

Cost of Adoption

The cost of adoption varies and payment of fees does not ensure adoption approval.

- *Domestic Infant Adoption* (Iowa and Illinois) has a placement fee of \$14,000. A home study is \$2,000. Post-placement services are \$650. Home study updates, if needed, are \$500. Additionally, each family is responsible for legal fees that may be incurred in the adoption process, including criminal background check costs.
- *Special Needs Adoption* (Illinois only) covers children with brothers and sisters who need to stay together; children who have been abused or neglected; children with physical or emotional disabilities; or children with special behavior issues.
- In Iowa, the *International Adoption* home study is \$2,000. Other available services include post-placement services at a minimum of \$650; additional fees may be incurred depending on the country of origin.

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Keeping children safe,
strengthening families, and
building healthy communities

Adoption

Bethany for Children & Families is a licensed adoption placement agency in Illinois and Iowa and offers infant and special needs domestic adoption services.

bethany-qc.org



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For Those Considering Placing Their Child For Adoption

There are many issues to think about when considering placing a child for adoption. Bethany provides free counseling to explore all of the options available to individuals or couples who are experiencing an unplanned or unexpected pregnancy. Bethany can make arrangements for the baby's hospital expenses.



Sometimes a birth parent may choose the adoptive parents for their child. The individual can review pictures and letters from prospective adoptive parents. The birth parent may also have the opportunity to meet the adoptive family prior to the birth of her baby.

Who Can Adopt

- Single, couples (married or not) who are in a stable relationship that has existed for at least two years, or a divorced person;
- Persons with or without children;
- Persons who desire to adopt one child or several children;
- Homeowners or renters as long as there is sufficient room for another child; and
- Persons with a stable income.



For Those Considering Adoption

The decision to adopt a child is truly life-altering and requires a lifetime commitment. There are many reasons for wanting to adopt: some persons cannot have his/her own biological children, while others may want to add more children to their family. Each individual or couple who expresses a desire to adopt undergoes a thorough process including:

- A criminal background check and review of the child abuse registry;
- A home study;
- Numerous visits by a trained, professional, adoption worker;
- A review of the family's financial stability;
- Letters of reference; and
- Attendance at several preparation classes.