

## **We can help prospective adoptive families!**

LSC is here to assist families wanting to build their family through private domestic adoption. We understand the adoption process is full of both joy and anxiety. Our adoption counselors are here to answer questions and guide you through the process. Our staff will be with you every step of the way, before, during and after the adoption placement. LSC staff will conduct your adoptive study, assist with developing your adoption profile, and help with matching you with birthparents. After your child has arrived, we can help with the transition. Our staff will provide post-placement supervision, assist you with fulfilling the legal requirements for your adoption and guide you through the adoption finalization process. We'll also put you in touch with other adoptive parents so that you can share the unique joys and challenges that come with bringing a child into your family through adoption.

### **Prospective adoptive families must meet the following requirements:**

- Be at least 25 years of age (if married, at least one spouse must be 25 years of age)
- LSC welcomes both married couples and single parents. Couples should be married for at least two years at the time of placement.
- Rent or own their home
- Be financially stable. Prospective parents may be working or stay-at-home parents
- Be able to pass a criminal background check for up to 7 years.
  - Any arrest or conviction must be disclosed and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Copies of court dispositions may be requested.
  - Applicants on parole or probation will not be accepted until they have completed probation and satisfied all requirements of the court.
- Be able to provide a healthy, loving, and nurturing home for a child.
  - Applicants need to exhibit adequate health to parent a child. Applicants with chronic physical or mental health conditions, or with a life-threatening illness in their past may be asked to provide verification from a treating physician and will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
  - Applicants should disclose any history of substance abuse or sexual abuse, child abuse, and/or family violence as a victim.
  - Applicants with a substantiated history as a perpetrator of child abuse or neglect are automatically disqualified.

LSC does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, religion, color, gender, sexual orientation, age, national origin, disability, veteran status, or any other status or condition protected by law.

### **What Can You Expect?**

At LSC, we believe knowing what to expect can help alleviate some of the anxiety during the adoption process.

- Interested families can initiate the adoptions process by making an inquiry with LSC.
- Families will be invited to an orientation meeting and/or given an information packet, at which time they will be given an application to complete.
- Once the application is received, LSC staff will review the application, and upon approval, will receive and acceptance packet of information. Our staff will contact the family to begin the Adoption Study process.
- Adoptive Families will develop an adoption profile, including a photo book to be used in matching for placement.
- LSC requires at least 5 hours of pre-adoption training and Infant CPR certification.
  - We recommend [www.adoptionlearningpartners.org](http://www.adoptionlearningpartners.org), a highly rated training website.
  - Suggested topics include: "Adopted: The Identify Project", "Becoming Your Child's Best Advocate", "Conspicuous Families" "Creating an Adoption Profile that Works", "Finding the Missing Pieces", "Let's Talk Adoption", "Open Adoption 101", "The Journey of Attachment"
- Families will be matched for an adoptive placement using their adoption profile.
- After the child is born, you will be placed with a child immediately from the hospital.
- To finalize the adoption, you are required to have a minimum of three visits with your adoptions counselor where we will help facilitate the transition process and address concerns relating to your adoption. We will make referrals to other community resources as needed.