

# Private Adoption



*Private Adoption simply cannot be done alone. There are many legal requirements and emotional needs to be met for all involved. That is where Adoptions From The Heart comes in. Services are provided to birth mothers who have chosen a family for their child or to families who have identified their own expecting parents. In addition to the many services provided, legal assistance and a home study are just a small part of what we do to build beautiful families. These services are meant to enhance and not compete with the private adoption process. Together with adoptive families and attorneys, AFTH facilitates successful private adoptions.*

## Home Study

A home study is a written report about you and your family that is required by law and must be initiated and completed prior to adoption placement. One of our experienced adoption counselors will meet with you to assist with the required paperwork, provide insight into the adoption process, and help you to complete your home study. AFTH is a licensed private, non-profit agency and can prepare home studies for families in PA, NJ, DE, NY, CT and VA.

## Counseling

Dedicated counselors are available to provide adoptive parents the guidance they need prior to and after placement has been completed. Designed to ensure a smooth transition, pre and post adoption counseling is an invaluable resource. Expecting parents are legally entitled to counseling services and funding is available in the state of PA.

## Legal Assistance

AFTH obtains and also prepares the paperwork required for the adoption and forwards these to the family's attorney and/or the Court. The legal forms include birth parent surrenders, interstate compact processing, home studies, court reports, etc. in all of the states where the agency is licensed.

## Inter-State Compact Preparation

For families in PA, NJ, DE, NY, CT, and VA, AFTH is able to prepare Inter-State paperwork for families adopting across state lines.

## Post-Placement Visits & Reports

These reports are required by the court in private adoptions, international adoptions and/or adoptions taking place across state lines and are available to families in PA, NJ, DE, NY, CT, and VA.

## Identified Adoption Services

Identified Adoption Services are available to adoptive parents who have independently identified a potential birth mother, without the agency's assistance. All pre and post-placement services for both adoptive and birth parents are provided. In Delaware, although private adoptions are illegal, a pre-arranged match between adoptive and birth parents can be processed as an agency adoption when the agency provides all mandated services. AFTH can obtain 72 hour surrender of parental rights for NJ birth parents placing their child for adoption.

## Intermediary Adoption Services

Intermediary adoption services are provided to either the prospective adoptive or the birth family when the other is working with another agency or private attorney. AFTH can provide a home study, counseling and post placement supervisory reports and reports to the court for the prospective adoptive family OR counseling, obtaining social and medical backgrounds and legal paperwork for the termination of parental rights to the birth family.



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## New Jersey Adoption Complaint Investigation (A.C.I.)

For private adoption cases, AFTH can assist in completing the home study, providing the required investigation into the circumstances of the adoption, filing the required reports to the court and providing the required supervision of the placement. Most private adoption cases require a Preliminary Hearing, which cannot be held until the home study is completed, six months of supervision, with a minimum of 4 post-placement visits, after the Preliminary Hearing, and a Final Hearing. AFTH can also provide birth parent counseling and obtain 72 hour Surrender of Parental Rights for New Jersey birth parents.

## Virginia Designated Adoption Versus Parental Placement

In the state of VA, adoptive parents and birth parents who have located each other without the assistance of an agency may choose between Designated Adoption (an agency is enlisted to assist in all aspects of the adoption process including taking parental entrustment and assuming custody) and Parental Placement (an agency is enlisted to do the required home study, birth parent counseling and simultaneous meeting while the adoptive and birth parents handle all the other adoption arrangements with the assistance of an attorney who is responsible for termination of parental rights. The agency does not take custody).

[See Complete Fee Schedule Below...](#)



**SUPPLEMENTAL FEE SCHEDULE**  
(All fees once earned are non-refundable)

**Adoption Assistance Services**

<b>Application Processing Fee</b>	\$500
For ACI	\$200
<b>Adoption Home Study*</b>	
For Independent Domestic Home Study Only Clients	
Home Study	\$2,200
Home Study Update	\$650
Expedited Fee	\$500
Home Study Review (if completed by another agency)	\$600
Addendum (for moves etc.)	\$750
Home Study for Second Parent Adoption (if partner had original home study done by AFTH)	\$500
Co-Parent Adoption Study (CT Only)	\$1,100
VA Required 6-month Pre-Placement home visits	\$300/each
Home visit required for home studies good for over 1 year	\$150/each
3-month home study extension fee	\$300
<b>For International Families</b>	
Home Study	\$3,000
Home Study Update	\$1,500
<b>Education for Domestic Home Study Only Clients</b>	
Preparing for Open Adoption Ed Course I Domestic	\$500
Ed Course II Domestic	\$500
Trans-racial Ed Course	\$500
Young Child Adoption Course	\$500
Intersectionality Course	\$500
Coordination of International & Domestic Adoption Assistance Fee	\$1,000
Transfer client files to another agency or attorney	\$200
NY Surrender Witnessing Fee	\$500
Post Adoption Individual or family Counseling *	\$150/hour
Monthly Virtual Birthparent Support Group (non AFTH client)	\$50/session
Mentoring Program Application	\$50

Expectant Parent/Family Counseling *	\$1,500/\$1,500=\$3000
Parental Placements* (VA)	
home study and meeting between PAP & EP	\$2,500
2 post placement visits in office, 1 in home and final court report	\$3,000
Charge for addition of Expectant father	\$300
Respite Care for baby/child each night	\$200
Initial Expectant parent assessment before Identified adoption services*	\$500
Identified/Designated Adoption	\$4,000/\$4,000/\$4,000 = \$12,000
Emergency service (with less than 1 month notice)	\$2,000
Twins or siblings	\$6,000
Post-Placement Reports* (3 years old or younger)	\$750/report
Post placement reports for twins (1 ½ X the fee)	\$1,125/report
Post-Placement Report (for a child 4 years and older)	\$1000/report
Ongoing correspondence	\$1,000
Legally Enforceable Post Adoption Contract Agreement	\$750
Medical Records – Obtained and redacted	\$500
Expectant Parent Searches	\$500
Payment of medical/housing expenses	\$500
Intermediary Services Fee*(no custody)	
Prospective Adoptive Family only (includes post placements reports)	\$4,500/\$3,000 = \$7,500
Expectant Parent as client	\$4,000/\$5,500 = \$9,500
NJ Private Adoption (Adoption Complaint Investigation)	
Clearances Only (no application fee)	\$100
ACI & Report to Court	\$950
Home Study	\$2,200
Supervisory Visit & Reports (newborn to 3 yrs)	\$750/report
Supervisory Visit & Reports (4 yrs and up)	\$1,000/report
Final Court Report	\$500
DE Order of Reference (Home study/ Social Study for finalization)	\$2,200
DE Order of Reference (Services for Termination)	\$1,000/\$1,000=\$2,000
Interstate Compact Processing **	\$4,000
Domestic Post Placement Supervisory Reports* (3 yrs or younger)	\$750/report
Twins if they can be done in 1 visit and report	\$1,125/report

Domestic Post Placement for a child 4 or older	\$1,000/report
Post-Placement Phone Contact & Report	\$250/report
International Post Placement Supervisory Reports	\$1,000/report
Review of three (3) Post Placement Supervisory Reports if done by another agency	\$750
Family Placement Assistance for children in Foster Care	\$3,000
Post Placement Reports for children in Foster Care	\$1,000/report
Adoption Subsidy Assistance/Application Fee	\$2,500
Post Adoption Visitation between Birth and Adoptive Parents *	\$150/hour
Court Report for non – AFTH placements	\$750
Preliminary Court Report	\$250
Report for international Adoption Re-finalization	\$500
Court Report or Court Appearance (when necessary)*	\$500/each
Copy of Adoptive Family's file when they request it	\$150
Home Visit and Assessment Report* (1 pg. report/2+ pages)	\$250/\$500
Search Fees	
Non Agency search fee – preliminary charge/hourly charge	\$75/\$150
AFTH placement Search Fees – preliminary charge/hourly charge	\$50/\$150
Affidavit of Fees for client not in domestic program	\$100

\*Travel Time: The charge is \$50/half hour

\*\*Military families will pay half the ICPC fee if required to move or deployed to another area during post-placement