

LSS ADOPTION

Process At A Glance

Your journey has begun with this initial contact with Lutheran Social Services (LSS) of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. Here is a handy “at a glance” guide to help you learn more about the adoption process.



- 1. Making Decisions:** If all of this information is confusing — and you just can't make sense of it — we will be happy to meet with you personally to help you sort through the decisions facing you. This can include a comparison of each of our programs, resources to help you afford adoption, and we can also help you to compare programs or services with other agencies. This is a free service that we offer.
- 2. Register to Adopt:** Fill out the enclosed registration and return it to the office of LSS. There is no fee, and no commitment to any of our services by taking this initial step. Someone will follow up with you once your registration is received.
- 3. Screening Interview:** Once you have begun your journey with us you will have an individualized session with one of our adoption social workers. This meeting will be your introduction to the person you will be relating to within LSS as well as a time to learn more about a specific program. After this meeting you will commit yourself to working with LSS.
- 4. Adoption Education:** Seminars with other adoptive families are offered throughout the year. Typically about 18 hours in length, they are offered at convenient times and places for most adoptive applicants.
- 5. Paperwork & Background Checks:** As you begin your process into adoption you will complete many questionnaires, providing references, health status reports, as well as police and human services checks. Your social worker will bring all of these components together into a comprehensive home study report.
- 6. Home Visit:** Your social worker will make a visit to your home. This is to make sure that you have a safe environment for a child, as well as a time to allow for any final questions that you may have about adoption.
- 7. Waiting:** After the home study is completed, you may find the wait for a referral of a child to be difficult. Your social worker will contact you periodically to offer support and information. You are also welcome to call the office at any time should you have any concerns or questions.
- 8. Referrals:** Finally a child will be presented to you through whatever program you have chosen. This usually consists of written information. In international adoption, there is generally a photo. In domestic adoption, you may meet the birthparents of the child that is designated for you. Your social worker will be with you to support you and advocate on your behalf at this time.
- 9. Post Placement:** For a few months after the placement of a child, your social worker will visit with you either in your home or at the office of LSS. These visits are intended to help you and your child better adjust to one another. You will finalize or legally adopt the child approximately six months after placement into your home. LSS will be there to support you and assist in the final adoption of your child.
- 10. Post Adoption:** We know that adoption is a lifelong journey. LSS has more than 125 years of experience and will be here for you throughout your lifetime to refer you to services that can best meet the current needs of your family.

