



Family Connections Christian Adoptions

www.fcadoptions.org ♥ A non-profit, full-service adoption agency for waiting children ♥ Adoption License #500318113

INFORMATION ONLY

THE ADOPTION PROCESS

INFORMATION SESSION: A free, informal meeting to provide general information about waiting children, the agency, programs offered, and how to get started with a home study. A phone call to the office will let you know the date, time and place of the next Information Session.

ADOPTION PREPARATION CLASS 1: A prerequisite to an international or foster care (RFA) home study, this is the first of four classes designed to prepare you to adopt. Often run by adoptive parent volunteers, this relaxed session may be held in the home of adoptive parents or at the agency office.

PANEL OF ADOPTIVE PARENTS: The Panel features one or two families who will share their FCCA adoption experiences. You are encouraged to ask lots of questions and to hear the real-life stories from those who have “been there, done that.” The Panel Session may be held on its own, or included as part of another session.

INTAKE INTERVIEW: You will meet with an agency staff member and determine together whether FCCA can help you with your adoption plans. If the answer is “yes,” the next step is to fill out a Guardian Reference form, submit fingerprints, and make arrangements to attend Adoption Preparation Classes 2 and 3. You will also start working on the rest of the required paperwork for their home study. NOTE: The Intake Interview is a daytime appointment, during regular working hours (weekdays between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.).

ADOPTION PREPARATION CLASSES 2 AND 3: Education is the emphasis in these group sessions, which may include from two to seven families who are adopting internationally or from the foster care system. The classes will be held on two separate dates for a total of ten hours, and will focus on home study requirements, child development, building healthy emotions and behaviors in special needs children, coming to term with your adopted child’s past, and accepting and dealing with separation, loss, grief, bonding, and attachment. These classes are best held in person, but online attendance is available for some sessions.

INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS: This is required for every type of home study: international, foster care, and domestic infant adoption. Your social worker meets with each of you individually, at the agency office, during regular working hours.

HOME VISIT: The social worker will visit your home, at a time when all members of the household are present, and during regular working hours.

CHILD SEARCH/MATCHING: As you have been each step of the way, you are involved in the search for and placement of the child you will adopt.

ADOPTION PREPARATION CLASS 4: This class is for families adopting internationally and from foster care. It must be completed after home study approval and during the child search process. The six-hour class will focus on proven practical skills and strategies for applying Trust-Based Relationship Intervention principles so you can build strong parent-child connections and healthy behaviors in children who come from hard places.

POST-PLACEMENT AND FINALIZATION: FCCA will complete the legally-required visits and reports. FCCA can also help you file your court documents and set your final hearing date. You decide whether to attend the hearing on your own, or to hire an attorney at your expense to represent you.

NOTE FOR DOMESTIC INFANT ADOPTIONS: The training classes listed above are optional but encouraged. We will provide additional resources for you to locate a match. Once you are matched, FCCA will handle all of the paperwork to obtain the birth parents’ relinquishment for adoption, and will terminate parental rights for any non-consenting, non-contesting parent. If you are working with an attorney, the attorney will provide all of the finalization services, and will handle any court hearings if any parent contests the adoption.