



Lutheran Child and Family Services of Illinois

Identified Adoption Program

BIRTHPARENT SERVICES AGREEMENT

A retainer of \$3500 is due when a prospective birthparent in Illinois is referred to LCFS for services. The fee for birthparent services is \$140 per hour and is charged against the retainer. All agency time spent on the case is counted, including face to face interviews, phone/text/email contact with the birthparent client, other family members, and anyone else connected with the case (medical service providers, attorneys, other agencies, vendors for expenses paid, etc.), travel time, discharge of the baby from the hospital, obtaining and witnessing relinquishments, and preparation of legal and ICPC documents and reports. In cases in which services start earlier in the pregnancy or involve longer travel, more frequent visits, or involve significant time in handling expenses or other case issues, the retainer amount may be expended before the conclusion of services. Any additional agency hours beyond those covered by the retainer will be charged at the rate of \$140 per hour.

Expenses incurred by LCFS in connection with the case are also charged against the retainer, including but not limited to travel expenses, (mileage at the federally reimbursed rate, tolls, parking, etc.), Illinois Putative Father Registry search fees at the rate charged by DCFS, and FedEx/UPS/USPS charges if applicable.

If LCFS is retained to manage disbursement of birthparent living expenses, an escrow account will be established when these services are requested. The initial amount in the escrow will be determined based on the particular birthparent's anticipated needs. By signing this agreement the prospective adoptive parents agree to allow LCFS to disburse these funds. Any disbursement of more than \$50 will require prospective adoptive parent approval. Any birthparent medical or legal expenses paid through LCFS are handled separately.

At the conclusion of a birthparent services case, any unused balance of retainer/escrow funds will be refunded.

UNDERSTANDING REGARDING BIRTHPARENT EXPENSES

Per Illinois law, prospective adoptive parents are restricted from providing financial assistance directly to birthparents or paying expenses on their behalf. All legally allowable expenses paid to or on behalf of birthparents must be paid through LCFS.

There may be significant emotional and financial risks associated in a connection with a prospective birthparent. Prospective adoptive parents may have considerable contact with birthparents who may ultimately decide to parent their child. In many cases,

prospective adoptive parents provide living expense assistance to birthparents through LCFS prior to the birth of the child. Per Illinois law, 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 following placement. This may be provided for a period of up to 60 days. In extenuating circumstances this period may be extended by agreement of LCFS and the adoptive parents.

LCFS cannot guarantee the accuracy of information provided by a particular prospective birthparent. LCFS cannot and does not act as a guarantor for medical or other expenses, nor can LCFS guarantee that a prospective birthmother has medical insurance coverage. LCFS addresses insurance status with prospective birthmothers and provides information on Medicaid if a prospective birthmother has no coverage. In most cases, prospective birthmothers have insurance coverage or can qualify for Medicaid. Hospitals generally provide assistance with Medicaid applications if no coverage is confirmed on admission. In some cases, adoptive parents may be responsible for birthmother medical expenses not otherwise covered by insurance, most commonly deductible and co-pay amounts if she has private insurance. Any insurance status information provided to LCFS will be shared with the prospective adoptive parents. When adoptive parents have accepted placement of a child and birthparent consents for adoption are signed, the adoptive parents are fully responsible for the child's medical expenses. Any medical bills sent to the attention of LCFS will be forwarded to the adoptive parents who are required to arrange for payment directly to the provider.

** All LCFS fees and expenses, birthparent expenses disbursed, and medical bills received must be paid in full prior to LCFS approval for finalization of the adoption. Any medical bills received by LCFS following finalization will be forwarded to the adoptive parents who are required to arrange for payment directly to the provider.

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

I/We have read and understand this Birthparent Services Agreement with Lutheran Child and Family Services of Illinois. Acceptance of this agreement is evidenced by signature.

Client Signature

Client Signature

Date

February 2022