

Your Adoption Journey

Welcome!

We are so happy to be a part of your adoption team! We know your adoption journey is a big deal. Thank you for trusting us!

Expectations are key, so let's get started with some basics.

We promise to:

KEEP IT REAL

- All adoption journeys have ups and downs.
- You can't control everything, and neither can we.
- We are here to help you:
 1. Evaluate the risks of your situation.
 2. Decide how to proceed.
- It is important to BE HONEST with yourself about the match you seek.
- It is possible that we may determine we are not the best place for you to grow your family.
 - If we have concerns due to budget, etc., we will reach out to you immediately.

COMMUNICATE

- Please feel free to communicate with us by phone or email.
- We work with many families, so:
 - Give us 24 hours to respond before reaching out again.
 - Know that we must prioritize certain situations.

PART 1

Questionnaire, Profile, Home Study & The Waiting Game

QUESTIONNAIRE

- Before you can be matched with an expectant mother, we must have your completed questionnaire.
- The questionnaire is an extremely important part of your adoption journey and should not be filled out without much thought and consideration.
 - How you answer many of the questions will determine how long you will be on our waiting list.
 - Some of those criteria are:
 - Openness of relationship with birth mother
 - Willingness to match with a birth mother of any race
 - Openness to drug exposure
- Please know you are able to update your criteria at any time.

PROFILE

- In addition to your profile, before you can be matched, you must have your profile completed by Joanna Ivey at Our Chosen Child <http://ourchosenchild.com>
- We work exclusively with Our Chosen Child for our adoption profiles. A little bit about Our Chosen Child:
 - Owner, Joanna Ivey: adoptive mother, graphic designer, author
 - You are responsible for the \$400 (discounted rate) profile, paid directly to Our Chosen Child.
 - Expectant parents love her profile books, and so do we.
 - There are no exceptions to this requirement:

- Even if you had a profile book already completed, you will have to have one done by Our Chosen Child.
- The completed profile will be provided digitally and by hard copy.

HOME STUDY

- You do not have to have your home study completed to have your profile shown to an expectant mother. However, please have your home study *started* if your profile is being shown!
- Identify your home study provider.
 - Kansas home study providers we have worked with:
 - Hays - Christy Kaufman 785-813-2039
 - Kansas City - Adoption and Beyond 913-381-6919, Hillary Merryfield 913-642-7900
 - Salina - Catholic Charities Northern Kansas, Peggy Crippen 785-825-0208
 - Wichita - Amy Bryant 316-209-2071, Iva Lorimor 316-516-4348, Emily Stevens 316-258-5034, Regan Snyder 316-209-5840
 - If you need help identifying a provider outside of Kansas, please let us know.
 - Call multiple providers and ask questions before committing.
 - Get their timeframe and turnaround estimate for clearances and reports.
 - A non-responsive home study provider can be a major headache.
- Once you have chosen a home study provider, schedule your first meeting.
- Be sure your KBI, FBI and child abuse clearances are being run.
- If your home study is not completed by the time you are matched, you may not be able to proceed.
- A home study is only good for one year.

We do not require that your home study be completed in order to begin showing you to an expectant mother. However, we do highly recommend that you have identified who your home study provider will be and have begun the process by the time you are actively being shown. If you are matched with an expectant mother who may deliver shortly after the match is made, you may not be eligible for the match.

THE WAITING GAME

- We really don't know how long it will take for you to be matched.
- What we do know is:
 - The more "open" you are in your questionnaire criteria for matching, the sooner you will be matched.
 - This includes being open to:
 - Children of any race
 - Drug exposure
 - "Openness" — contact with the expectant family after the adoption
- Most families are chosen by an expectant mother within one year.
- Gender-specific requests will drastically increase your wait time.
- If you are seeking a completely "closed" adoption, you will wait significantly longer, and we may be unable to match you at all.
 - The vast majority of expectant mothers want some form of contact with the adoptive couple/child after the adoption.
 - Contact can vary from:
 - Pictures and updates
 - Email contact
 - Phone and text contact
 - Formal requested visits
 - Frequent informal visits

- Research is very clear that some form of openness, or at least the ability to have information about the child's biological family, is in the child's best interest.

PART 2

The Matching Process, Budget, Timeline & Next Steps

MARTIN PRINGLE'S MATCHING PROCESS

- An expectant mother is referred to Martin Pringle.
- The expectant mother's needs and situation are assessed.
- The expectant mother is shown profiles of potential adoptive families whose criteria match her needs.
- The expectant mother chooses a family.
- The chosen family is contacted.
- The adoptive family reviews the situation and determines whether to proceed.
- The journey begins.

If you are matched by someone else, tell us immediately.

HOW DO EXPECTANT MOTHERS FIND MARTIN PRINGLE?

- Martin Pringle receives referrals of expectant mothers from:
 - Adoption agencies
 - Adoption advertisers
 - Adoption professionals, therapists, attorneys, doctors, hospitals
 - Prior birth mothers

WHAT FAMILIES ARE SHOWN TO THE MOTHER?

- We do not have a hierarchy of families based on wait time or when you signed up with our office.
- We show an expectant mother every family that meets her needs.
- WE DO NOT CALL YOU TO DISCUSS AN EXPECTANT MOTHER'S SITUATION BEFORE YOUR PROFILE IS SHOWN.
 - This is why it is very important to have accurate information on your questionnaire. We cannot call every family and discuss the situation due to the fact she will only be choosing one family.

BUDGET

- Adoption can be expensive, most are in fact.
- The majority of adoptions we finalize have a **total** cost of \$30,000-\$35,000
- This is not our fee, but again, the total cost of the adoption.
- If you are matched directly, without another adoption professional involved, your adoption could be significantly lower than \$30,000.

HOW A MOTHER FINDS US IS A HUGE FACTOR IN THE COST OF THE ADOPTION

- If a third party is involved, an adoption agency or advertiser, the adoption cost is higher.
- When an expectant mother is referred to us by a friend, family member, or doctor, the cost of the adoption is less expensive because there is no additional advertising cost.
- If you are comfortable, we encourage you to build your own network and speak to your family, friends, doctors, and social media networks about your wish to adopt.
- Some of the best matches are organic and found without any professionals.
 - Please contact us about such a situation so that we can evaluate any legal risks.

YOU ARE CHOSEN. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- When you are chosen, someone from our adoption team will call or email you.
- If you do not check your email regularly, please let us know.
- We will provide you with what information is available about the expectant mother and her situation.
- If you have additional questions about the situation that we do not know, we will try to get those questions answered for you.
- If the situation comes to us through an agency or advertiser, we will put you in touch with them as they have the relationship with the expectant mother and will be better suited to answer your questions.
- It is unlikely at the initial match that formal medical documentation will be provided.

TIMELINE

- It is not unusual that a decision on whether you would like to proceed with the match is needed within 24 hours.
- Please be sure you understand the timeframe for a decision when you are contacted about a potential match
- Some timelines we do not have control over.
 - If you are uncomfortable with the timeline for a decision, it is likely not the best match for you.

YOU ARE A MATCH! WHAT'S NEXT?

- Conference call or meeting with the expectant mother
- This is a chance for the both of you to get to know each other.
- A professional will facilitate the call.
- We can help you consider appropriate topics and questions.
- Not all of your questions will be answered in this call.
- The goal is for it to be the beginning of a long relationship.
- Please understand, you should not proceed with a call in order to determine if you want to proceed.
 - Once you agree to a call with an expectant mother, unless there is something determined in the call that was not known prior, it is expected that you are proceeding with the match.
 - You can understand the feelings of an expectant mother who is told after a call that the family does not want to proceed.

If you live outside of Kansas *and* the expectant mother you are matched with does as well:

- We will connect you with an adoption attorney in one or both of those states.
- There is a consulting fee of \$1,000.

FINAL POINTS

- Congratulations on taking this step!
- We hope this answered some of your questions.
- Please let us know if anything changes that would affect your adoption.
- Every match is extremely fact specific.
 - Detailed questions about what happens next are best answered once a match is made.
- There is no obligation to hire us for the legal work for the adoption, but we hope that you do!

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