



# Choosing an adoption agency

*Adoption is a wonderful way to build a family! Choose an agency that will work for you, and one that is honest and will look out for your best interests. Only then will you find that your adoption experience will be as successful as possible.*

WYNNEWOOD, PA OFFICE  
610.642.7200

ALLENTOWN, PA OFFICE  
610.432.2384

CENTRAL PA OFFICE  
717.399.7766  
717.232.1787

PITTSBURGH, PA OFFICE  
724.853.6533

NEW JERSEY OFFICE  
856.665.5655  
732.335.8883

DELAWARE OFFICE  
302.658.8883

VIRGINIA OFFICE  
757.361.0008  
804.218.2569

NEW YORK OFFICE  
800.355.5500

CONNECTICUT OFFICE  
860.657.2626

24 HOURS A DAY  
800.355.5500

WEBSITE:  
[www.afth.org](http://www.afth.org)



Choosing an adoption agency is one of the most important decisions you will make in your adoption pursuit. For a successful adoption, you should take the time to choose an agency that meets the needs of you and your family. There are many things to consider when choosing an agency. Here are some of the most important considerations:

## **How long has the agency been in business?**

Look for an experienced and established agency with a solid record. A new agency may not have the experience to provide a successful placement or remain in business long enough to assist you with ongoing medical and social information that you and your child might need.

## **How many children does the agency place a year and what are the ages of the children?**

This will give you further information as to whether this is the right agency for you and whether they are experienced with the type of child or country of origin that interests you.

## **What are the qualifications and experience of the agency staff?**

Experienced and college educated Social Workers and Counselors are able to help families navigate the process in international adoption and counsel adoptive families and birth parents in domestic adoption.

## **How and when are fees collected?**

Obtain a list of all adoption fees up front, ask how and when the fees are earned. Only pay for services rendered. Beware of hourly fees.

## **What are Matching fees?**

Some agencies require what is called a matching fee, this is typically a large portion of the placement fee that is due when an adoptive family is chosen by a birth mother. This fee is usually non-refundable, even if a placement does not occur.

## **What are the agency requirements?**

Most agencies have specific requirements that adoptive parents must meet in order to apply for adoption. Such requirements may include age, marital status or whether or not the parents already have children. Find out what these requirements are before investing any money.

## **What are the agency's policies?**

Most agencies have policies that families must comply with. Policies should be clear and provided to you in writing prior to making any payments to the agency. What is the agency's policy in regard to fees if a birth parent changes his/her mind and asks for the baby back? What is the policy if the child assigned in an international country turns out to have medical problem that you cannot accept?