

FAMILY OPTIONS

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RATES AND SERVICE PROCEDURES

2016

(All fees are billed at time of service)

Information Session

Make an appointment for a **FREE PRIVATE** adoption consultation. Many of your questions will be answered at this session but you may **ALWAYS** call us with additional questions!

Application

Submit completed application to Family Options.

Home Study Services (\$1,500 fee all inclusive)

After your application is processed, you will be sent the home study questionnaire. Complete the entire packet as specified and return to Family Options along with all requested documentation and \$1,500 fee. Upon review of the questionnaire, a caseworker will contact you to arrange the visit.

A home study is valid in New Jersey for a period of 12 months from the time of completion. Any major changes to the family, home, or adoption preferences may also constitute the need for an update (new family member, change in residence, health status, etc.).

Home Study Approval consists of 3 components.

1. **Meetings:** At least one meeting will be conducted in your home. The caseworker will individually interview all household members. Joint interviews will also be conducted with applicants. The written home study will then be submitted to the CaseWork Supervisor for review.
2. **Clearances:** Every member of the household age 18 and older must complete a Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) fingerprint background check and Child Abuse Registry Information (CARI) name check. Instructions are provided in the home study packet.
3. **Educational Course:** All home study applicants are required to attend specific workshops prior to home study approval. These workshops are designed to address the unique needs and issues of the adoptive family and provide the opportunity to meet other waiting parents. Seating is limited so registration is required. It is recommended that registration occurs at the time of initial application to Family Options.
 - a. *Ready, Get Set, Grow!* is a 3 hour Adoption Educational Course held at the Family Options office. Attendance is required prior to home study approval for all new applicants.
 - b. *Diversity: Exploring Trans-Racial Adoption* is required for families adopting outside of their race.

Home Study Update (\$850 fee includes updated CHRIs, CARIs, and home visit)

If your home study expires before you are placed with a child, you must update your home study. You will be asked to complete an updated questionnaire, home visit, updated CHRIs, updated CARIs, updated references, and updated medical examinations.

Family Options Portfolio Program- (\$2,000 fee includes creation of video profile)

Steps to become a Portfolio family:

1. Home study approved families wishing to partner with Family Options for the purpose of a placement may submit an application for consideration into the Portfolio Program.
2. Approved applicants are highly recommended (but not required) to create a video profile to be posted on the Family Options website.
3. Applicants may also choose to create their own profile book with the assistance of Family Options staff.
4. A great profile helps Family Options connect you with a birthfamily!

Placements- (All Placements require a \$2,000 non-refundable retainer fee)

1. **Direct** (Agency seeks situation and matches adoptive family with birth family): \$20,000 fee
 - a. The agency will contact the adoptive family as soon as a birth family indicates interest in working with them, at which time a non-refundable placement retainer of \$2,000 is required from the adoptive family.
 - b. The remaining \$20,000 placement fee should be made available within six weeks prior to the expected placement.
2. **Identified** (Adoptive family seeks situation and connects with birth family independent of agency): \$9,000 fee
 - a. \$2,000 non-refundable retainer is required as soon as Family Options becomes involved with the identified situation.
 - b. The remaining \$9,000 placement fee should be made available within six weeks prior to the expected placement or sooner.
3. **Enhanced Identified** (Attorneys only): \$5,000 fee
 - a. \$2,000 non-refundable retainer is required as soon as Family Options becomes involved with the identified situation.
 - b. The remaining \$5,000 placement fee should be made available within six weeks prior to the expected placement or sooner.

*The hourly fee is assessed for any situation not resulting in a placement; any portion of the placement retainer not expended by the hourly rate will be applied to a future placement retainer. The entire placement fee is refundable for unsuccessful placements resulting from a birth parent having a change of heart.

Supervision (In NJ, 4 Post-Placement Supervision Reports plus 1 Court Report: \$1,750)

Upon placement, New Jersey families will remain in supervision for a minimum of six months regardless of the state in which the adoption placement or finalization will or has occurred. This is a New Jersey requirement and is regulated by Department of Children and Families.

This supervision will consist of a minimum of four home visits. All household members should be available for these visits. If finalization is not completed within the six month period, quarterly supervision visits are required by the State of New Jersey.

*For any placements outside of the State of New Jersey, supervision standards and regulations must be met for all states involved in placement.

Finalization During this supervisory period, you should contact an adoption attorney to arrange for adoption finalization. A list of recommended Quad A Adoption attorneys is available through Family Options. Please inform our office of the name and address of your attorney and the county in which you will be filing for finalization. The agency will forward the paperwork necessary for finalization to the court and to your attorney at the end of the supervisory period.

You may be required to update your clearances prior to finalization. Please contact Family Options during supervision to request this information.

*If at any time during the procedure you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office.