

Mission

The Pregnancy Support and Adoption Services program of Catholic Social Services supports the tradition of family life and affirms the belief that every child is a creation of God. The program assists the family of origin and the family of adoption to make a confident and loving plan for their own and their child's future. With education and respect, the families grow to an understanding of lifelong commitment and love.

The focus of Adoption has gradually evolved from solving a life problem to creating a life plan for the child, based on the following precepts:

- Every child is special and deserves a permanent and loving home.
- Adoption is a lifelong commitment involving birth parents, adoptive parents, adoptive children and extended family members.
- Every adoption is a sacred trust to be treated with deep respect.
- Children have a right to know about their birth heritage.
- Children need to know that their birth families made a loving choice.
- The emphasis is on honesty and candor in trying to preserve a child's identity with respect to her/his heritage.
- A good adoption plan involves unbiased and pressure-free counseling for all parties

Catholic Social Services is accredited
by the Council on Accreditation



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PREGNANCY SUPPORT & ADOPTION SERVICES

INFANT ADOPTION PROGRAM



Our Program

The Infant Adoption Program of Catholic Social Services (CSS) is licensed in the State of Alaska as a child placement agency and has been facilitating adoptions for over 40 years. The Infant Adoption Program provides adoption services to prospective and adoptive families in coordination with the CSS Pregnancy Support Services Program who provides support to the birth families. In this program we typically place children who are between newborn and two years old.

How do we get started?

All families who wish to adopt through CSS must attend a three day informational workshop before submitting an application. Workshop topics include openness in adoption, issues in transracial adoption, and understanding birth parents. To receive notification and registration information for upcoming workshops, please visit www.cssalaska.org and submit the intake form, or call (907) 222-7373 for a paper version.

The Application

The application is designed to gather a wide variety of information about the adoptive family. State and Federal Clearances will be completed, as well as a records check through the Office of Children's Services. You will also need to provide verification of employment and income, as well as proof of marriage or divorce. You will need to provide the names of friends and family that are willing to provide references. A detailed autobiographical outline will also be completed by both adoptive parents.

The Home Study

After your application is submitted, you will be contacted by a professional writer to complete your home study. A home study is a written report for the court that assesses the appropriateness of the adoptive home as a permanent placement for a child. The writer will meet with the adoptive family at least two times in their home, and will conduct individual and group interviews to learn more about the family.

What happens next?

After your home study, you will begin work on your portfolio, which is the information presented to birth parents when they are selecting their adoptive family. Your portfolio will include a letter to the birth parents, photographs, basic demographic information, and various questionnaires that will help you describe yourselves and what is important to you. When you submit your portfolio to CSS, you will discuss your preferences regarding children and birth families. This will include your level of openness, the child's race and ethnicity, prenatal exposure to drugs or alcohol, and potential for physical illness or mental health needs. After your preferences are completed, you are active in CSS's waiting pool and your portfolio will be presented to any birth family with a situation that matches your preferences.

After Placement

After you accept the placement of a child, CSS will supervise the placement for a minimum of six months and will complete three post placement visits during that time period. This supervision is designed to ensure that everyone is adjusting well and will provide CSS with the information necessary to submit a recommendation to the court that the adoption be finalized.

How much does an infant adoption through CSS cost?

CSS utilizes a four phase fee schedule that reflects the different stages of the adoption process. We calculate costs based on a sliding fee schedule. To get a better sense of your family's specific costs and adoption funding resources, please visit our website at www.cssalaska.org. Total costs range from \$13,550 to \$21,050.

How can I learn more?

For more information, please visit our website at www.cssalaska.org. You will find helpful articles on adoption, recommended reading, and other information and resources that will help you begin your adoption journey.

Other Services

- Pregnancy & Options Counseling
- International Adoption
- Wendy's Wonderful Kids & Waiting Child
- Home Studies for the Office of Children's Services Special Needs Adoption
- Post Placement Counseling
- Post Adoption Information & Mutual Consent Registry
- Post Adoption Mediation/Vision Merging
- Assistance in Out of State Adoptions