

*A Michigan Family Forum Publication*

# Michigan Adoption Resource Guide



- 2nd Edition -

Dear Friend:

Thank you for your interest in adoption. Michigan Family Forum is pleased to provide you with this new, updated edition of the Michigan Adoption Resource Guide.

Promoting adoption is one way to ensure that more children get what every child needs - the love and support of a mom and a dad. In fact, studies regularly show that children in adoptive homes do better in every measurement of wellbeing when compared to those raised in unmarried or foster care environments.

There are over 3,000 children in Michigan's foster care system who do not have a legal parent and who are waiting for an adoptive family. Michigan currently has nearly 15,000 children in foster care. Furthermore, less than two percent of all children born to unwed mothers in Michigan are released into an adoptive home. Research has also revealed that young women and adoptive couples are often misinformed about the adoption process.

Clearly, we can do so much more to encourage adoption in Michigan. This resource guide is intended to help you become better informed about the adoption process and perhaps get personally involved. Whether you are a student, teacher, counselor, birthparent or one considering adoption, we hope this guide will be helpful.

We can all play a role in helping Michigan become a national leader in the promotion of adoption. Thank you for doing your part to be an advocate for Michigan's children.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or would like to order additional copies of this guide. We look forward to working with you in the months ahead!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brad Scavelly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Executive Director

Michigan Family Forum is a 510 (c) 3 based in Lansing, Michigan. This Second Edition was updated in January 2011

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# Adoption: One Story Among Millions

## Christiana

Christiana, adopted at birth, is now a vibrant 21-year old young woman. She learned to love children while growing up in a large family of 12 brothers and sisters. During her infant and younger years, she heard her brothers and sister play daily on various musical instruments. Today, Christiana is a licensed cosmetologist, serves handicapped children and plays the cello and the piano.

Linda, her birth mother, was a high school teacher and became pregnant in her late 20s. She knew that marriage with the father was not possible and that adoption would be the best choice for the baby. Linda's aunt helped her see the wisdom in finding a family and encouraged her during the difficult times. When they met the prospective adoptive parents there was a natural connection of family backgrounds and interests. Linda was very comfortable and grateful that her baby would be in a safe and secure home.

Just two years later, Christiana gained a baby sister. Christiana took care of her baby sister while having an older sister to model and love. Today, the three are best of friends and for a number of years they shared a bedroom, music, late night talks and the love of books. Eventually, her family expanded with further adoptions that included nine brothers and three sisters whom protect and love her today.

Christiana's family life is full of energy and experiences. Learning to play the cello and piano was a natural event. One of her older brothers, while working at a musical instrument shop, purchased and restored a cello for her. Eventually, the sisters joined an orchestra. Christiana also loves the game of soccer and competed with her younger sister a soccer team. After graduating from high school, she studied cosmetology and passed her state board exam within one year. Reading is one of her passions. It is not unusual for her to read two or three books at a time especially in the historical fiction themes.

Her life involves international travel and missions in the remote regions of the world. By all measures, Christiana enjoys life and is surrounded by friends and family whom she cares for and who care for her.

The gift of life that Linda offered Christiana ripples outward and will for this and many generations to come.

# Adoption Facts

The concept of adoption was not legally recognized in the United States until the 1850's, with the inception of the first adoption laws. While transfers of children to substitute parents had occurred informally since American colonial times, adoption statutes legitimized the informal adoptive arrangements which previously existed.  
[www.destinyink.com/research/history.html](http://www.destinyink.com/research/history.html)

In 1851, Massachusetts became the first state to pass a law regulating the adoption of children. Institutions for parentless children were organized by religious and other charitable groups.  
[www.adoptionopen.com/historyofadoption.html](http://www.adoptionopen.com/historyofadoption.html)

President Gerald R. Ford was adopted. President Andrew Jackson adopted his only son.  
[www.americanpresidents.org](http://www.americanpresidents.org)

Babe Ruth, Steve Jobs (co-founder of Apple) and Nat King Cole were all adopted.  
<http://www.adoptionopen.com/famousadoptions.html>

On any given day in North America, more than 500,000 children are in the foster care system, and nearly 145,000 of them are available for adoption.  
[www.davethomasfoundation.org](http://www.davethomasfoundation.org)

In 2009, Michigan had over 4,900 children in foster care waiting to be adopted, ranking Michigan #5 in the nation for the number of children who are eligible for adoption but remain in foster care.  
*U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau*

According to the Michigan Department of Community Health, 40.4% of all births in Michigan in 2008 were to unwed mothers (nearly 49,000). In 11 counties, over 50% of all births were to unwed mothers.  
*2008 Residential Birth Files, Division for Vital Records and Health Statistics, Michigan Department of Community Health*

As many as 100 million Americans have adoption in their immediate family. Someone in the family was adopted, has adopted or has chosen to place her child for adoption.  
[www.adoptionfacts.org](http://www.adoptionfacts.org)

78 percent of Americans think the country should be doing more to encourage adoption.  
*National Adoption Attitudes Survey, June 2002*

A lower percentage of adopted children (12%) than biological children (18%) live below the poverty level nationwide.  
*US Census Bureau*

There were 1,525,345 births to unmarried woman in 2005.  
*Births: Final Data for 2005; National Vital Statistics Report*

From 1989 to 1995, less than 1% of unwed mothers chose adoption for their infants.  
<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/ad/ad306.pdf>

# Information for Adoptive Parents

## **DOMESTIC INFANT ADOPTION**

In choosing adoption, prospective adoptive parents will generally begin by choosing an agency or an attorney (utilized in private adoption). Factors to consider in choosing an agency are:

- Mission statement/belief system
- Counseling provided
- Approximate time that parents wait at the agency for placement  
(Note: Birthmothers choose adoptive parents based on their profile. They are not chosen according to time on a “wait list”.)
- Personal recommendations of others that have used the agency
- History of the agency

## ***HOME STUDY***

Prior to adopting a child, prospective parents must participate in a pre-placement assessment. This assessment involves interviews as well as a home visit. Information gathered during the assessment contributes to the family profile that birthmothers receive in order to choose adoptive parents. The profile of the family includes names, religion and other important information. There is a fee for the home study that varies with agency.

## ***ADOPTION PLANS***

Once a birthmother chooses a set of adoptive parents, the agency will recommend making an adoption plan. This plan determines the desired openness of the adoption. If the birthmother would like an open adoption, the chosen parents are included in the discussion about the plan which includes frequency of visits, letters and/or phone calls. An entirely confidential adoption is where there is no exchange of information. The adoption plan can fall anywhere between completely open and confidential. While the adoption is legally binding, the terms discussed concerning the openness of the adoption are not. The sincerity of the adoptive parents may influence the choice of the birthmother.

## ***COUNSELING***

Building a family through adoption involves unique challenges. Those touched by adoption experience issues and concerns which can be addressed through education, support, and problem solving. It is important to support adoptive families with ongoing services after the adoption is finalized to ensure not only a healthy beginning but also lifelong family wellness. In an effort to support families throughout the adoption experience, some services that may be offered include:

- Short-term counseling for the families, crisis response and a referral source for follow-up.
- Services offered to adopted persons and birthparents who need contact with each other.
- Workshops and seminars which address issues and concerns related to adoption and provide education and resources for families.
- Support groups of various kinds

## ***FINANCING AND COST***

The cost of adoption varies with fees for processing the paperwork and for the home assessments. Parents that are chosen may be responsible financially for their birthmother’s counseling, living expenses and legal fees unless the birthmother waives these services. Parents may be required to pay for the medical expenses of the pregnancy and birth as well. There are loan programs to assist with adoptions as well as significant tax credits given by both state and federal governments (<http://www.irs.gov/taxtopics/tc607.html>). Qualifying expenses

include reasonable and necessary adoption fees, court costs, attorney fees, traveling expenses (including meals and lodging while away from home), and other expenses directly related to and for which the principal purpose is the legal adoption of a child.

### ***COMPLETING THE ADOPTION AND POST-PLACEMENT VISITS***

After the baby is born, the birthmother will then be able to sign the release papers, which finalizes the birthmother's role in the adoption. After signing the release, the birthparent(s) has 21 days to petition the court for a rehearing in the case of fraud or duress, but not a change of mind. The baby will often be able to go directly home with the adopting family. The agency will then conduct a series of visits at the home of the adopting family to monitor the family and the care of the child. The number of visits may vary, but they usually last from six months to a year. The purpose is to provide not only support for the adopting parents as they adjust, but also to gather information so that the caseworker can make a recommendation to the court for the best interest of the child. At this time, the court will finalize the adoption.

### **INDEPENDENT ADOPTION**

Independent adoptions by an attorney have a similar process to that of an agency. An adopting family must still have an agency do a pre-placement assessment. Independent adoptions are generally done through a private practice attorney because the adopting parents are either relatives or someone that the birthmother already knows. Instead of the baby being released into the custody of a private agency, the baby goes directly home with the family.

### **INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION**

Adopting children internationally will differ in the openness aspect and is more costly. However, federal and state tax credits and loans still apply. There are also organizations that promote international adoption by offering grants and other financial support. International adoptions may involve traveling and can take several weeks to a year or more.

### **SPECIAL NEEDS AND FOSTER CARE ADOPTIONS**

There are more than 100,000 children around the country waiting to be adopted. Although there is an abundance of families that seek infants, there are many children that are waiting and need families because they fit into one of the following categories:

- Children who have been neglected or abused
- Children who are older (especially ages 10 - 16)
- Children of racial minorities
- Siblings who must be placed together
- Children who have physical, emotional, behavioral, or mental challenges

Special needs adoptions are usually state-funded, and the adoptive parents pay no agency fee. Medical subsidies and financial assistance are often available until the child reaches 18 years of age, regardless of the adoptive family's income. Families are prepared for these adoptions by being provided:

- Full disclosure of information about the child(ren)
- Information about neglect, abuse, and the child welfare system
- Education about the child's needs and the special parenting skills required
- Visits which allow the family to adjust to its new family member(s)

See [www.mare.org](http://www.mare.org) for a list of Michigan children waiting for an adoptive family.

# Adoption Information for Birthparents

Going through an unexpected pregnancy can be one of the hardest times in a birthparent's life. Deciding to place the baby for adoption is not an easy choice; however, it is often a wise and loving option. Through adoption, birthparents are choosing to transfer their parental rights to two parents who are able to provide financially and emotionally for the child. This is not abandoning the baby; the birthparents have made an important decision to put their child's welfare first. Below are some of the common questions birthparents have about adoption.

## **COUNSELING**

Adoption is an extraordinary choice that offers a child a great future, though it is not an easy process. The birthparent has faced many obstacles along this path to adoption, and perhaps the most difficult time may be yet to come — the separation from their child and the grieving process that follows. Counseling services are available to help birthparents work through this time and help them understand how both they and their baby can benefit from this decision. Adoption agencies will offer this counseling, though parents are not required to accept it.

## **FINANCIAL HELP**

The birthmother is allowed to have the expenses of her pregnancy paid for by the adoptive family. These expenses might include medical, hospital, nursing and medication expenses. She may also have her living expenses paid for during the pregnancy and up to six weeks after the pregnancy. While there are many expenses that may be covered, the adoptive parents cannot pay the birthmother for her child.

## **CHOOSING ADOPTIVE PARENTS**

Birthparents can choose the adoptive parents based on information an agency has been given from the adoptive parents themselves. Information that is provided includes first names, religion and other important information. Adoptive parents go through a careful screening and receive special training to parent adopted children. A social worker visits their home several times. In order to be licensed for adopting, the social worker and the agency must be confident that they would be good parents.

## **PARENTAL RIGHTS**

After the baby is born, the birthmother will sign release forms to terminate all parental rights of the child. Legally, she is no longer responsible in any way for the child. If the birthmother is a minor, she must have the consent of her parent/guardian in order to choose adoption. If the birthfather is not part of the process, the birthmother is required to give the judge as much information as possible about how to contact him. The court will notify him of the hearing in which he may attempt to attain rights to the child. After signing the release, the baby's parents have 21 days to petition the court for a rehearing in the case of fraud or duress, but not a change of mind.

## **AFTER THE ADOPTION**

Birthmothers are encouraged to make adoption plans. This plan will determine what the adoption will look like, including how often the mother will interact with the adoptive parents and her child. The birthmother can choose an open adoption, where she might have contact with the adoptive parents, a confidential adoption, where they never meet, or anywhere between. While the adoption is legally binding, the adoption plan is not, so it is important to choose sincere adoptive parents.

# Toll Free Adoption Help-Line

## 1-800-589-MARE

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### 10 COMMON ADOPTION QUESTIONS

- Is counseling available during and after this process? Do I have to participate?
- Can my baby's father be involved in the adoption process? Does he have to be?
- Can my parents be involved in the process? Do they have to?
- Is there any financial help available for me? What about help with medical bills?
- How much will I know about the adoptive parents? Is it possible to meet them or know information about them? What if I don't want to know?
- How do you screen adoptive parents to make sure they are good people?
- What information do you provide the adoptive family about me?
- In the future, will I be able to have contact with my child if I want to?
- Will my child be able to contact me when he/she is older?
- What if I change my mind about adoption?

# Toll Free Paternity Line

## 1-866-540-0008

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A Department of Human Services Specialist will answer questions like these:

- She says I'm not the father, but what if I am?
- Can I visit my baby?
- How is paternity established if we're not married?
- Can I get tested to make sure I'm the father?
- Where can I be tested?
- Who pays for the test?
- Will I have to pay for this child if it turns out I am the father?
- What if I don't want to establish that I'm the father? Do I have to?

*Establishing paternity provides the child with a legal father. Both fathers and mothers have a right to know about their child and they have a responsibility to care for their child even if they are not married to each other. Children who have a dad in their life have fewer behavioral problems, do better in school, and have higher self-esteem than those without fathers in their lives.*

# Safe Delivery Program

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Michigan law gives a woman in a crisis pregnancy the right to give her newborn baby (not more than 72 hours old) to a uniformed or identified emergency service provider on duty at a hospital, fire station or police station. This law allows a woman to do so without it being considered neglect or abandonment. The best place for the delivery of a child is in a hospital or hospital-based birthing center. The birthparent has a right to provide as much or as little information as she would like to the service provider, and all information given will remain confidential.

## Safe Delivery Program Procedures:

- The emergency service provider (ESP) will accept the newborn and transfer the newborn to a hospital if the provider is not a hospital.
- The ESP will make a reasonable attempt to provide the parent with pertinent information.
- The ESP will give the birthparent the following information:
  - \*By surrendering the newborn, the parent is releasing the newborn to a child placing agency for adoption
  - \*The parent has 28 days to petition the court to regain custody
  - \*After 28 days, there will be a hearing to terminate parental rights
  - \*There will be a public notice of the hearing, which will not contain names
  - \*The parent can receive confidential counseling or medical attention
  - \*The state is required to reasonably attempt to identify both parents
  - \*The parent may sign a release for the newborn which will be used at the parental rights termination hearing
- The ESP will ask for relevant family and medical information
- At the hospital, the newborn will be examined by a physician.
- If the physician comes to a reasonable belief that the newborn was abused or neglected or is not a newborn, the physician is required to report it to the proper authorities.
- Otherwise, the hospital will notify a child placing agency that the hospital has a newborn in temporary protective custody.

## Toll Free Emergency Line

# 1-866-733-7733

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The emergency line provides:

- Information on prenatal care and the delivery of a newborn
- Information on adoption options and services
- The legal and procedural requirements related to surrendering a child and the legal consequences for endangering a child
- Health agencies and resources for counseling and assistance with crisis management

*\*For actual language of the Michigan Law regarding the Safe Delivery Program see Michigan Compiled Laws 712.5, 712.17, 712.20, 712.3*

# Raising Adoption Awareness

## INFANT ADOPTION AWARENESS TRAINING PROGRAMS (IAATP)

“Adoption Awareness” legislation passed by Congress in 2000 encouraged the consideration of infant adoption as a positive option for women and teens facing unplanned pregnancies. The act encouraged counselors in health clinics and other settings to be trained in providing women with complete and accurate information on adoption.

*“All women facing unintended pregnancies should have complete and accurate information on infant adoption along with information on resources available to them and their unborn children.”*

-U.S. Representative Jim DeMint  
Co-Sponsor, Adoption Awareness Act

The U.S. Congress and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services enacted the Adoption Awareness Act based on findings reported in “The Orientations of Pregnancy Counselors Toward Adoption” by Professor Edmund Mech, which found that:

*40% of “pregnancy counselors” did not even raise the issue of adoption with pregnant clients. And of the 60% who did raise the issue, 40% of those counselors provided inaccurate or incomplete information.*

As a result of that federal funding, organizations have created programs which address:

- Adoption as a time-honored and necessary social institution that protects children
- The effects of adoption on women and their children
- Understanding the needs and rights of people directly involved with the pregnant woman
- Correcting misconceptions about adoption
- Other issues in the client’s life
- Current state and federal laws related to adoption, placement decisions and procedures
- Current practices and policies in adoption, by agencies and attorneys
- Understanding and assessing the client’s interest in adoption
- Ways to provide information and support that enable the woman to make a fully-informed decision about her future and the future of the child
- Special issues in counseling teens
- The language of adoption and conventional communication styles
- How miscommunication and misunderstanding have unintended negative results
- Networking and collaboration with professionals

Recommended participants to be trained include:

- Health clinic workers in federally funded centers and community health centers
- Public and private pregnancy and options counselors
- Nursing staff
- Educators
- Members of helping professions who come into contact with pregnant clients and patients

A pregnancy counselor who is trained and certified through one of these programs has the ability to train other counselors within the clinic. A counselor will be equipped to share the materials from the training thereby increasing the overall awareness of infant adoption among staff and clients.

## ORGANIZATIONS WITH INFANT ADOPTION AWARENESS TRAINING PROGRAMS

Together, the National Council for Adoption and Spaulding for Children have trained over 80,000 professionals, parents and policy makers in the best practices in adoption and adoption services. The groups develop training curricula, publications and videos to improve adoption methods and practices in order to ensure that adoption remains a viable option for pregnant women and their babies.

### **National Council For Adoption**

225 N. Washington Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314-2561  
(703) 299-6633  
[www.adoptioncouncil.org](http://www.adoptioncouncil.org)

### **Spaulding for Children**

16250 Northland Drive  
Suite 100  
Southfield, MI 48075  
(248) 443-7080  
[www.spaulding.org](http://www.spaulding.org)

## RESOLUTIONS

Each year, the Governor of Michigan declares November as Adoption Month in Michigan, coinciding with National Adoption Month.

Michigan also celebrates “Michigan Adoption Day.” Each November, the Michigan Supreme Court declares a Saturday in which they take the entire day to finalize adoptions. In so doing, they draw attention to the need for permanent homes for thousands of foster children.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR AGENCIES AND SCHOOLS

- Provide training for pregnancy counselors to be educated on adoption
- Create an agency brochure to be distributed, especially during November (Adoption Month)
- Obtain Adoption Awareness Kits that are available from various organizations
- Contact media outlets to run Public Service Announcements that are available
- Provide accurate adoption information in sex education classes (A State of Michigan requirement for schools)

Mass media campaigns encourage adoption of children in need of homes and promote adoption as a healthy option for pregnant women and their babies.

Public Service Announcements for radio and television as well as for magazines and newspapers are available. National Council for Adoption announcements simply say:

*“To all those who gave birth to, homes to, or just give thought to people adopted as infants, thanks for considering adoption.”*

# Adoption Resources

## NATIONAL RESOURCES

### **National Council for Adoption**

225 N. Washington Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314-2561  
(703) 299-6633  
[www.adoptioncouncil.org](http://www.adoptioncouncil.org)

### **Child Welfare Information Gateway**

1250 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Eighth Floor  
Washington, DC 20024  
(800) 394-3366  
[www.childwelfare.gov](http://www.childwelfare.gov)

### **Adoption Network Law Center**

1-800-367-2367  
[www.adoptionnetwork.com](http://www.adoptionnetwork.com)

### **Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption**

525 Metro Place North, Suite 220  
Dublin, OH 43017  
800-275-3832  
[www.davethomasfoundation.org](http://www.davethomasfoundation.org)

### **Adoption Exchange Association**

8015 Corporate Drive, Suite C  
Baltimore, MD 21236  
(888) 200-4005  
[www.adoptUSKids.org](http://www.adoptUSKids.org)

### **Adoption.com**

1745 S. Alma School Road, Suite 215  
Mesa, AZ 85210  
(480) 446-0500  
[www.adoption.com](http://www.adoption.com)

### **Loving and Caring**

219A Witmer Road  
Lancaster, PA 17602  
(717) 293-3230  
[www.lovingandcaring.org](http://www.lovingandcaring.org)

## MICHIGAN RESOURCES

### **Bethany Christian Services**

901 Eastern Avenue NE, PO Box 294  
Grand Rapids, MI 49501-0294  
Phone: (616) 224-7610  
[www.bethany.org](http://www.bethany.org)

### **Christian Advocates for Adoption**

P.O. Box 364  
Hudsonville, MI 49426  
(616) 669-0655  
[www.cafadopt.org](http://www.cafadopt.org)

### **Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange**

PO Box 980789  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197  
(800) 589-6273  
[www.mare.org](http://www.mare.org)

### **Michigan Federation for Children and Families**

320 N. Washington Square, Suite 100  
Lansing, MI 48933  
(517) 485-8552  
[www.michfed.org](http://www.michfed.org)

### **Spaulding for Children**

16250 Northland Drive, Suite 100  
Southfield, MI 48075  
(248) 443-7080  
[www.spaulding.org](http://www.spaulding.org)

## INTERNATIONAL SPECIFIC ADOPTION

### **Show Hope**

PO Box 647  
Franklin, TN 37065  
(615) 550-5600  
[www.showhope.org](http://www.showhope.org)

### **Children's Hope International**

11780 Borman Drive  
St. Louis, MO 63146  
(888) 899-2349  
[www.childrenshopeint.org](http://www.childrenshopeint.org)

# MI Adoption Agencies by County

## ALLEGAN COUNTY

### **Bethany Christian Services**

12048 James Street  
Holland, MI 49424-9556  
Phone: (616) 396-0623  
[www.bethany.org/holland](http://www.bethany.org/holland)

### **Pathways, Michigan**

412 Century Lane  
Holland, MI 49423  
Phone: (616) 396-2301  
[www.pathwaysmi.org](http://www.pathwaysmi.org)

## ALPENA COUNTY

### **Child and Family Services of Northeast Michigan**

1044 US-23 North  
Alpena, MI 49707  
Phone: (989) 356-4567  
[www.cfsnemi.org](http://www.cfsnemi.org)

### **Catholic Human Services, Inc.**

154 South Ripley Boulevard  
Alpena, MI 49707  
Phone: (989) 356-6385  
[www.catholichumanservices.org](http://www.catholichumanservices.org)

## BARAGA COUNTY

### **Michigan Indian Child Welfare Agency**

107 Beartown Road  
Baraga, MI 49908  
Phone: (906) 353-4204

## BAY COUNTY

### **Catholic Family Services**

915 Columbus Ave.  
Bay City, MI 48708  
Phone: (989) 892-2504  
[www.cfssite.org](http://www.cfssite.org)

### **Lutheran Adoption Service**

6019 West Side Saginaw Road  
Bay City, MI 48707  
Phone: (989) 686-3170  
[www.lasadoption.org](http://www.lasadoption.org)

## CALHOUN COUNTY

### **Family and Children Services**

778 W. Columbia  
Battle Creek, MI 49015  
Phone: (269) 965-3247  
[www.fcsource.org](http://www.fcsource.org)

## CHIPPEWA COUNTY

### **Michigan Indian Child Welfare Agency - Anishnabek Community Family Services**

2218 Shunk Rd.  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
Phone: (906) 632-5250  
[www.saulttribe.com](http://www.saulttribe.com)

## DELTA COUNTY

### **Catholic Social Services of the Upper Peninsula**

1100 Ludington, Suite 401  
Escanaba, MI 49829  
Phone: (906) 786-7212  
[www.cssup.org](http://www.cssup.org)

## DICKINSON COUNTY

### **Catholic Social Services of the Upper Peninsula**

427 South Stephenson, Suite 215  
Iron Mountain, MI 49801  
Phone: (906) 774-3323  
[www.cssup.org](http://www.cssup.org)

## ADOPTION AGENCIES BY COUNTY - CONTINUED

### GENESEE COUNTY

#### **Alternatives for Children and Families**

2065 S. Center Rd.  
PO Box 190238  
Burton, MI 48519  
(810) 250-3800  
[www.acfinc.org](http://www.acfinc.org)

#### **Catholic Charities of Shiawassee and Genessee Counties**

901 Chippewa Street  
Flint, MI 48503  
Phone: (810) 232-9950  
[www.catholiccharitiessg.org](http://www.catholiccharitiessg.org)

#### **Ennis Center for Children**

129 E. Third St.  
Flint, MI 48502  
(810) 233-4031  
[www.enniscenter.org](http://www.enniscenter.org)

### GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY

#### **Bethany Christian Services**

1055 Carriage Hill Dr., Ste. 2  
Traverse City, MI 49686  
Phone: (231) 995-0870  
[www.bethany.org/traverse](http://www.bethany.org/traverse)

#### **Child and Family Services of Northwestern MI**

3785 Veterans Drive  
Traverse City, MI 49684  
Phone: (231) 946-8975  
[www.cfsnwmi.org](http://www.cfsnwmi.org)

#### **Catholic Human Services**

1000 Hastings Street  
Traverse City, MI 49686  
Phone: (231) 947-8110  
[www.catholichumanservices.org](http://www.catholichumanservices.org)

### HOUGHTON COUNTY

#### **Good Will Farm**

1701 MacInnes Drive  
Houghton, MI 49931  
(906) 482-0520  
[www.goodwillfarm.com](http://www.goodwillfarm.com)

### INGHAM COUNTY

#### **Child and Family Services, Capital Area**

4287 Five Oaks Dr.  
Lansing, MI 48911  
(517) 882-4000  
[www.childandfamily.org](http://www.childandfamily.org)

#### **Lutheran Adoption Service**

801 South Waverly, Suite 103  
Lansing, MI 48917  
Phone: (517) 886-1380  
[www.lasadoption.org](http://www.lasadoption.org)

#### **Michigan Indian Child Welfare Agency**

6425 South Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 3  
Lansing, MI 48911  
Phone: (517) 393-3256

#### **St. Vincent Catholic Charities**

2800 W. Willow St.  
Lansing, MI 48917  
(517) 323-4734  
[www.stvcc.org](http://www.stvcc.org)

#### **Bethany Christian Services**

612 W. Lake Lansing Rd.  
East Lansing, MI 48823  
(517) 336-0191  
[www.bethany.org/eastlansing](http://www.bethany.org/eastlansing)

#### **Adoption Associates**

800 Thomas L. Parkway, Suite 1  
Lansing, MI 48917  
Phone: (517) 327-1388  
Toll Free: (877) 869-4196  
[www.adoptassoc.com](http://www.adoptassoc.com)

### JACKSON COUNTY

#### **Family Service and Children's Aid**

PO Box 6128  
330 West Michigan Avenue  
Jackson, MI 49201  
Phone: (517) 787-7920  
[www.strong-families.org](http://www.strong-families.org)

## ADOPTION AGENCIES BY COUNTY - CONTINUED

### KALAMAZOO COUNTY

#### **Bethany Christian Services**

6687 Seeco Drive  
Kalamazoo, MI 49009-5968  
Phone: (269) 372-8800  
[www.bethany.org/kalamazoo](http://www.bethany.org/kalamazoo)

#### **Lutheran Adoption Service**

1803 Whites Rd., Suite 5  
Kalamazoo, MI 49008  
Phone: (269) 345-5776  
[www.lasadoption.org](http://www.lasadoption.org)

#### **Family and Children Services**

1608 Lake Street  
Kalamazoo, MI 49001  
Phone: (269) 344-0202  
[www.fcsource.org](http://www.fcsource.org)

#### **Family Adoption Consultants**

45100 Sterritt, Ste. 203  
Utica, MI 48317  
(586) 726-2988  
[www.facadopt.org](http://www.facadopt.org)

### KENT COUNTY

#### **Bethany Christian Services**

901 Eastern Avenue NE, PO Box 294  
Grand Rapids, MI 49501-0294  
(616) 224-7550  
[www.bethany.org/grandrapids](http://www.bethany.org/grandrapids)

#### **Michigan Indian Child Welfare Agency**

1345 Monroe Avenue NW, Suite 220  
Grand Rapids, MI 49505  
Phone: (616) 454-9221

#### **Catholic Charities of West Michigan**

40 Jefferson SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
Phone: (616) 456-1443  
[www.ccwestmi.org](http://www.ccwestmi.org)

#### **Lutheran Adoption Services**

1715 Sutherland Dr., SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49508  
(616) 281-4706  
[www.lasadoption.org](http://www.lasadoption.org)

#### **Greater Hopes Family Services**

1345 Monroe Ave. NW, Suite 246  
Grand Rapids, MI 49505  
Phone: (616) 451-0245  
[www.greaterhopes.org](http://www.greaterhopes.org)

#### **D.A. Blodgett - St. John's**

805 Leonard Street NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503-1184  
Phone: (616) 451-2021  
[www.dablodgett.org](http://www.dablodgett.org)

### LIVINGSTON COUNTY

#### **Judson Center**

2810 W. Grand River Ave., #700  
Howell, MI 48843  
(517) 545-0540  
[www.judsoncenter.org](http://www.judsoncenter.org)

### LENAWEE COUNTY

#### **Family Counseling and Children's Services of Lenewee County**

220 North Main Street  
Adrian, MI 49221  
Phone: (517) 265-5352  
[www.fccservices.org](http://www.fccservices.org)

#### **Catholic Charities**

199 N. Broad St.  
Adrian, MI 49221  
(517) 263-2191  
[www.catholiccharitiesjacksonlenaweehillsdale.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesjacksonlenaweehillsdale.org)

### MACOMB COUNTY

#### **Catholic Services of Macomb**

15945 Canal Road  
Clinton Township, MI 48038  
Phone: (586) 416-2300  
[www.csmacomb.org](http://www.csmacomb.org)

#### **Family Adoption Consultants**

45100 Sterritt, Ste. 203  
Utica, MI 48317  
(586) 726-2988  
[www.facadopt.org](http://www.facadopt.org)

## ADOPTION AGENCIES BY COUNTY - CONTINUED

### MARQUETTE COUNTY

#### **Catholic Social Services of the Upper Peninsula**

347 Rock Street  
Marquette, MI 49855  
Phone: (906) 227-9119  
[www.cssup.org](http://www.cssup.org)

#### **Child and Family Svcs. of the Upper Peninsula**

706 Chippewa Sq., Ste. 200  
Marquette, MI 49855  
(906) 228-4050  
[www.cfsup.org](http://www.cfsup.org)

#### **Lutheran Social Svcs. of Upper Michigan**

1029 N. Third Street  
Marquette, MI 49855  
(877) 994-8344  
[www.lssadopt.org](http://www.lssadopt.org)

#### **Teaching Family Homes of Upper Michigan**

1000 Silver Creek Rd.  
Marquette, MI 49855  
(906) 249-5437  
[www.teachingfamilyhomes.org](http://www.teachingfamilyhomes.org)

### MENOMINEE COUNTY

#### **Michigan Indian Child Welfare Agency**

N14911 Hannahville B1 Road  
Wilson, MI 49896  
Phone: (906) 466-9221

### MIDLAND COUNTY

#### **Adoption Option Inc.**

4008 W. Wackerly, Ste. 102  
Midland, MI 48640  
(989) 839-0534  
[www.adoptionoptioninc.org](http://www.adoptionoptioninc.org)

### MUSKEGON COUNTY

#### **Bethany Christian Services**

1848 E. Sherman Blvd., Ste 1  
Muskegon, MI 49444  
(231) 733-1618  
[www.bethany.org/muskegon](http://www.bethany.org/muskegon)

#### **Catholic Charities West Michigan**

1095 Third Street, Suite 125  
Muskegon, MI 49441  
Phone: (231) 726-4735  
[www.ccwestmi.org](http://www.ccwestmi.org)

### NEWAYGO COUNTY

#### **Bethany Christian Services**

6995 West 48th Street  
Fremont, MI 49412-9506  
Phone: (231) 924-3390  
[www.bethany.org/fremont\\_mi](http://www.bethany.org/fremont_mi)

### OAKLAND COUNTY

#### **Spectrum Human Services**

2803 Joy Road  
Westland, MI 48185  
(734) 458-8736  
[www.spectrumhuman.org](http://www.spectrumhuman.org)

#### **Spaulding for Children**

16250 Northland Drive, Suite 100  
Southfield, MI 48075  
Phone: (248) 443-7080  
[www.spaulding.org](http://www.spaulding.org)

#### **Michigan Indian Child Welfare Agency**

24001 Southfield Road, Suite 204  
Southfield, MI 48075  
Phone: (248) 552-1142

#### **Christian Family Services**

17105 West 12 Mile Road  
Southfield, MI 48076  
Phone: (248) 557-8390  
[www.cfs-michigan.org](http://www.cfs-michigan.org)

#### **Morning Star Adoption Center**

15635 West Twelve Mile Road, Suite 100  
Southfield, MI 48076  
Phone: (248) 483-5484  
[www.morningstaradoption.org](http://www.morningstaradoption.org)

#### **Catholic Social Services of Oakland County - St. Francis Family Center**

17500 West 8 Mile Road  
Southfield, MI 48075  
Phone: (248) 552-0750  
[www.cssoc.org](http://www.cssoc.org)

## ADOPTION AGENCIES BY COUNTY - CONTINUED

### OAKLAND COUNTY - CONTINUED

#### **Child and Parent Services**

30600 Telegraph Road, Suite 2215  
Bingham Farms, MI 48025  
Phone: (248) 646-7790  
Toll Free: (800) 248-0106  
[www.childandparentservices.com](http://www.childandparentservices.com)

#### **Lutheran Adoption Services**

8131 E. Jefferson Ave  
Detroit, MI 48214  
(248) 423-2770  
[www.lssm.org](http://www.lssm.org)

#### **Orchards Children's Services**

30215 Southfield Rd.  
Southfield, MI 48076  
(248) 258-0440  
[www.orchards.org](http://www.orchards.org)

#### **Adoption Associates**

26105 Orchard Lake Road, Suite 301  
Farmington Hills, MI 48334  
Phone: (248) 474-0990  
Toll Free: (877) 257-3591  
[www.adoptassoc.com](http://www.adoptassoc.com)

#### **LDS Family Services - Farmington Hills**

37634 Enterprise Court  
Farmington Hills, MI 48331  
Phone: (248) 553-0902  
[www.ldsfamilyservices.org](http://www.ldsfamilyservices.org)

#### **Forever Families**

42400 West Grand River Avenue, Suite 111  
Novi, MI 48375  
Phone: (248) 344-9606  
[www.forever-families.org](http://www.forever-families.org)

#### **Oakland Family Services**

114 Orchard Lake Road  
Pontiac, MI 48341  
Phone: (248) 858-7766  
[www.oaklandfamilyservices.org](http://www.oaklandfamilyservices.org)

### OAKLAND COUNTY - CONTINUED

#### **Adoption Options Worldwide**

5745 West Maple Road, Suite 214  
West Bloomfield, MI 48322  
Phone: (248) 855-2813  
[www.adoptionoptionsworldwide.com](http://www.adoptionoptionsworldwide.com)

#### **Jewish Family Service Alliance for Adoption**

6555 West Maple Road  
West Bloomfield, MI 48322  
Phone: (248) 592-2300  
[www.jfsdetroit.org](http://www.jfsdetroit.org)

#### **Bethany Christian Services**

30685 Barrington St./ Ste. 140  
Madison Heights, MI 48071  
Phone: (248) 414-4080  
[www.bethany.org/madisonheights](http://www.bethany.org/madisonheights)

### OSCEOLA COUNTY

#### **Eagle Village**

4507 170th Ave.  
Hersey, MI 49639  
(231) 832-2234  
[www.eaglevillage.org](http://www.eaglevillage.org)

### OTTAWA COUNTY

#### **Adoption Associates**

1338 Baldwin Street  
Jenison, MI 49428  
Phone: (616) 667-0677  
Toll Free: (800) 677-2367  
[www.adoptassoc.com](http://www.adoptassoc.com)

### SHIAWASSEE COUNTY

#### **Catholic Charities of Shiawassee and Genessee Counties**

120 West Exchange Street, Suite 300  
Owosso, MI 48867  
Phone: (989) 723-8239  
[www.catholiccharitiessg.org](http://www.catholiccharitiessg.org)

## ADOPTION AGENCIES BY COUNTY - CONTINUED

### WASHTENAW COUNTY

#### **Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County**

4925 Packard Road  
Ann Arbor, MI 48108-1521  
Phone: (734) 971-9781  
[www.csswashtenaw.org/adoption](http://www.csswashtenaw.org/adoption)

#### **Hands Across the Water**

2890 Carpenter Road, Suite 600  
Ann Arbor, MI 48108  
Phone: (734) 477-0135  
[www.hatw.org](http://www.hatw.org)

#### **Lutheran Adoption Service**

2770 Carpenter Rd., Suite 200  
Ann Arbor, MI 48108  
Phone: (734) 971-1944  
[www.lasadoption.org](http://www.lasadoption.org)

#### **Judson Center**

3840 Packard St., #170  
Ann Arbor, MI 48108  
(734) 528-1692  
[www.judsoncenter.org](http://www.judsoncenter.org)

### WAYNE COUNTY

#### **Keane Center for Adoption**

930 Mason St.  
Dearborn, MI 48124  
Phone: (313) 277-4664  
Toll Free: (800) 905-6789  
[www.keaneadoption.org](http://www.keaneadoption.org)

#### **Catholic Social Services of Wayne County**

9851 Hamilton Avenue  
Detroit, MI 48202  
Phone: (313) 883-2100  
[www.csswayne.org](http://www.csswayne.org)

#### **The Children's Center of Wayne County**

79 Alexandrine West  
Detroit, MI 48201  
(313) 831-5535  
[www.thechildrenscenter.com](http://www.thechildrenscenter.com)

#### **Christ Child House**

15751 Joy Road  
Detroit, MI 48228  
(313) 584-6077  
[www.christchildhouse.org](http://www.christchildhouse.org)

#### **Ennis Center for Children**

20100 Greenfield Rd.  
Detroit, MI 48235  
(313) 342-2699  
[www.enniscenter.org](http://www.enniscenter.org)

#### **Homes for Black Children**

511 E. Larned  
Detroit, MI 48226  
(313) 961-4777  
[www.homes4blackchildren.org](http://www.homes4blackchildren.org)

#### **Judson Center**

12723 Telegraph Rd., #2  
Redford, MI 48239  
(313) 794-5653  
[www.judsoncenter.org](http://www.judsoncenter.org)

#### **Methodist Children's Home Society**

26645 W. Six Mile Rd.  
Redford, MI 48240  
(313) 531-4060  
[www.mchsmi.com](http://www.mchsmi.com)

# ABOUT MICHIGAN FAMILY FORUM

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## OUR CORE VALUES

- The family is the fundamental institution in a civil society.
- Healthy, lifelong marriages are beneficial to adults and offer the best environment in which to raise children and care for elders.
- The involvement of responsible fathers is essential to the economic, emotional, and social health of children.
- Children need the protection of stable families and a healthy understanding of human sexuality.
- Elders deserve to have security and care provided by loving family members in a comfortable home environment.

## OTHER RESOURCES AVAILABLE

- Family Health Indicators: A Survey of Michigan Counties
- Forum Online, a free weekly electronic newsletter  
Subscribe at [www.michiganfamily.org](http://www.michiganfamily.org)
- What Every Child Needs: The Unique Contributions of Fathers and Mothers
- Sex Education: Rights and Responsibilities in Michigan Law
- Infant Adoption in Michigan: Reviving a Vanishing Phenomenon
- Policy Briefs  
Research briefs on marriage, out-of-wedlock sexual activity and fatherhood
- Natural Law and Marriage
- Sex Education and Michigan Law: Evaluating Our Schools

All resources are available by contacting us or by visiting our website:

[WWW.MICHIGANFAMILY.ORG](http://WWW.MICHIGANFAMILY.ORG)

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