

## THE ADOPTION PROCESS

### STEP 1: Speak with LCFS Intake Specialist

This is a time to explore various aspects of adoption and review the next steps.

### STEP 2: Complete an Application

Once the application and fee are submitted, you are assigned an adoption specialist to guide you through your journey.

### STEP 3: Complete Home Study Process

The home study involves, four to five interviews (including a home visit) and required educational trainings on adoption.

### STEP 4: Prepare for a Potential Placement

Your journey and potential placement depends on the type of adoption you're exploring.

### STEP 5: Post Placement

Your LCFS adoption specialist will continue to assist you for the months after a child is placed with you and will provide the necessary report to the court for the finalization of your adoption.

Learn more at: [LCFS.org/Adoption](https://www.lcfs.org/Adoption)



## WHO WE ARE

LCFS is a leading provider of a variety of child welfare services in Illinois, dedicated to serving people of all faiths, races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, gender expressions and gender-identifications.

### LCFS MISSION

To nurture and strengthen children and families in need.

### LCFS VISION

A world where all of God's children have the opportunity for safe, healthy and meaningful lives.



**Lutheran Child and Family Services of Illinois**

708-771-7180 | [LCFS.org](https://www.lcfs.org)

[lcfs\\_info@lcfs.org](mailto:lcfs_info@lcfs.org) | [Facebook.com/LCFSIL](https://www.facebook.com/LCFSIL)

LICENSE # 012998

*All images are used for illustrative purposes only and do not represent actual LCFS clients or staff.*



# ADOPTION SERVICES

SUPPORTING YOU ON YOUR JOURNEY TO GROW YOUR FAMILY



## ADOPTION AT LCFS

As an accredited and licensed Illinois adoption agency with a long history of providing professional and caring adoption services, our experienced and knowledgeable team will assist you through every step of your adoption journey. Each adoptive family has an adoption specialist who provides support and guidance before, during and after the adoption.

## WHO CAN ADOPT?

LCFS can assist couples or singles, of all sexual orientations, gender-identity, ethnicity, race and/or religion who reside in Illinois. LCFS' adoption guidelines are similar to those of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. Prospective adoptive parents must be at least 21 years of age, but otherwise there are no requirements regarding marriage, divorce, or number of children. In addition, we do not require documentation of infertility.



## LCFS ADOPTION SERVICES

**DOMESTIC IDENTIFIED ADOPTION:** An identified adoption is one in which adoptive parents and birth parents connect with each other directly or through an intermediary. LCFS offers the safeguards and services of an agency while providing you with the opportunity to be proactive in locating a child.

**INTERSTATE ADOPTION:** LCFS is able to help coordinate a domestic identified adoption between parties in two different states by providing either a home study or birth parent services to the party residing in Illinois.

**ADOPTING CHILDREN IN CARE:** LCFS will assist prospective adoptive parents who are interested in adopting youth in care who are waiting for adoptive families.

**INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION:** LCFS can help single adults and couples living in Illinois complete an international adoption by providing the home study and coordinating with primary adoption service provider agencies.

**SEARCH ASSISTANCE:** LCFS search assistance services are conducted with respect and discretion and are focused on helping adoptees and birth parents access information or the connection they seek.

“Our LCFS adoption worker was incredibly supportive and extremely well informed. She was always there to answer our questions.”

— LCFS ADOPTIVE PARENTS

## BENEFITS OF WORKING WITH LCFS

- No placement fees for identified adoptions.
- Honor parties' existing arrangements.
- Personal service and support.
- Home studies are often completed 8 - 12 weeks after first interview; in emergency situations, LCFS can expedite the process.
- Experience with interstate adoptions.
- Expertise in assisting families to adopt children in foster care (who are waiting for adoptive homes) from other states.
- Provides guidance and resources to help prospective adoptive families prepare for the entire adoption process.
- Provides birth parent services, including gathering medical and background information and facilitating the placement and relinquishments.
- Routinely completes newborn placements at the hospital directly to adoptive parents.
- Provides guidance on adoption relationships.
- Post-placement and post-adoption support and services available.
- Provides services anywhere in Illinois.