



CHOICE
ADOPTIONS

Information Packet Programs and Services





Hello!

We're happy you're here! I'm sure adoption is something you've been thinking about for some time and we are thrilled you are interested in working with us. We've been doing this a long time (since 1958) and the services we offer are inclusive, holistic and client-centered. Our team works closely with prospective and placed adoptive families, birth parents, partner agencies and our communities at large. As you read through this booklet, you'll see we're a full service child-placing agency providing many supportive adoption services. We pride ourselves in our ethical, transparent and innovative approach and we look forward to answering your questions and walking alongside you throughout this important season of life.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with questions and we look forward to working with you. Congratulations on beginning your adoption journey.

Taryn O'Flynn

Executive Director

Overview of Programs and Services

Choice Adoptions offers a variety of programs and services. Since 1958, we have been preparing, educating and supporting all involved in the adoption process while protecting vulnerable children. This. Is. What. We. Do. Depending on how you plan to grow your family, we can help. Our Local and National Infant programs are for those families hoping to add an infant to their family. Our Foster Child Adoption Program is for families who have space in their hearts and home for an older child who needs a permanent, loving family. Our Independent or "Home Study Only" program is for families who plan to match with a birthmom/child on their own and just need a valid home study for Oregon or Washington. Choice also offers mediation and relinquishment counseling services along with birth parent support services.

Our Local Infant Program

(for families currently residing in Oregon or Washington)

The Local Infant Program is also one of Choice's Domestic Infant Adoption Programs. Through a careful home study process, Choice matches families who long to parent with birth parents who are facing an unexpected pregnancy and are not able to parent. The birth mother selects one of Choice's waiting families for her baby. Both families decide on the level of openness they want in the placement. Waiting time can depend on many factors, but can generally be 18 to 36 months, or longer, after the approval of a home study. The Local Program primarily works with birth parents and adoptive families in the states of Oregon and Washington. However, we sometimes have a birth mother outside Oregon and Washington who want to place with one of Choice's waiting families.

Choice Adoptions encourages an open adoption. The basis of an open adoption is developing a relationship with the birth parents for the well-being of the child. Adoptive parents should anticipate ongoing communication with their baby's birth parents including pictures, letters, and visits.

Steps to Adopting through the Local Infant Program

(For families currently residing in Oregon / Washington)

APPLICATION: The application is the first step in the adoption process. The application can be found at www.choiceadoptions.org or by contacting our office at 503-232-1211. Mail in a completed application along with the following documents: the fee listed on the application, two family photos, and copies of government issued ID(s) or passport(s). Please check with Choice prior to application, as there may be a hold or waitlist.

CONTRACT: Upon approval of the application, and possible waitlist time, Choice will send contracts for services, process background clearances, provide the home study packet and the Domestic Infant Training Course. This information is needed by the social worker conducting the home study. Once the contracts, fees and all other required documents and training have been completed and received, a social worker will be assigned to conduct a home safety inspection and interviews to complete the state adoption home study.

EDUCATION: 13 hours of pre-adoption education is required for all adopting families and provides important basic information about adoption-related issues such as prenatal and medical risks, understanding of transracial parenting issues, open adoption and importance of birthparents, and understanding grief and loss in the adoption triad. The Choice Adoptions Domestic Infant Program will provide the necessary training for families to complete. Our training also includes an ongoing Waiting Families Webinars that all families will have access to.

HOME STUDY: The social worker will conduct the adoption home study, which, in addition to education, includes:

- medical forms
- financial forms and tax returns
- employment letters
- criminal and child abuse checks

- personal references
- releases of information
- general information and present life autobiographies

PROFILE BOOK: After the completion of the home study packet and Domestic Infant Training Course, instruction will be sent for how to create profile books. These books will be shown to birth families and allow for each family to share a little of who they are and glimpse into their lives. Instructions for designing the book and a sample are included in the Domestic Infant Training Course. Once the study has been approved and the profile book has been completed, the profile will be added to the *Choice Adoptions Waiting Family page* and the matching process will begin. Profile books can also be sent to partner agencies according to the budget and preferences set by the pre-adoptive parent(s).

THE MATCHING PROCESS: Birth parents select families based on criteria they consider important for their expected baby. After being selected, adoptive families will receive as much background and current medical, genetic, and social information regarding the birth parents as is available. After reviewing the information and consulting with the Program Director and other trusted advisors, the choice to accept or decline the opportunity to match is made. In most cases, a match meeting with the birth parent(s) and adoptive parents will be scheduled and facilitated by a Choice advocate. Following the match meeting, all parties are asked to decide if they would like to commit to the match.

CHILD ARRIVAL: The birth plan and particular placement arrangements will be discussed between the adoptive parent advocate and the birthparent's advocate. In most cases, the adoptive family is invited by the birth mother to be a part of the hospital experience. Usually, 1 to 2 days after the birth of the child, he or she can be placed directly from the hospital into the custody of the adoptive parents.

POST PLACEMENT: The social worker will make two in-home post placement visits and, in most cases, will then recommend finalization proceedings. Once all post

placement and contractual obligations have been met, Choice Adoptions can consent to the adoption. The necessary legal documents will be sent to the adoptive parents' adoption attorney who will complete the finalization. Adoptive families are responsible to retain an adoption attorney to initiate proceedings for legal finalization as soon as possible at or before placement of the child.

AGENCY FEES: Choice Adoptions' heart for finding adoptive families for children is reflected in the efforts to keep fees as low as possible. Fees herein are subject to change without notice; please contact the office for current fees.

Local Infant Program Fee Schedule

(Fees are assessed and evaluated annually and are subject to change without notice; please contact Choice for current fees.)

• Application	\$500
• Domestic Infant Training course	\$500
• Waiting Families Webinars	\$400
• Adoption Home Study (plus mileage)	\$3,200
• Post-placement reports (2) (plus mileage)	\$1,400
• Program development fee	\$6,800
Total due prior to home study	\$12,800 plus mileage and travel time (mileage billed at current IRS rate)
• Birth Parent Support Fee*:	\$8,500 <i>Due at time of match acceptance</i>
• Placement Fee:	\$16,500 <i>Due at time of placement</i>
TOTAL CHOICE FEES	\$37,800
ADDITIONAL FEES	
Home Study Update	\$350
Home Study Update with Visit	\$600

**\$8,500 is the minimum fee for birth parent support. Families are responsible for all birth parent expenses that exceed this amount. No refund of minimum deposit is available.*

Extra Estimated Fees

- Finalization attorney fees \$2,500-4,000

**Infant Programs - Additional expenses may include, but are not limited to three color copies of family profile book, travel and mileage for home study, post placement visits, and finalization expenses.*

National Infant Program

(For families currently residing in Oregon or Washington)

Families enrolled in our Local Infant Program also have the opportunity to participate in our National Infant Adoption Program. Families who participate in both programs may have the opportunity to review birth parent profiles from adoption agencies across the country that are seeking prospective adoptive families.

If a family is selected for a national placement, they will work collaboratively with both the national agency and Choice Adoptions to facilitate the adoption and support them throughout the placement process.

Pre-adoptive parents must travel to the state where the baby is born. Once the placement has been made and the documents with the placing agency have been completed, the adoptive family will need to remain in the state for interstate approval before returning home. Interstate approval (ICPC) generally takes 2 to 10 days.

National Infant Program Fee Schedule

- Application \$500
- Domestic Infant Training course \$500
- Waiting Families Webinars \$400

• Adoption Home Study (plus mileage)	\$3,200
• Post-placement reports (2) (plus mileage)	\$1,400
• Program development fee	\$6,800
• Coordination fee (due at time of match)	\$2,500
Total due prior to home study	\$15,300 plus mileage and travel time (mileage billed at current IRS rate)

ADDITIONAL FEES

***Birth parent support and placement fee are paid directly to the placing agency

Home Study Update	\$350
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Home Study Update with Visit	\$600
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Extra Estimated Fees

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| • Finalization attorney fees | \$2,500-4,000 |
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*Infant Programs - Additional expenses may include, but are not limited to three color copies of family profile book, travel and mileage for home study, post placement visits, and finalization expenses.

*Some states require more than two supervision visits; if this is the case, you will be invoiced an additional \$700 per post placement due at time of service.

Foster Child Adoption Program (Oregon Families Only)

The Department of Human Services in Oregon has many children in foster care waiting for permanent adoptive and guardianship homes. The children in state custody can have a wide range of special needs resulting from varied backgrounds and life experiences. These children may have suffered from physical, emotional, sexual abuse or neglect. They may have experienced multiple homes and varied

family settings, making attachment difficult. Some are physically or mentally delayed. All of them need unconditional love, unlimited encouragement and total commitment from a family of their own.

While it is always the first choice to see children reunited with their biological family, for many children, returning to their families is not possible, or a safe, stable option. As a result, they have been released to the state for adoption or permanent guardianship. Choice Adoptions is committed to helping these children find safe, loving homes of their own. Choice Adoptions has very experienced and dedicated caseworkers who will walk through this process with families every step of the way.

Waiting Children

Children eligible for adoption may be viewed on the following websites:

Northwest Adoption Exchange - www.nwae.org

AdoptUSKids - www.adoptuskids.org

Steps to Adopt through Oregon's Foster Child Adoption Program

INQUIRY: The first step is to contact Choice by phone (503-232-1211) or email mail@choiceadoptions.org to learn about this program and get all questions answered.

APPLICATION: Submit an application with the following documents: application fee, two family photos, certificates of any completed pre-adoption training, and copies of government issued photo ID cards.

CONTRACT: Upon approval of your application, a letter of instruction will be sent out along with contracts for services, and information regarding the required special needs adoption training education. Pre-adoptive parents will be asked to submit the home study packet documents, which include: background checks, medical and financial forms, personal references, release of information form, and an autobiography among other required documentation. This information is needed by the social worker

conducting the home study. Once the contracts, fees, documents, and training certificates have been received, a Choice Adoptions social worker will be assigned to conduct interviews, do a home safety assessment, and write the adoption home study.

EDUCATION: Pre-adoption education, Resource and Adoptive Training (RAFT), is required and provides important basic information about adoption and trauma related issues and is required for all prospective adopting families.

Oregon State Foster Adopt Program Fee Schedule

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|------------------------------------|---------|
| • Application fee | \$500 |
| • Foster Child Adoption Home Study | \$3,500 |
| • Committee Process Fee | \$2,700 |

TOTAL: \$6,700 plus mileage billed at current IRS rate

Additional expenses:

Annual home study update	\$350
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Annual home study update with visit	\$600
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*Please contact the office with questions and to receive current fee information. Some costs may be reimbursed at finalization through the State of Oregon. Ongoing financial assistance may be available for each child. Tax credits are also available through the Federal government.

Home Study and Post Placement Services (Oregon / Washington Families)

Choice Adoptions has been completing home studies and post placement reports for over 50 years. Choice Adoptions is licensed in both Oregon and Washington and is able to write home study reports for families living anywhere in both states. After placement, Choice provides supervision and mandated post placement visits and

reports to courts. Choice Adoptions is dedicated to providing high quality professional services in an expedited manner. Social workers are able to begin your study as soon as paperwork is approved and fees are paid.

Home Study Timeline

- Contact Choice Adoptions to get questions answered and learn the process (mail@choiceadoptions.org or 503-232-1211).
- The family fills out an application and submits it to Choice Adoptions along with the required documentation.
- The Program Director reviews the application for approval. Please allow 7 business days.
- The home study packet is sent to the family, including the background check process and adoption education options.
- When the family completes the required adoption training and home study paperwork, Choice Adoptions assigns a social worker to do the home study.
- The family will be contacted by the social worker to set up interviews and the required home safety assessment visit to begin their home study.

Home Study Facts

- A home study is a report required by the state for every domestic adoption to determine the eligibility of adoptive parents.
- Home studies are valid for 2 years in Oregon and Washington state. Home studies need to be updated after 1 year to update medicals, background checks, and financials. Home studies are renewed every two years.
- A home study can only be used for one adoption (sibling groups are considered one adoption if the children are placed at the same time).
- Home studies are confidential and shared only with the family and professionals involved with the adoption.
- Each type of adoption has a slightly different home study process and

requirements. To save time and money, it is important to choose the type of adoption you want to pursue before obtaining a home study.

- During the home study process, a minimum of 10 adoption training hours are required depending on the type of adoption.
- Choice Adoptions is not an international child placing agency.

Post Placement Services

After placement, one or more additional social worker visits with the family and reports are required to ensure that the child and family are adjusting well and are equipped with all necessary resources. The social worker summarizes the visit in a written post placement report. Reports are filed with the court. Post placement requirements vary depending on the state, but generally involve 1 to 6 reports. Choice Adoptions has extensive experience in providing post placement supervision.

Home Study and Post Placement Fee Schedule

(For families currently residing in Oregon or Washington)

Independent Adoptions (child born in the US)

- Application Fee \$500
- Home study Fee \$3,200
- Oregon Independent Court report: Contracted by Oregon DHS
(Court report fees may be paid directly to the State of Oregon or Choice Adoptions – case by case)
- Coordinating Agency Fee \$500
- Post Placement fee \$700 per visit/report

*The number of post placement visits/reports vary depending on the state requirements.

Home Study Updates/Addendums

New to the area? Switching programs? Choice Adoptions is able to provide home study updates and addendums as needed. The update/addendum price is dependent

on the type of documentation, visits, and writing required. Price to be determined on a case by case basis.

Home Study Update	\$350
Home Study Update with Visit	\$700

Finalization of Adoption

Families are responsible to finalize their adoption. Each family retains their own attorney. Choice can recommend an attorney from the several we work with regularly. Adoption Attorney estimated fees can be between \$2,500 and \$5,000.

Travel Expenses

Caseworker's mileage is billed to the family at the current IRS standard rate per mile. Trips over 150 miles round trip require car rental (which actually saves the families money). Actual expenses are billed to the family in lieu of the IRS standard rate per mile. Should an overnight stay or alternate travel arrangements (such as a flight) be needed, the adopting family is responsible for paying the expenses including but not limited to travel time, food, and lodging.

Affording Adoption

The prospect of paying for adoption can be intimidating. Luckily, there are plenty of resources to help make your adoption more affordable.

Adoption Tax Credit

This provides a tax credit (an amount that can be deducted directly from the taxes you owe) for expenses incurred in the adoption of a child who is not the child of the taxpayer's spouse. The adoption tax credit is adjusted each year based upon the cost of living allowance. For 2026, this non-refundable credit is \$17,670. The full credit will be available to taxpayers with modified adjusted gross incomes. For more information regarding the adoption tax credit please contact a tax

professional or visit <http://www.irs.gov/taxtopics/tc607.html>

Most children adopted from foster care are eligible for adoption assistance, (also called a subsidy) in an effort to keep adoption expenses low. This typically includes a medical card and a monthly stipend to care for the child.

Adoption Loans & Grants

There are many loans and grants available for families planning to adopt. Whether you are facing financial hardship or have a special circumstance, your Adoption Specialist will be able to point you in the right direction.

Adoption is expensive. We know this. Some families crowd fund or borrow from a 401k or Life Insurance Policy to cover the cost of adoption. Some people have an employee benefit program or a military benefit. We are familiar with them all and can help you find resources to relieve the financial burden.

We know this is a lot of information, but we hope you find it helpful in your decision making process. Our team is here to help, answer questions, talk through options, and hopefully give you some peace of mind while you navigate your process.

Feel free to email us, schedule a more comprehensive phone call, or if you're in the Portland area, stop by our main office.

Choice Adoptions

6030 SE 52nd Ave. Suite 205

Portland, OR 97206

main office: 503-232-1211 office hours: Monday - Thursday 8:00am - 4:00pm

www.choiceadoptions.org