



## **Adoption Fee Scale**

**2019**

### **Information Session**

Individual sessions to inform and educate you about the various types of adoption can be scheduled with our Adoption Specialists and are Free of charge.

### **Application Fee**

There is a non-refundable Program application fee of \$250.00 to create your adoption file and begin the Home Study process. Fee is due at the time that the Application and Adoption Service Agreement is signed.

\*When the Domestic Adoption list of waiting families is full, CHS of NJ will maintain a wait list for prospective Adoptive Applicants. Applicants can join the wait list and will be contacted when the agency begins accepting applications for domestic adoption. There is a wait list fee of \$100 which is non-refundable and will be applied to the application fee when the application is accepted.

### **Domestic Adoption Home Study**

A fee of \$2,250.00 is due prior to the initiation of the home study. The home study is completed to determine the Adoptive Family's eligibility to adopt a child. There are additional fees for State and Federal Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) fingerprint background checks, and Child Abuse Record Information (CARI) background checks for each person living in the home who is 18 years or older. These fees can vary based on the number of adults in the home and the number of States in which each adult has resided. The initial home study is valid for a period of 12 months.

### **Amended Approved Adoption Study**

There is a fee of \$250 plus travel expenses (per maximum IRS allowable mileage rate) for an Addendum to or an Amended approved adoption study. If there is a change in the family's residence after a study has been approved, the adoption worker will complete a home safety inspection in the home and create a written report/addendum to the current, approved study. This will not replace the Annual Adoption Study Update which is required annually. This fee is due prior to services being rendered.

### **Training**

The completion of 10 hours of approved adoption parenting training is required during the home study process. Fees will be paid by the adoptive family directly to the on line learning partners or agencies that provide the approved adoption training. For example: Adoption Learning Partners (\$149-\$199 for 10-16) Adopt Education, LLC (\$120 for 10 hours)

## **Annual Adoption Study Update**

Home studies are required to be updated annually in order to receive the placement of a child. A fee of \$750.00 for each update is due prior to the home study update. The home study update includes a face-to-face home study visit and the creation of a written report. There are additional fees for Criminal History and Child Abuse Clearances for each person living in the home who is 18 years or older. The fees can vary based on the number of adults in the home.

## **Placements**

The placement fee is on a sliding scale fee based on 15% of the applicant's annual gross income (based on the most recent tax return). There is a minimum placement fee of \$10,800.00 and maximum fee of \$32,500. The placement fee covers administrative costs, costs related to taking the voluntary surrender of parental right, and all activities related to reducing the risk that an adoption may be contested including but not limited to: searching for a birth parent (either named or unnamed) who may not have signed a voluntary surrender. This also covers the discharge of the baby from the hospital to an agency representative, review of the child and birth parents' medical history, and placement of the child with the adoptive family. These fees apply only when a child or children are placed with the adoptive family by CHS of NJ. If the Adoptive Family has a child or children placed with them through an entity other than CHS of NJ, then the Adoptive Family is fully responsible for the placement fees of the entity making the placement.

The placement fee is due within 30 days of the child or children being placed with the Adoptive Family. Should the Adoptive Family not be able to pay the entire placement fee within the 30 days, then reasonable payment arrangements can be negotiated. The Adoptive Family understands that CHS of NJ has the right not to provide finalization documents until the placement fee is paid in full.

## **Identified Adoption Placement**

The placement fee for an Identified Adoption is \$7,500.00. \$2,500.00 is due at the time of application for services, and is non-refundable. The remaining \$5,000.00 is due at the time of placement. This includes the discharge of the baby from the hospital to an agency representative, review of the child and birth parents' medical history, placement of the child with the adoptive family, and all contact and correspondence with the other involved professionals. \* In addition, the adoptive family will be responsible for service fees to CHS of NJ or other cooperating licensed agencies, which include the application fee, cost of the adoption home study, post placement supervision of the child in your home, counseling for the birth parents, including termination of parental rights, foster care for the child (if necessary), ICPC (if required) and court report/finalization paperwork.

Any payment of legal and medical costs for the birth mother related to the identified adoption will be arranged directly between the adoptive family and the parents of the child and/or your respective attorneys. It is contrary to New Jersey law for any payments to be made to the surrendering parent that exceed actual costs for medical expenses, reasonable living expenses, shelter, and religious, psychological, vocational, or similar counseling services as defined by the New Jersey Manual of Requirements for Adoption Agencies N.J.A.C. 3A:50-5.8 (I) viii.

## **Post Placement Supervision**

There is a fee of \$500.00 per visit per child. This fee covers face-to-face post placement visit in the home and the written report based on the findings of the visit. New Jersey Law requires 4 post placement visits be completed within six months following the placement of the child. However, if the child is placed from another State that requires more than four visits, the higher number of visits will be required. If finalization is not completed within the six month period, additional visits will be required on a quarterly basis. All household members are required to participate in post placement supervision visits.

\*State regulations require that post placement supervision visits continue until the finalization of the adoption, and the Adoptive Family understands that an additional \$500.00 per post-placement visit per child will be charged if the adoption cannot be finalized within the time frame allocated for the post placement visits paid in escrow, or the additional post placement supervisions are imposed by the Superior Court or other State or private placing agency to complete finalization. The Adoptive Family agrees to pay for as many additional visits that are necessary or required and fees must be paid prior to each additional visit.

## **Court Report and Finalization Paperwork**

An \$850.00 fee is charged for the completion of a court report based on the results of the post placement visits, which makes a recommendation related to CHS of NJ's support of the adoption. This fee also includes the compiling of all documents necessary for the Superior Court to finalize the adoption. This payment is due on the day of the last face-to-face post placement meeting.

\*The adoptive family must retain an attorney to finalize the adoption. The cost of this is separate from the Agency's finalization fee. CHS of NJ can provide the Adoptive Family with a list of suggested attorneys, but the Adoptive Family is not obligated to choose an attorney from the list.

## **Interstate Compact (ICPC) processing fee**

A \$750.00 fee is charged for the preparation and submission of documents to allow for adoption across States and is required for all children who are placed from outside of New Jersey. This payment is due when the family receives a child that is placed from a State other than New Jersey.

## **CHS of NJ Social Worker attendance at finalization (if requested or needed)**

When a Social Worker is needed to attend the finalization hearing to give evidence to the court, a \$200.00 plus travel expenses (per maximum IRS allowable mileage rate) will be charged. These fees apply only in cases in which the CHS of NJ Social Worker attends the finalization hearing. This is not typical. Fees are due during the post placement period.

**Counseling Services to Birth Parents**

Services to Birth Parents fee is paid by the adoptive family. The fee covers birth parent education, any consultations with the birth family, and counseling services provided to the birth mother or birth father. Counseling is provided prior to, during, and following the placement to assist the birth parents in making a well-informed plan for themselves and their child. Counseling is also available to the birth parents after the adoption placement to assist them in processing their feelings regarding placement as well as grief and loss issues.

This fee also covers the initial match meetings between the birth parents and adoptive families and other meetings facilitated by the adoption staff, pre and post placement. The Counseling Service fee of \$2000, which is non-refundable, is paid by the adoptive family at time of the completion of their home study.

**Counseling Services to Birth Parents** (requested by other agency or attorney)

\$100.00 per hour plus travel expenses (per maximum IRS allowable mileage rate) is charged when a placing entity other than CHS of NJ requests CHS of NJ to provide counseling services to birth parents, including surrender counseling and the taking of a voluntary surrender. These fees are due prior to services being rendered.

The Adoptive Family agrees to pay all fees as outlined above at the timeframes noted above. CHS of NJ agrees that once the Adoptive Family signs this fee schedule, CHS of NJ will not change its fees for the Adoptive Family.

_____	_____	_____	_____
Adoptive Parent Name	Date	Adoptive Parent Name	Date
_____	_____	_____	_____
Adoptive Parent Signature	Date	Adoptive Parent Signature	Date
_____	_____		
CHS of NJ Staff Name	Date		
_____	_____		
CHS of NJ Staff Signature	Date		