

ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

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CLIENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES PROSPECTIVE ADOPTIVE PARENTS

Pre-Placement:

1. The right to be treated with courtesy, respect and dignity;
2. The right to receive services regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, or medical disabilities, as well as the right to be advised of any policy, requirements, eligibility criteria or situation that would affect placement of a child;
3. The right to confidentiality, unless waived or mandated otherwise by Florida law or directed by court order; and the responsibility for maintaining confidentiality;
4. The right to be informed of the range and scope of services provided by the agency, including:

Verification of current licenses and certifications claimed

Description of philosophical perspective and/or religious affiliation

Information regarding eligibility criteria, preparation for and content of the home study process, and training hours required;

Understanding what background information about the child and circumstances material to the placement will be gathered and in what form it is shared;

Knowledge about the post-placement process and the requirements for the finalization of the adoption;

5. The right to receive a copy of the agency's grievance procedure;
6. The right to receive information about the State of Florida Adoption Information toll free number (1-800-96ADOPT) and the DCF hot line (1-800-96ABUSE);
7. The right and responsibility of reviewing the completed home study for factual accuracy;
8. The right and responsibility to learn about birth parent rights and responsibilities;
9. The right to become fully informed that adoption agencies cannot guarantee the placement of a child, or any attributes of a particular child;
10. The right to receive a fee schedule, including information about refund policies;
11. The right to request that a home study be provided to another agency, and the responsibility to pay for special mailing of the home study.

Regarding Placement:

12. The right to make decisions regarding proceeding with the placement of a particular child free of pressure or coercion;

13. The right to full and fair disclosure, to the extent known by the agency, of available non-identifying information about the child, including, medical and mental health histories of the child, birth parents, and extended family; conditions or diseases believed to be hereditary; drugs or medications taken by the child's mother during pregnancy; and psychological and psychiatric information. Other non-identifying information includes age of biological parents; their race, religion, and ethnic background; general physical appearance; education, occupation, hobbies, interests and talents; existence and age of any other children born to the biological parents; information about biological grandparents and their country of origin; the relationship between biological parents; and the actual date and place of birth of the adoptee;

14. The right and responsibility to seek medical, emotional or social advice from independent resources prior to proceeding with placement;

15. The right and responsibility to learn about the possibility of an adoption subsidy for a medically needy child;

16. The right and responsibility to obtain legal counsel and determine whether the attorney has any financial relationship with the adoption agency;

17. The right and responsibility to learn about the Florida Adoption Reunion Registry and to register if desired.

Special Client Responsibilities:

18. Clients must disclose ever having been the subject of an unfavorable home study;

19. If transferring a home study, clients must arrange for the original agency to send the home study directly to the subsequent adoption resource;

20. Clients must work cooperatively and honestly with the agency;

21. Clients must be honest in revealing personal information;

22. Clients must act in a respectful, non-threatening manner with staff;

23. Clients must pay agreed upon fees promptly;

24. Clients must follow rules and procedures for specific services. Clients are responsible for diligently utilizing Agency services and completing all procedures.

25. Client must notify if they have adopted or no longer wish to be considered.

PROSPECTIVE ADOPTIVE FATHER

PROSPECTIVE ADOPTIVE MOTHER

Print Name

Print Name

Date: _____

Date _____