whether it be physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, or neglect or abandonment, and because of this type of trauma, the children we see in our program typically have more behavioral issues than your average child. Because we are a therapeutic foster care agency, most of the children in our program are older, with an average age of the children being around 12, and the majority of the children ranging in ages from mostly 10-18. We place these children in approved foster homes so we are always looking for qualified applicants.

We also provide private and international adoption services such as home studies, post-placement visits, training, and court reports.

Contact Information:

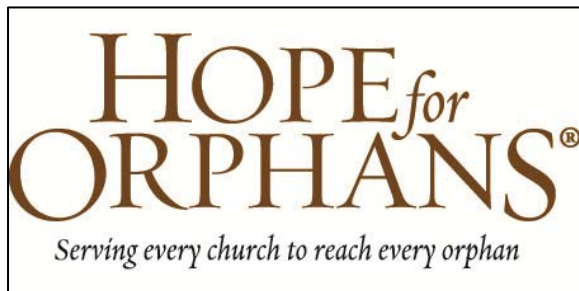
Lilly Lang—Foster Parent Recruiter/Trainer

522 East Gray Street
Louisville, KY 40202

Phone: (502) 596-1338, (502) 596-1313; Fax: (502) 596-1414

Email: llang@homeoftheinnocents.org

Website: www.homeoftheinnocents.org/tlc



Hope for Orphans, a ministry of FamilyLife

Service area: National

Hope for Orphans believes that the local church is God’s answer for the orphan crisis. Because of this, we build tools that passionate followers of Christ can use to mobilize their church on behalf of the orphan. We want to connect you with excellent resources and trusted organizations that will serve your church in reaching the

orphan. For more information, visit HopeForOrphans.org.

Contact Information:

2001 W. Plano Parkway, Suite 3442
Plano, TX 75075

Phone: (972) 941-4431; Fax: (972) 941-4432

Email: hopefororphans@hopefororphans.org

Website: www.hopefororphans.org



Indiana Adoption Program

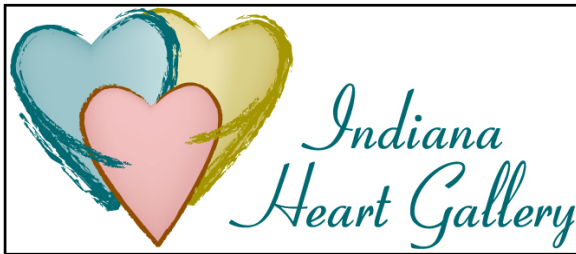
Service area: State of Indiana

The Indiana Adoption Program is a contract with Indiana Department of Child Services. It provides recruitment and retention efforts for Indiana's waiting children. We actively recruit for new foster and adoptive homes for children in foster care or residential placements.

Contact Information:

Ghislene Legere—Adoption Champion
3801 N. Temple Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46205
Phone: (317) 402-7962, (317) 545-5281 x272; Fax: (317) 547-6378

Email: glegere@childrensbureau.org
Website: www.in.gov/dcs/2740.htm



Indiana Heart Gallery

Service area: State of Indiana

The Indiana Heart Gallery is a traveling exhibit featuring portraits of children who want to be adopted. Typically, professional photographers donate their time and talent to help capture the unique and individual spirit of each child in the gallery. A Heart Gallery exhibit is

distinct because the photographs of the children are done as a portrait of the children's personality – a more personal representation than is derived from a typical adoption photo listing.

Contact Information:

Janetta Kegler—Indiana Heart Gallery Coordinator
8209 Ontario Lane
Indianapolis, IN 46268
Phone: (317) 407-2600; Fax: (317) 876-1765

Email: jkeglar@yahoo.com
Facebook: "Indiana Heart Gallery"



The Kentucky United Methodist Home for Children and Youth/Mary Kendall Adoption Program

Service area: State of Kentucky

The Mary Kendall Adoption Program has been providing adoption services to families since 1989. We are owned and operated by the Kentucky United Methodist Homes for Children and Youth, who have been serving children and families for more than 135 years.

We are a state licensed, non-profit child placing agency that offers home study, placement and post placement services for adoptive families in Kentucky. Our mission is to serve Christ by providing for the physical, emotional, educational and spiritual needs of children and families, specifically to help children and potential adoptive parents unite as forever families. There are countless children throughout the world in need of forever families. It is our belief that every child is entitled to a loving and safe home where he or she will be accepted, loved and nurtured. We are available Monday-Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Contact Information:

Jeannie Howard—Adoption Services Director
201 Phillips Court
Owensboro, KY 42303
Phone: (270) 683-3723 x249, (270) 570-1384; Fax: (270) 926-0817

Email: adopt@kyumh.org
Website: www.kyumh.org



Maryhurst, Inc.

Service area: Jefferson, Hardin, Bullitt, Nelson, Breckinridge, Oldham and Henry Counties

Maryhurst is the oldest operating child welfare agency in Kentucky. Nearly 200 children and teens are in our care each day, served through our residential treatment program, group home and foster/adoption care. Our work with greatest-need, abused and neglected children was highlighted in 2006 during an ABC News' Primetime special hosted by Diane Sawyer entitled "Calling All Angels" and again in 2011 entitled "Generation Meds."

Dedicated to providing foster homes with continued support, Maryhurst has partnered with Mockingbird Society to bring this innovative program design to Kentucky. The Maryhurst Mockingbird Family Model is based on the features found in strong, healthy families and serves to create an extension of family in foster care.

Maryhurst is licensed by the Commonwealth of Kentucky as both a child-caring and child-placing agency. We are accredited nationally through the Council on Accreditation.

Contact Information:

Shameika DeVane—Foster Parent Coordinator
5227 Bardstown Road
Louisville, KY 40291
Phone: (502) 499-1570, (502) 445-7077; Fax: (502) 499-0229

Email: Shameika.devane@maryhurst.org
Website: www.maryhurst.org



New Beginnings Family Services

Service area: Jefferson, Bullitt, Oldham, Trimble, Anderson, Henry, Spencer and Shelby Counties

New Beginnings Family Services, Inc. was founded in 2000 in Louisville, KY by Terry and Bridgette Jones and James and Brenda Graham; together their mission was to enrich the life of a child by providing therapeutic foster care services in Christian homes throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky. New Beginnings is li-

icensed to provide adoption services and therapeutic foster care in the state of Kentucky. We work with local community partners to provide services for families in need and will assist those individuals wanting to pursue adoption.

Services Offered:

- Case management services and therapy provided by licensed, Master's level, professionals experienced in dealing with specialized cases.
- Crisis intervention (24 hours/7 days a week)
- Professional and continuous training offered monthly (24 hours required per year)
- Intervention with birth families when appropriate and possible.
- Independent living skills transition training for adolescents.
- Adoption assistance with associated costs reimbursable by the State of Kentucky.

Contact Information:

Kelli Cauley—Trainer and Recruiter
11218 Professional Park Drive
Louisville, KY 40291
Phone: (502) 494-7363, (502) 485-0722; Fax: (502) 485-0792

Email: kcauley@nbfs-ky.com
Website: www.kentuckyfostercare.com



Orphan Care Alliance

Service area: Kentucky and Southern Indiana

The mission of Orphan Care Alliance (OCA) is to equip Christian families through the engagement of the local church to provide loving care and/or homes for the fatherless.

We are largely a base of volunteers who find our support through the churches and congregations in the region. We coordinate with our state governments to care for the fatherless children in our communities and equip Christians to be part of these children's support

networks in a variety of ways. Serving examples are advocacy, event volunteers, project volunteers, life coaching, a Safe Family, foster family, adoption, fund raising, donations to our care closet, office support and marketing support.

If you are called to serve the fatherless, please connect with us for more information.

Contact Information:

Jaclyn Miles
115 North Watterson Trail
Louisville, KY 40245
Phone: (502) 498-4765; Fax: (502) 515-3089

Email: info@orphancarealliance.org
Website: www.orphancarealliance.org



SAFY of Louisville

Service area: State of Kentucky

For over 27 years, children who have experienced the worst in life have found respite and new hope for a better life through Specialized Alternatives for Families & Youth of Kentucky, Inc. (SAFY) foster homes and services. Much more than a traditional foster care agency, SAFY is a local, private, not-for-profit organization focused on treatment, intervention, adoption, and placement

of children whose intensive needs cannot be managed through traditional foster care. SAFY provides services to youth who are experiencing abuse and neglect, drug and alcohol dependencies, behavioral problems, emotional disturbances, mental delays, physical challenges, and youth with special medical needs .

Contact Information:

Sarah Braun—Family Recruitment Specialist
4010 Dupont Circle, Suite 379
Louisville, KY 40207
Phone: (502) 813-8280; Fax: (502) 813-8281

Email: brauns@safy.org
Website: www.safy.org

The Shining Star Gallery

Service area: State of Kentucky

These beautiful children are Kentucky's shining stars...children waiting to be adopted. They may have suffered abuse or neglect in their own families. Now they're safe, but they are still awaiting permanent, loving homes. Their greatest hope is to find their own "forever family." That's why they volunteered to be a part of this project. The Shining Star Gallery will be traveling throughout Louisville this year. Organizers hope these professional photographs, accompanied by each child's biography, will enlighten audiences about adoption and its gifts. Kentucky has a growing need for more adoptive families to welcome these pictured children and hundreds more like them. For over 30 years, children have been featured on WLKY's Wednesday's Child. This gallery is an extension of those efforts. These photos may inspire someone to learn more about adopting. Take-home profiles of each child are available next to their portraits. They feature a web site and phone number to contact staff if you have any questions. While some may see it as risky to spotlight these children, we see a greater risk in not doing everything we can to find good homes for them.

Contact Information:

Lynda Price—Executive Dir. Wednesday's Child Inc.
Phone: (502) 551-9419

Email: wednesdayschild@bellsouth.net



St. Joseph Children's Home

Service area: Oldham, Jefferson, Shelby, Bullitt, Spencer and Henry Counties

St. Joe's believes in their mission statement of "Giving Children a Home." We feel that making the right match and providing intensive support services are key to

making successful adoptive placements.

In 2010, St. Joe's facilitated the largest number of adoptions of any private child caring agency in the state, while serving the most behaviorally difficult children. All children receive intensive therapy provided in-home, in-agency, and/or in the school/community settings. Clinicians and case managers are experienced in managing complicated reunification processes, therapeutic visitation, special education advocacy and pre-and post-adoptive care. St. Joe's provides a post-adoptive after care program to support the fragile post-adoptive period for our children and families. All St. Joe foster families receive 24/7, 365 days per year crisis on call availability, with a Foster Care Specialist/case manager AND a master's level therapist on call at all times.

Contact Information:

Lisa Barber Atwell—Assistant Director of Foster Care/Adoption Services

2823 Frankfort Avenue
Louisville, KY 40206

Phone: (502) 893-0241 x208, (502) 641-1406 (C); Fax: (502) 212-1291

Email: lisab@sjkids.org

Website: www.sjkids.org



Sunrise Children's Services

Service area: State of Kentucky

Sunrise Children's Services is a faith-based agency serving children through foster to adopt, foster care, ten residential programs, as well as youth and family services across Kentucky. Since 1869, Sunrise has been providing love and care to abused and neglected children through Christ-centered ministries. Sunrise is the only private child care provider in Kentucky offering a full array of services that is accredited by the Joint Commission, the country's premiere health care accreditation organization.

Sunrise believes in caring for those who care for our children. We surround each of our foster families with a highly qualified support team that includes a therapist and 24/7 on-call support. In addition, we offer ongoing training, a healthy per diem to help cover costs associated with caring for the children, respite, and a variety of other support services.

We are particularly proud of our commitment to finding adoptive homes for children who are unable to reunite with their families of origin. Since 2008, when Sunrise obtained our official foster-to-adopt license addition, we have celebrated 121 adoptions, with seven pending.

Contact Information:

Carmen Gibson—Assoc. Dir. of Faith-Based Partnerships
PO Box 1429

Mt. Washington, KY 40047

Phone: (855) 33-iCare, (800) 456-1386; Fax: (502) 538-1100

Email: info@sunrise.org

Website: www.sunrise.org

October 2012

Maryhurst, Inc.

-Foster Parent Meeting—Tuesday, Oct. 16, 6-8pm, Maryhurst Activities Center

New Beginnings Family Services

-FAITH Trainings—Tuesday evenings, ongoing, 6-8pm

-Fundraising event—Sunday, Oct. 21, Two Chicks Gifts

-Cultural Diversity Training—Tuesday, Oct. 23, 6-8pm

St. Joseph Children's Home

-Pre-Service Training—Contact Lisa Barber Atwell (lisab@sjkids.org) for more information

Sunrise Children's Services

-Foster Parent Training—Scheduled on an individual family basis

November 2012

Indiana Adoption Program

-Adoption Education Event—Monday, Nov. 5, 6:30pm, Madison-Jefferson County Library

Maryhurst, Inc.

-Foster Parent Meeting—Tuesday, Nov. 20, 6-8pm, Maryhurst Activities Center

New Beginnings Family Services

-FAITH Trainings—scheduled as needed

-Holiday Bazaar Open House—Sunday, Nov. 18, 1-6pm

Orphan Care Alliance

-Orphan Care Seminar—Saturday, Nov. 3, Highview Baptist Church

-Connect Adoption Support Meeting—Monday, Nov. 12, Calvary Christian Center

St. Joseph Children's Home

-Pre-Service Training—Contact Lisa Barber Atwell (lisab@sjkids.org) for more information

Sunrise Children's Services

-Foster Parent Training—Scheduled on an individual family basis

December 2012

Maryhurst, Inc.

-Foster Parent Meeting—Tuesday, Dec. 18, 6-8pm, Maryhurst Activities Center

New Beginnings Family Services

-FAITH Trainings—scheduled as needed

-Holiday Party—Saturday, Dec. 8, 5-10pm

Sunrise Children's Services

-Foster Parent Training—Scheduled on an individual family basis

The Adoption Process²

Adoption through the Special Needs Adoption Program is easier than most people think. SNAP is the Special Needs Adoption Program within the Department for Community Based Services that operates statewide to recruit families to adopt and/or foster Kentucky's waiting children. The process of preparing a family takes about six months. The steps to adoption are as follows:

Inquiry - To express your interest in becoming a foster and/or adoptive parent, call your local protection and permanency (P and P) office to find out when the next informational meeting about becoming a foster/adoptive parent will be held.

Orientation - Attend an informational meeting to learn more about the philosophy of the Department for Community Based Services, the children awaiting placement and the process of our adoption and foster care program.

Preparation - Attend training sessions that will help you understand the needs of the children and develop an understanding of how to meet those needs.

Family profile - While attending preparation meetings, you will be asked to complete some forms for background checks, medical history, and you will have to have fingerprinting performed at your regional office as part of your background check.

Family Consultations - A social worker, called a Recruitment and Certification (R&C) worker will come to your home to interview all members of your household. This provides an opportunity for you to get to know one another.

Approval - Once you have completed the above steps you will be ready to increase the size of your family. The agency is not obligated to approve or place a child with any family.

Selection - Once you express interest in parenting a particular child to SNAP staff or your R and C worker, you will get the opportunity to learn more about the child after the child's worker has reviewed your home study and has had a chance to talk with your R and C worker. Families are not required to accept a child for placement.

Placement - When all parties are in agreement that placement should be considered, regular visits will be scheduled, giving you and the child the opportunity to learn about each other.

² All information adapted from <http://chfs.ky.gov/dcbs/dpp/adoptionprocess.htm> and <http://chfs.ky.gov/dcbs/dpp/Special+Needs+Adoption+Program+%28SNAP%29.htm>

Frequently Asked Questions about Adoption³

1. Why do children become available for adoption?

There are many reasons, but what is true for each child is that children grow up best in healthy, safe families. When a child is being neglected and/or abused, the child is placed in foster care until the child's parents can provide a safe home for their children. When a child is removed from the birth parents' home for protection, a treatment plan is developed with the parents' involvement to address, and hopefully resolve, whatever is putting the child at risk of harm. If the parents are unwilling or unable to do this, or they have problems that could take the child's entire childhood to overcome, then the court terminates parental rights and the child is then awaiting adoption.

2. What does Special Needs mean?

There are as many special needs as there are children. This can include being older or having brothers and sisters that need to stay together. A majority of the children have emotional scars of some degree from being abused, neglected or abandoned and they need a special family to help them heal. Other children may have educational needs that require special education services or physical problems that may require special equipment, medical, or dietary services. Most of the children have a combination of issues; for example, a child may be ten years old and need special education classes. Almost all of the children have learned to be leery of adults so they won't get emotionally hurt again. It is hard for them to trust. Who can blame them? The ultimate special need is when there is no family for a child who needs one.

3. Where do these children come from?

They come from all over Kentucky. Most of the children listed are currently in a foster home. The foster home could be the child's only placement since being removed from their birth family, or it could be one in a series of moves the child has experienced. Sometimes the children come from a previous adoptive placement that did not work. Other times a child may need more structure and treatment than can be provided in a family setting so the child lives in a residential treatment facility or group home. Children have been successfully adopted from each one of these settings.

4. How much does it cost to adopt a special needs child?

Are you sitting down? The answer is nothing! There are no adoption fees or charges for your homestudy. The Kentucky Cabinet for Families and Children is funded by your tax dollars. Through the adoption assistance program, your attorney fees and related court costs for finalizing the adoption can be reimbursed. Additionally, there are tax deductions and tax credits available to adoptive families for which you may qualify. Most of the children in SNAP qualify for financial assistance through the adoption subsidy program. See question number 9 which addresses those who want to adopt but don't believe they can afford it.

5. How long does this take?

There are many factors that determine this. Generally, it takes around six months to be approved. The length of time before placement depends on the type of child or children desired.

³ All information adapted from <http://chfs.ky.gov/NR/exeres/FF2ED61D-FC45-41D0-A501-05DDD3E71F42.htm>

6. How do I know if I am eligible to adopt?

Call and talk to one of the SNAP staff or the Recruitment and Certification (R&C) worker in your area. The requirements are more flexible than you may think.

- You must be a resident.
- You must be at least twenty-one years of age.
- Your family status can be: You can be single, married, divorced, or widowed. You can have step children, birth children, adopted, other children in foster care or adult children in your home. You can be a working couple, a working mother or father, a stay at home parent or retired.
- Suitable living arrangements. You can live in a house, apartment, or mobile home as long as you have sufficient space for another child. The child does not have to have a room of his own, but we do not want the child sleeping on a couch in the living room either. Bunk beds are fine.
- Again, both single and married families are needed.
- Reasonably good health. You need to physically be able to parent the specific child you want with a normal expectation of raising the child to maturity. People with medical conditions, which are under control or a physical disability, are eligible. A physical and report from your doctor are required.
- Adequate income. There is no income level that is required. Rather, your income should be enough to meet the needs of your current family. Financial assistance is available for many of the children in the form of an adoption subsidy.
- Stable family relationships. If you are married, it is very important that both parents want to adopt or foster. If you or another family member have sought counseling or similar help to overcome a problem, you are still eligible. In fact, people who seek help when needed often make very good foster and adoptive parents.
- Flexibility. Parents are needed who can "give and take." Patience and a sense of humor are a must for parenting. Flexibility also refers to the openness of the parent(s) to receiving help from their worker and community resources, as many of our children need mental health counseling to heal. Sometimes new parenting techniques are needed to help children who have been abused and/or neglected. Parenting a child who does not trust adults is different than parenting one that has always been safe.
- Successfully complete the preparation and approval process. The adoption process begins with a series of group educational meetings (30 hours total) to provide an opportunity to learn more about special needs adoption/foster care and to seriously consider your expectations and how becoming an adoptive or foster parent will change your family. Next, one of the R&C staff will visit your home to ensure it is a safe environment (for example - do you have smoke alarms?) and to help you decide what kind of child or children would best fit in your family. A police record check of the domestic violence and child abuse databases, personal references and other paperwork are required.
- The last step is for your social worker to compile all the material along with a written summary or narrative about your family, your strengths and the type of child(ren) you seek and submit it for approval in your region. The approval of your home for foster care and/or adoption does not guarantee the placement of a child.

7. How is a family selected for a child or sibling group?

Matching the strengths of a family with the needs of a child is not easy. It is such an important decision for the family and the child that the child's social worker does not make the decision alone. A selection committee of at least three people is utilized: the child's worker, the worker's supervisor and a third party - usually an adoption specialist familiar with the case. Each member reads and reviews the study and then they meet to identify and choose the most appropriate family for the child. Your R&C worker may be contacted for more information on your family. If you are not selected, your worker will be told why and will share the reasons with you. If you are not selected, it does not mean anything is wrong with your family. It may mean the child's needs are greater than you can accept, or the services the child needs are not available in your area, or that there were many families seeking the same child.

DON'T GIVE UP! You may not be a strong match for one child and be the BEST match for another!

8. Can the birth parents come and get the child I adopt?

No. Once the child's birth parents' rights are terminated there is an opportunity for them to appeal the court's decision. This appeal time is only thirty days from the time the judge signs the termination order. Once this "window" is closed the birth parents and all birth relatives have no legal recourse and legally are not related to the child. Sometimes a case is on appeal while the adoption recruitment proceeds. In these relatively rare cases, any interested family will be informed that the case is a "legal risk" case. Some families are comfortable with this risk and some are not. You will be asked if you are open to these situations when you fill out the Acceptance Scale. If not, a legal risk case will not be offered to you. If later, you see a child that you are very interested in and did not check that you are willing to accept a legal risk placement, call your R&C worker and your Acceptance Scale can be updated.

9. I want to adopt, but can't afford another child. Is there financial help?

Yes! It is called Adoption Assistance or adoption subsidy. It is a program designed to remove financial barriers for families wanting to adopt special needs children. It provides a monthly check to meet the needs of the children who qualify. Most of the children in SNAP are eligible. The amount of the assistance is based on the child's age and special needs. The assistance is tax-free and is sent to the parents each month. Prior to the child's placement, your R&C worker will help you to develop your assistance package. The adoption assistance, also called adoption subsidy, continues until the child is eighteen or nineteen years old if the child stays in school. A Kentucky medical assistance card is generally available for all children who have an adoption assistance agreement. For more information, contact the R&C worker in your area and request a copy of "Kentucky's Adoption Assistance Handbook for Parents."

10. Can I adopt a child from another state or another country? Are independent or private agency adoptions allowed?

Yes. To access this information, ask the R&C worker in your area. There are links on the SNAP website to a list of private agencies in Kentucky licensed for adoption and information on how to adopt children from another state. Also, see information on the Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children on the next page.

Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children⁴

If a child is born in one state, commonly known as the "sending state" and the adoptive family lives in another state, called the "receiving state", the adoption placement must be approved by the ICPC, the Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children. All states are members of the ICPC. For the purposes of an adoption it is illegal to move a child across state lines without meeting the requirements of the ICPC.

The documentation submitted to the ICPC for approval includes the adoptive parent's home study, the child's birth information and other health information, biological information on the birth parents, and relinquishment or termination documentation from the birth parents. Documentation for the child and the adopting parents will be forwarded to the ICPC office in the sending state which will forward the documents to the ICPC office in the receiving state. The ICPC offices review the documentations to verify that their state laws have been complied with.

Once approval has been made, the child can be placed with the adopting family who are from another state. It is not required, but recommended to hire an adoption professional such as an adoption attorney or agency to assist with the ICPC procedures.

Kentucky:

Department for Community Based Services

<http://chfs.ky.gov/dcbs/dpp/adoptionsservices.htm>

Indiana:

Indiana Department of Child Services

<http://www.in.gov/dcs/2730.htm>

⁴ All information adapted from <http://www.abcadoptions.com/icpc.htm>.

Ten Questions for Parents Preparing to Adopt or Foster⁵

We believe it is critically important that parents who are preparing to adopt or foster a child must be honest and realistic about the journey and the challenges that lie ahead. Just as Jesus in Luke 14 challenged those who would follow him to “count the cost,” so too parents who respond to God’s call to adopt or foster must be willing to count the cost of the adoption journey and prepare to “lay down their lives” to love their child and help him or her become all that God intends.

The following questions are designed to help parents (and parents-to-be) begin to honestly assess the journey ahead...and what it will require. We encourage you to thoughtfully and prayerfully consider these questions. They are not meant to scare you or in any way discourage you from continuing on this amazing path. Instead, our desire is simply that these questions will point you toward the hope and help that you need to form a strong and lasting connection with your child as you faithfully follow God’s call in your life.

1. Are you willing to acknowledge and fully embrace your child’s history, including that which you know and that which you will likely never know?
2. Are you willing to accept that your child has been affected by his/her history, possibly in profound ways, and as a result that you will need to parent your child in a way that exhibits true compassion and promotes connection and healing?
3. Are you willing to parent differently than how you were parented, how you have parented in the past, or how your friends parent their children? Are you willing to “un-learn” certain parenting strategies and approaches that may not be effective with your child, even if you have used these strategies and approaches successfully with your other children in the past?
4. Are you willing to educate yourself, your parents, family and friends on an ongoing basis in order to promote understanding of your child’s needs and how best to meet those needs?
5. Are you willing to be misunderstood, criticized and even judged by others who do not understand your child’s history, the impacts of that history and how you have been called to love and connect with your child in order to help him/her heal and become all that God intends?
6. Are you prepared to advocate for your child’s needs, including at school, church, in extracurricular settings and otherwise, in order to create predictability and promote environments that enable your child to feel safe and allow him/her to succeed?
7. Are you willing to sacrifice your own convenience, expectations and desires in order to connect with your child and help him/her heal, even if that process is measured in years, not months?
8. Are you willing to fully embrace your child’s holistic needs, including his/her physical, emotional, relational and spiritual needs?
9. Are you willing to seek ongoing support and maintain long-term connections with others who understand your journey and the challenges that you face? Are you willing to intentionally seek and accept help when you encounter challenges with your child that you are not equipped to adequately deal with?

⁵ All information taken from <http://empoweredtoconnect.org/ten-questions-for-parents-preparing-to-adopt-or-foster/>.

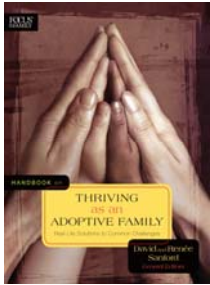
10. Are you willing to acknowledge that you as a parent bring a great deal to the equation when it comes to how your child will attach and connect? Are you willing to honestly examine (on an ongoing basis) your motivations and expectations relating to your adoption journey? Are you willing to look at your own past (including your past losses and trauma, both big and small) and consider how your past may impact your interactions with your child? Are you willing to consistently examine your role as parent as you experience challenges and difficulties along the journey?

As you read through the above questions, you may have concluded that some of the questions didn't apply to you and your situation. That may be the case to some extent, as every adoption and foster care experience is unique. However, we encourage you to spend some time reading and talking with other experienced adoptive and foster parents about what you should realistically expect as you travel this journey. We find that parents sometimes start with less than accurate assumptions about how the adoption or foster care journey will unfold, and as a result they are more likely to form unrealistic expectations. We believe that these questions are helpful and instructive for all parents considering or pursuing adoption and foster care, and we hope that as you work through them they will lead you toward greater insight and understanding.

Focus on the Family Support Resources

Wait No More

Kelly and John Rosati never expected to adopt four children from the U.S. foster care system. But God's plan for them turned out to be even more extraordinary than they could have planned. Follow Kelly and John in their amazing journey through the child welfare system. You'll be inspired by the story of how God brought their family together, and challenged by their honest and revealing look at the desperate need of children still waiting for families. The Rosati's story is one of hope amid challenges, beauty from ashes, and faith that sustains. It's a beautiful picture of what family truly looks like.

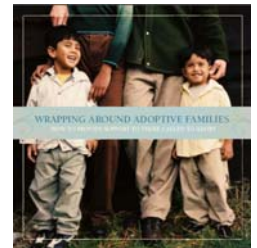


Handbook on Thriving as an Adoptive Family

Adoption is a high calling from God, and the Christian home is primary soil for planting seeds of faith. But how will post-adoption challenges affect this growth? Many families do not feel adequately prepared for unexpected challenges like a child who has been adopted fighting with his new siblings, not wanting to be touched, or showing signs of reactive attachment disorder (RAD). Packed with practical advice, ideas and resources, this distinctively Christian book is an important parenting resource that provides comprehensive, topical, Bible-based solutions for the inevitable challenges after adoption.

Wrapping Around Adoptive Families

There are many different ways to minister to God's orphan children and to the adoptive families that have welcomed these children home. This booklet makes it clear that struggling adoptive families need their church families to support them during times of trials. While the suggestions in this booklet may not apply to all situations, they represent a general "cry of the heart" of adoptive families who welcomed home an emotionally wounded or struggling child. The goal is to provide practical guidance for churches seeking effective ways to support adoptive families.



Attachment in Adoption

The parenting of children from hard places can be a challenge for many adoptive parents - but there is hope for even the most complex situations. "Attachment in Adoption" gives adoptive and foster parents in-depth insights into why their child may have difficulty adapting to life in a new family - and gives them hope for success.

Other Resources



The Connected Child



Finding Home



Castaway Kid



Small Town, Big Miracle

To download *Created to Connect – A Christian's Guide to The Connected Child* or to view helpful videos and articles for adoptive and foster families, visit www.empoweredtoconnect.org.

Counseling for Families in Need

Our staff is trained to help answer your specific questions, provide resources and pray with adoptive families. Families seeking someone to talk with can call 1-800-A-Family (232-6459) or contact our counseling help line directly for a consultation at 1-855-771-HELP.

Special Thanks to...



Wait No More Initiation Form
Your Passport to Initiating the Process of Adopting from Foster Care*

Date	First Name(s)	Last Name
Address		
Address:		City & State:
County:		Zip:
Home Phone:		
Cell Phone:		
Email:		
Best way and time of day to reach you:		
Are you interested in a particular child? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, give the child's name: If no, what type of child would be of interest to you?		
Are you open to a sibling group? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Number of children desired: Age range you are interested in: Race/ethnicity: Gender Preferred: <input type="checkbox"/> Boy <input type="checkbox"/> Girl <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/> Either		
Please list the agency you prefer to work with: <div style="text-align: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> No Preference</div>		

In order for us to best serve you, please **do one of the following**:

- Drop this form into one of the receptacles before you leave today
- Fax it to 719-548-5947
- Mail it to Focus on the Family Attn: Erin Eberspacher Colorado Springs 80995

*Initiation of the Process will be followed by several steps including, but not limited to, attending an orientation and submitting an official application. Please see the agency of your choice for additional information and thank you for initiating the process of adoption from foster care.