



Lutheran Child and Family Services of Illinois

Identified Adoption Program

BIRTHPARENT SERVICES FEE AGREEMENT

There is a **retainer fee** of \$2500 for working with each identified birthparent situation. The retainer fee for birthparent services is due at the time the client is referred to LCFS. Birthparent service fees are charged at the rate of \$100 per hour. This fee covers services to birthparents, which includes all time spent on the case (face to face interviews, telephone and/or email contact with client, other family members and/or anyone else connected with the case (e.g. medical service providers, lawyer, vendors for expenses paid, etc), travel, discharge of baby from the hospital, obtaining and witnessing surrenders or consents, and preparation of legal documents and reports).

Agency expenses in connection with the case are also charged, including but not limited to travel expenses, (mileage at the federally reimbursed rate, tolls, parking, etc.), Putative Father Registry fees (\$40 per search) and Federal Express charges, if applicable. Foster Care is \$50 per day. These fees do not cover any medical, living or legal expenses.

UNDERSTANDING REGARDING BIRTHPARENT EXPENSES

Prospective adoptive parents are prohibited by Illinois law from giving any amount of money or anything of value directly to birthparent(s). All legally allowable expenses paid to birthparents must be paid through an Agency escrow account.

There may be significant emotional and financial risks associated with your adoption plan. Prospective adoptive parents may have considerable contact with birthparents who may ultimately decide to parent their child. Prospective adoptive parents often provide financial assistance through LCFS to the birthparents prior to the birth of the child. Should the birthparents choose not to place the child for adoption, these funds are **not recoverable** even though no placement occurred.

Birthmothers who have received assistance with living expenses during the pregnancy usually need continued assistance for a period of four to eight weeks after delivery and placement – sometimes longer in extenuating circumstances.

LCFS cannot and does not guarantee the honesty and integrity of birthparents, nor does LCFS act as a guarantor that a birthparent has medical insurance or public aid coverage at the time of delivery. If LCFS takes final and irrevocable surrenders for purposes of adoption from birthparents, with the knowledge and agreement of the prospective adoptive parents, the adoptive parents are fully responsible for any of the birthmother's and child's medical expenses related to the delivery and hospital stay that are not otherwise covered by any form of insurance. Please be aware that medical bills sometimes do not arrive in our

office until several months following a placement; you will be notified promptly upon the receipt of all bills and agree to pay even if the adoption has been finalized.

ESCROW

An escrow fund will be established to cover birthparent, agency, medical and other expenses at the time the prospective parents refer the birthparents for services. The amount of the escrow fund will be determined on an individual basis, depending upon the agreed-upon budget for expected birthparent expenses. The initial amount allocated to the escrow account varies. By signing this agreement the prospective parents agree to allow LCFS to disburse these funds. Any additional disbursements to birthmothers of more than \$50 must first be approved by the prospective adoptive parents.

**Fees are subject to change. Clients will need to pay fees that are current at the time of service delivery.*

We have read and understand the fee agreement with Lutheran Child and Family Services of Illinois and by virtue of signature agree to the stated terms.

CLIENT SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____