



# *A Chosen Child Adoption Services*

A SOUTH CAROLINA ADOPTION AGENCY AND NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

## STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING OF DOMESTIC ADOPTION RISK

Due to the myriad of people, agencies, legal requirements, cultural differences, the politics of adoption, etc., the domestic adoption process is very complex. Even though A Chosen Child Adoption Services makes every effort to make the process as smooth as possible, it is the exception to have a flawless domestic adoption. Therefore, during the adoption process, expectations will most likely need to change several times due to one or more of the following:

- The adoption of a particular child
- Time frames for the completion of the adoption process
- Adoption fees and/or expenses associated with the adoption process
- Travel arrangements
- Other undetermined factors

To serve you best, A Chosen Child Adoption Services hereafter "ACCAS" wants to assist you with becoming emotionally prepared for whatever may arise during this process. Please carefully review the following.

ACCAS will work collaborative with you and/or your Child Placing Agency (if you are working with another agency) by providing home study and post placement services. However, ACCAS cannot guarantee referral or placement of a child with your family. When children become available from a particular state who meet the preferences of approved and waiting families, the Child Placing Agency makes referrals and facilitates the adoption process. There are many factors outside the control of ACCAS and therefore the actions of your Child Placing Agency, any other agency or person inclusive of the I.C.P.C. (Interstate Compact Placement of Children) offices, Department of Social Services, attorneys, other referral sources and adoption officials, cannot be guaranteed.

Several approvals are needed by various agencies and officials all throughout the adoption process. Please be aware that at any point, approval could be denied. For example, approval may not be granted by the officials in another state. Also, the child referral could also be lost for one or several of the following reasons:

1. The child has become too ill for placement.
2. The child could not be made legally free within an adoptive family's time frame
3. The adoption agency or referral source who assigns the child may withdraw referral of the child with or without explanation. This may be due to:
  - a. Birth parents coming forward to reclaim the child within the window of opportunity. To do so varies according to the state.
  - b. A family member could come forward for the child within the window of opportunity. To do so varies according to the state.

If a child referral is lost, an acceptable referral for a second child may not be available immediately through your Child Placing Agency. If a second child is available immediately, the process may still be lengthy depending on the state. Although your Child Placing Agency will work diligently to obtain a second child referral as soon as possible, the length of time involved cannot be guaranteed.

ACCAS always seeks to work with reputable Child Placing Agencies and referral sources that can personally attest to a birth parent/child relationship; however, ACCAS cannot guarantee the legitimacy of the relationship between birth mother and child. A woman may fraudulently misrepresent herself as the

\_\_\_\_\_  
Husband's Initials

\_\_\_\_\_  
Wife's Initials

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legitimate birth mother of a baby placed for adoption. Such a case may or may not be successfully resolved in court.

**As prospective adoptive parents, we understand and agree to the following:**

ACCAS' goal is to work collaboratively with our Child Placing Agency to help us adopt a child and that the agency staff is personally committed to our case. We understand that although our Child Placing Agency does not have complete control over many aspects of our adoption process, that they are committed to facilitate, advise, counsel and support us throughout the entire adoption process. We understand that their staff and representatives will faithfully work to help make our family grow. They will help us through both the good and difficult times. We understand that this adoption is a partnership and that we must do our part to maintain perspective and commitment during the entire adoption process. We agree to cooperate with ACCAS and our Child Placing Agency at each step of the process to help us bring home our child(ren).

We understand that ACCAS has attempted to elaborate on many of the risks in the adoption process but that it is impossible for them to relate every possible difficulty or concern we may have along the way. As such, we understand that in order to reduce our vulnerability to the adoption process and to help ensure that we are prepared to adopt a child, that we must take responsibility to fully educate ourselves by reading as much as possible about adoption and speaking with other families who have adopted domestically, both from the state where we are adopting as well as from other states.

We understand that by doing these things, we will be much more adequately prepared to adopt, have a clearer perspective, be better able to manage the wait for our child, and assist in making the entire process much more enjoyable due to realistic expectations.

We have read and understand these risks. We are willing and wish to pursue a domestic adoption through our Child Placing Agency. A Chosen Child Adoption Services will assist us with the home study and post placement services.

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Signature

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Signature

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Name

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Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date