little flower

FEE STRUCTURE and POLICIES—HOME STUDY AND POST PLACEMENT SERVICES

Little Flower Adoptions is a licensed Texas adoption agency. We provide many services to adoptive families and expectant parents. Specifically, Little Flower Adoptions provides adoptive parent services such as the evaluation and completion of the Home Study, the acceptance of the responsibility of ICPC and Post Placement Supervision services throughout the State of Texas. Little Flower Adoptions will ensure that these Home Studies and Post Placements meet Minimum Standards and the law according to the Texas Family Code.

Home Study and Clearances:

Little Flower Adoptions charges a $1000 Application fee and a $750 Home Study fee, totaling $1750. The $1000 App fee is non-refundable after 1 week of receipt. The $750 HS fee is refundable prior to the first interview. Once an interview or home visit has occurred, this fee is non-refundable. There may be travel fees depending on the location of the adoptive family. Those will be quoted on a case-by-case basis.

All adoptive parents will be required to have the following clearances:

*FBI criminal clearances
*State of Texas (DPS) criminal clearances
*State of Texas Child Abuse Registry Clearances
*Any other state's Child Abuse Registry Clearances for any adoptive parent or household member above age 13 that has resided in any other state within the last 5 years.

Adoptive parents will be given fingerprinting instructions at the time of Application to the agency. They will get electronically fingerprinted at a local facility and will be required to pay the facility their fee. This fee is approximately $40/per person. Again, all persons in the home above age 13 must have these clearances.

Home Studies will be completed timely. Once all documents have arrived, the interviews will be scheduled and the home inspection. Once all requirements have been met (including the home visit), the agency will complete the write up of the Home Study typically within 10 working days. We provide the Home Study to the family for review to ensure they are in agreement with the details included in the HS. Once approved and agreed upon, it is finalized on agency letterhead and approved by the Executive Director.

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Adoptive parents will get an electronic copy of the report, as well as an original mailed to them.

HOME STUDY UPDATES:

Original Home Studies are valid in Texas for 12 months. If a placement has not occurred or the adoption of a child placed with the family has not finalized, an Adoption Home Study Update will be required to maintain compliance with Texas law and licensing standards. The fee for the HS Update is $500 and will involve the updating of dated information such as references, physical exams, financial statement and employment verifications. Another home visit and interviews with all family members must also be conducted. Then, a written report will be completed to place on top of the original Home Study. A family can do as many HS Updates as they need (yearly) until a placement is obtained.

Once placement has occurred and the adoption is finalized, the case with LFA is closed. If a family returns to the Agency for the purposes of becoming licensed again for another placement, the process starts over. A new Application will be necessary (the old one can be used for assistance but a new one needs to be completed and signed with the new date). All requirements and fees remain the same as they were upon initial Application. If the original HS is within 12 months, the family will only pay $1000 Application fee + $500 HS Update fee. Otherwise, the original fees remain the same.

*It is the ADOPTIVE FAMILY'S responsibility to initiate the HS Update process (yearly) with LFA. Therefore, it is important to keep track of the approval date of your HS and the dates of all support docs to be sure everything stays in compliance.

Home Study Addendums:

If there is a major change in the family during the 12 months of their approved HS, a HS Addendum may be needed. This would include: moving to a new house, adding additional household members to the home, separations/divorce filings, changing your preferences, etc. This could require a new home visit and/or additional interviews with all family members and a written report. The fee for this is $200. It is important that you consider your parameters very carefully upon initial Application so that Addendums are not necessary.

Risk Evaluations:

If you have any criminal offense on your record anywhere in the US, it may be a violation of Texas licensing standards. Many such offenses will not allow immediate approval to adopt in the State of Texas. For example, if you have a DWI/DUI within the last 10 years you will be flagged, ineligible to adoption and required to complete a Risk Evaluation for possible approval. This will delay your approval by several weeks. ***There is an additional fee of $350 for Little Flower Adoptions to complete your Risk Eval.*** This is a comprehensive process that takes a lot of extra time and paperwork. Additionally, many offenses may result in an absolute ban to adopt in Texas so please consult Executive Director, Kris Miller, if you have any offenses on your record asap.

ICPC:

Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children (ICPC) is a federal law that all adoptive parents must comply with when you go across statelines for the purposes of obtaining an adoptive placement. This is a process that the adoption professionals will put together from both states. Once an adoptive family is matched with an out of state expectant mother, LFA will be required to complete and provide proper documents and accept the responsibility for the supervision of the placement.

Little Flower Adoptions charges a fee of $350 to be the receiving agency for the ICPC responsibility. Those fees and ICPC Retainer Contract are due to LFA upon notification that the adoptive parents are matched with an out of state expectant mother AND the out of state attorney/agency requests LFA's documentation (such as the letter agreeing to provide Post Placement Supervision, Statement of Fees, the family's Home Study and/or agency license).

Post Placement Supervision:

Each Post Placement is $350. The number of required Post Placements varies widely across the US. An adoptive family can expect anywhere from 1 – 6 post placement supervision visits to be required over the first 6 months of adoptive placement. These requirements will be determined upon match with the expectant mother and after LFA consults with the out-of-state entity to understand what the requirements will be for the particular case.

If a family that is not HS approved by LFA would like to retain LFA for Post Placement Supervision, a complete file will be required to ensure the family meets all Texas requirements. Their file will need to include a copy of whatever App they completed for their HS provider, physicals, references, financial information, house photos, home floor plan, copies of identification, marriage license and divorce decrees, if applicable. New clearances will be completed for these adoptive parents under LFA.

Each Post Placement Supervision report will be completed and provided to the proper entity as soon as is possible, typically within 10 working days of the visit.

In Summary:

Home Study:
$1000 App fee + $750 Home Study Fee = $1750 total (due at Application to LFA)
Possible travel fees could be quoted depending on the location of the adoptive family.

Home Study Update (yearly):
$500 for current HS approved clients. If LFA is asked to complete a HS Update for a non-LFA family, they need to have an agency approved HS in order to waive the App fee. If they do not have agency approval, the completed Application and the App fee of $1000 will be due in addition to the $500 HS Update fee.

Home Study Addendum:
$200 HS Addendum to document changes in the family, move to a new home or ***change parameters of approval.***

Risk Evaluations:
$350 fee to complete the Risk Evaluation if there is a criminal offense on either adoptive parents record that is a violation of Texas licensing standards. This will be determined after fingerprinting is completed. Approval of the Home Study will be delayed until this is completed and approved out of State Office in Austin.

ICPC:
$350 Agency Fee to accept ICPC and assume the responsibility for Post Placement Supervision (due once documents are requested from the out of state entity).

Post Placement Supervision:
$350/per visit-report (due to LFA once adoptive family has returned to Texas with the adoptive placement. The total amount is due at one time. If 3 Posts are required, then adoptive parents will send $1050 to LFA upon ICPC approval and return to Texas.

Payment Options:
Little Flower Adoptions accepts payments via Zelle (located by agency phone number 214-478-1888), personal check, cashier's check or money order. Credit Card payments are not accepted.

By signing below, we acknowledge we have read and agree to the Fee Structure (for Home Study, Post Placements, Risk Evaluation and/or ICPC process) of Little Flower Adoptions as described. We agree to notify LFA once we are matched with an expectant mother to discuss Post Placement Supervision, ICPC processes and to coordinate these services and fees. We agree to pay these fees as outlined above.