

**Baptist Children’s Home and Family Services**  
**Domestic Adoption Process & Fees**

**Application Process/Fees:**

Families may initiate application process by telephone, mail, or email. At initial contact, a pre-application packet will be mailed. Once it is returned, along with the application fee of \$50, eligibility will be determined and qualified families shall be placed on the active waiting list.

Families will remain on this list until they receive an invitation to the agency *Adoption Orientation*. These are typically held at least annually. It is important that annual contact be maintained with BCHFS to establish ongoing interest and eligibility.

The *Adoption Orientation* is mandatory but provided at no cost to the families. This informational meeting covers various topics associated with the adoption process and the adoption triad.

**Home Study Process/Fees**

Families shall be provided an adoption home study/licensing packet. Once this packet is completed and returned with the home study fee, the adoption worker shall schedule the home study interviews.

**Fees:**

<b>Initial home study</b>	<b>\$1200</b>
<b>Update home study</b> (if original completed by another agency)	<b>\$800</b>

**Placement Process/Fees**

Once the home study and licensing process is complete, families shall be eligible for an adoptive placement at any point. *Adoption Portfolios* shall be presented to birthmothers who typically select the family to receive their child. Placement time periods may vary from four months to three years.

*Adoption Placement Fees* are set at a sliding scale and based on the previous year’s adjusted gross income. Placement fees cover birthparents services, adoption services, post-placement supervision for six months, all reports including post-placement, affidavits, and court report.

One half of the fee is due prior to the first hearing after the adoptive placement; the balance prior to finalization in six months.

Healthy, Same-Race Infant

<u>If your income is:</u>	<u>Your placement fee is:</u>
\$20,000 and under	\$4,000
\$20,001 - \$30,000	\$5,000
\$30,001 - \$40,000	\$6,000
\$40,001 - \$50,000	\$7,000
\$50,001 - \$60,000	\$8,000
\$60,001 - \$70,000	\$9,000
over \$70,000	\$10,000

Special Needs\* Placement

<u>If your income is:</u>	<u>Your placement fee is:</u>
\$20,000 and under	\$3,000
\$20,001 - \$30,000	\$4,000
\$30,001 - \$40,000	\$5,000
\$40,001 - \$50,000	\$6,000
\$50,001 - \$60,000	\$7,000
\$60,001 - \$70,000	\$8,000
over \$70,000	\$9,000

\*Special needs: older children (over age 2), other race, physical/mental disabilities

Travel Fees

Families will reimburse travel expenses associated with visits to their home, such as home study services, post-placement services, and monitoring visits. Travel shall be calculated at the mileage rate set forth by the IRS for the current year. The travel reimbursement will be billed at the end of the month in which services were provided.

Medical Expenses for Birthmother & Baby

Families shall have the option to select from three options regarding medical expenses:

- 1) Only present Adoption Portfolios to birthmother with medical card
- 2) Only present Adoption Portfolios with medical card or partial insurance coverage
- 3) Present Adoption Portfolio to all prospective birthmothers, regardless of medical coverage
- 4) Make application for medical card to cover baby's medical expenses

**Federal Adoption Tax Credit**

A federal *Adoption Tax* Credit up to \$10,000 is available to adoptive families. This includes any cost associated with the adoption, such as agency fees, attorney fees, medical cost, and travel expenses.

**Attorney Fees**

Attorney fees shall be billed by and must be paid directly to the attorney prior to finalization.

1. If a family is licensed by another agency and want to adoptive from BCHFS
  - a. send pre-application packet
  - b. ask for \$50 application fee
2. At the time a couple attends orientation:
  - a. keep license received through other agency and that agency gives permission and couple will be charged full adoption fee at time of placement
    1. if renewal is due during waiting period couple will have to pay update
  - b. if they transfer their license they will pay update home study fee and that amount will be deducted off adoption fee



3. Post placement services valued at \$600

Other possible additional new charges:

Hospital pictures – now paid through designated  
Foster Care Expenses, if applicable

