



*Adoption Services  
601 Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50309*

## **Program Philosophy**

We are a child centered adoption agency. What that means is that our first focus is on the child as our primary client. We are here to find homes for our babies, not finding babies for the adoptive parents.

The fees for our program are for services we provide, not for a child. We cannot guarantee placement through our agency. We realize that adoption is not the first choice for anyone involved in this process.

As our focus is with the child, we will make recommendations based on their best interests and in making sure their needs are being met. With that in mind, we generally do not recommend foster care for our infants. Although foster care is available through our agency, research has proven that with attachment and bonding issues, the child should always, if possible, go directly into the adoptive parent's home.

There are several reasons why adoptive couples should work through an agency in the adoptive process as opposed to working independently. When you work through an agency you always have a support system through out the entire process, after the finalization, and through the child's entire life. We help with adoption issues, and can provide family counseling to families struggling with these adoption issues. We are also available to act as an intermediary if issues arise between adoptive parents and birth parents. We provide extensive education to our adoptive parents and inform them thoroughly of the adoption process and what to expect. In addition we provide pregnancy counseling to the birth family to help them work through this difficult decision. We make sure that their decision is an informed decision, help them with their grief issues and are an advocate for them. We are also there to ensure that the entire process is in the best interest of the child and ensure their needs are being met.

Our agency firmly believes in the idea of openness in the adoption process. We thoroughly educate and encourage birth parents and adoptive parents to pursue an open adoption in the best interest of all parties involved.

In the past, adoption agencies had much of the power and decision making role in this process. Today, Catholic Charities is committed to educating and empowering the birth parents and adoptive parents to now be in the decision making role and make those decisions in the best interest of the child. These are decisions that you as adoptive parents and birth parents will have to live with, and it is therefore important that these decisions be made by you instead of the agency. Catholic Charities' role is as facilitator, giving the power to members of the adoption triad to make these life decisions.