

## PROGRAM STATEMENT

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Adoption Associates, Inc. (AAI), founded in 1990, leads Michigan agencies in the number of domestic infants placed for adoption. Agency staff are skilled and experienced professionals who combine the tested and safe methods of agency adoption with the exciting and successful marketing methods of private intermediary adoption as practiced today in most states. Participation and control are the key issues. Birth parents now expect to be very involved in planning adoption for their babies. Likewise, adoptive families also appreciate the greater degree of participation and control now being extended to them in the adoptive process. AAI heartily supports this trend as being in the best interests of everyone—first children, but also birth and adoptive parents.

Designated domestic adoptions, as promoted and facilitated at AAI, help to explain our high placement numbers. This form of adoption depends on the activities of adoptive parents to develop their own adoption opportunities. In designated domestic adoption, birth parents respond directly to networking adoptive parents. The role of AAI includes first educating adoptive families on how to reach birth parents, and then facilitating the placement when appropriate. Families working through AAI on a designated adoption pay only those expenses associated with serving them, or for services to birth parents on behalf of the adopting family. The adoptive home study, required post adoption supervision, required birth parent counseling, and all legal services are delivered efficiently and economically from one source—Adoption Associates, Inc. In addition, AAI is innovative and aggressive in reaching out to prospective birth parents. Our commitment to meeting their real needs and involving them in planning their adoptions is the other reason for our success.

International adoption is also an exciting and growing dimension of AAI. Infants, toddlers, and older children are available through AAI programs with Russia (accredited), China (accredited), Ethiopia (licensed), Nepal (accredited), Kazakhstan (approved), and Ukraine. Adoptive home studies complying with both Michigan and source country requirements and USCIS assistance are also available to families wishing to pursue their own international or domestic contacts.

### TYPES OF CHILDREN PLACED:

1. Infants and babies less than one year, including Caucasian, African-American, mixed race, and other minorities
2. Medical and developmental special needs
3. Older domestic children privately released
4. International children of all ages

### SELECTION OF ADOPTIVE PARENTS:

1. Birth parent selection from adoptive profiles
2. Agency determines placement
3. Birth parent and adoptive family pre-selected—designated adoption
4. International referrals

### TYPES OF PLACEMENTS:

1. Agency-matched infants
2. Designated placements, providing all services
3. Private adoptions—home studies, birth parent counseling, representation of birth parent or adoptive parents, and post adoption supervision in cooperation with private attorneys
4. Transracial adoption
5. Interstate placements
6. International adoption
7. Special needs home studies and placements
8. Guardianships converted to adoptions

**EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION:**

1. Birth parent choice
2. Semi-open (pictures and letters after placement)
3. Full disclosure—open

**ELIGIBILITY:**

1. Heterosexual married couples
2. Single heterosexual female applicants are accepted for international placements

**AREA SERVED:**

1. Michigan statewide
2. Any other state
3. Internet inquiries

**SERVICES PROVIDED:**

1. Information: group meetings and private interviews
2. Pre-home study consultation on adoption options, issues, and proposed private placements
3. Adoptive home study: emphasis on preparation for successful adoptive parenthood; compliance with Michigan and international regulations
4. Birth parent counseling and support groups prior to and following release of parental rights
5. Agency / Administrative services: direct and indirect services necessary for the continuation of domestic and international programs, agency administration, and internal operations which enable AAI to complete placements on behalf of adoptive families. The following lists are examples of, but are not limited to, expenses incurred in providing these services.  
Program expenses: compliance with state, federal, and international regulations, accreditation expenses, international humanitarian aid, domestic and international travel/communication, and consulting with prospective adoptive parents. Administrative expenses: employee compensation and training, agency legal, insurances, and professional/contractual services. Operational expenses: facilities, utilities, equipment, supplies, and advertising.
6. Legal facilitation: coordination of all legal arrangements
7. Interstate facilitation: coordination of interstate procedures and arrangements
8. Post placement/post adoption supervision: completion of court-mandated visitations and reports and continuing counseling as needed
9. Post legal services: counseling for children, birth and adoptive parents
10. Various pre and post placement/post adoption support group settings for both potential and actual adoptive families
11. Post-finalization services to adoptive parents and/or biological parents by referral upon the request of the involved parties

**FEES:**

1. Standardized fees for consultation, home study, post placement/post adoption services, agency fee, administrative fee, and international program fee
2. Birth parent services: charge on a time and expense basis to the adopting family
3. Supplemental service fee: to compensate for extended services provided to adoptive families during their adoption process and offset lower intake of new clients in order to continue to maintain services to existing clients, charged at the discretion of administration.
4. Specific fee information and refundability/non-refundability are described in detail on the AAI Fee Schedule(s) and the Agency Policies: Fee and Refund Policy which are appendices to this Program Statement