

CONSIDERING ADOPTION WITH ASA'S HELP??

HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW!



OUR PROFESSIONAL CONTACTS –

A Step Ahead Adoption Services (ASA) has developed long lasting, trusted relationships with 10 attorneys and 20 adoption agencies across the U.S. As a result, we are able to help most families adopt in one year or less.

RACE AND GENDER –

The more open you are on gender and race, the more expectant parent cases you can submit for. We DO accept clients who are race and/or gender specific but realize that often diminishes the many options that could be available to your family. If you are race/gender specific, you may have a much longer wait. However, we leave that up to you! Your coach will ALWAYS send you each case we receive, no matter what your preferences.

ADOPTION COMMUNICATION –

We are always asked about the level of “openness” for adoptive parents. We don’t have a policy on adoption communication, but choose to educate you on the differences between closed, semi-open and open adoption. Again, the more options you are open to, the more choices you may have on cases you want to present to.

COST OF ADOPTION –

The median cost of an adoption placement through the adoption providers, with whom we work, are ranging in the \$40-\$60K range. We can get a case below \$40K, but we want to be straightforward about the possible case costs for a placement of a newborn or infant. This cost estimate covers the costs that you will acquire once you are matched with an expectant mom. For example: expectant birth mom/parent expenses, agency fee, attorney fee, etc.

ASA SERVICE PACKAGE OPTIONS

ASA provides you with online education, a personal adoption coach, materials for budgeting, fundraising, or applying for grants for your adoption, monthly live webinars, a private Facebook support group, a monthly collective call, and newsletters.



WITH YOU EVERY STEP

\$4200

Best suited for families who are just starting the adoption process or have completed their home study and are ready to network

This package happens in four steps:

1. **Home Study and profile development:** Adoption preparation, home study referral, profile development and education
2. **Networking:** Once “approved and waiting”, we network you with the various adoption providers in the US; you do not have to apply to agencies and attorneys to show your profile. Our unique relationships allow you a courtesy showing to expectant parents desiring to make an adoption plan
3. **Matched:** Your coach will guide you through conversations with expectant parents and the agency/attorney, prepare you for the hospital stay and bringing home your baby.
4. **Post Placement/Finalization:** We walk with you through the post placement time, and we stay with you through finalization. Post placement, you are offered a complimentary 1-hour phone call, with an adoptee, to ask any questions that come up when you are finally home with your baby.

ALUMNI

\$2500

This package is for our alumni families who are back for another baby. You will receive all the same benefits as the first package, just at a discounted price, because we LOVE when families allow us to help build their family for the second, third, or even fourth time!

PROFILE DESIGN

\$725

Our personal profile designer will work with you to create a profile book that showcases all the amazing qualities you could offer an expectant mother and her child

WHAT IS AN ADOPTION COACH?

A qualified Adoption Coach will provide you with the education, support and guidance that will assist you in making the best decisions for your family throughout the adoption process, from start through finalization. Coaches are your adoption advocates throughout the process. They are well-versed in each state's adoption laws as well as the philosophies and reputations of the adoption agencies that they choose to work with, and will assist you in creating as many opportunities as possible for your family to receive your adoptive match and bring your child home. Here at ASA, our adoption coaches do not just have the professional expertise to fulfill their roles; they have personal experience in being a member of the adoption triad and can share with you their first hand experiences in adoption. They can assist you in creating your family profile book, provide financial education regarding various tax credits and grants, and help in explaining the fees and costs for adoption-related services. You can rely on your coach to answer questions regarding travel advice if you are completing an interstate adoption, discussing adoption-related issues with extended family and friends, and providing a 'shoulder to lean on' in general throughout your adoption journey.

DO YOU ADVERTISE AND DO DIRECT MATCHING WITH EXPECTANT PARENTS?

No, we view that as adoption facilitation and that is not part of our service package. Instead, we reach out to the 30+ adoption providers with whom we have built personal and professional relationships. They let us know about prospective expectant/birth parent(s) and we then refer the adoptive family to that provider if they wish to submit a profile for consideration.

HOW DO WE/I BUDGET FOR AN ADOPTION?

Since we are unsure of where and through whom you will adopt, we suggest you plan on a minimum of \$40,000 for an adoption placement. That fee will be paid to the "placing" entity (agency or attorney) from whom you receive your adopted child. We will provide materials to help you in your search for grants, loans and fundraising ideas.

WHAT SERVICES ARE PROVIDED BY A STEP AHEAD ADOPTION?

When a prospective family enrolls with ASA they are assigned a personal adoption coach. Typically the adoptive family is allowed to select the coach with whom they would like to work, but if unsure, the company's owner will assist the adoptive family with the best choice of a coach. Your coach is responsible for guiding you through the adoption process from the point you enter our service plan. If you are completely new to adoption, your coach begins with home study agency referrals, adoption education and profile development assistance. If you come to us as a "professional referral" from an agency, social worker or attorney, your coach picks up your adoption plan at whatever point you enter our services. We stay with your family from that unique beginning point through placement with your adoption provider and finalization. Our service package includes adoption home study referral, adoption education & parenting education, personal adoption guidance & support, ancillary adoption services (i.e., legal, financial, child development, birth parent communication), profile design assistance, networking/adoption provider referrals, and post adoption support. We have documented that we spend 60-100 hours per client family with our adoption coaching services.

HOW DO YOUR CLIENTS AND FAMILIES ACHIEVE ADOPTION?

ASA has been in business for over 24 years. During that time, we have worked hard to build a relationship with 30+ different adoption providers (agencies and attorneys) who have the legal authority to place a child for adoption. Due to our unique working relationships, these adoption providers allow our client families to have their profile shown to prospective expectant parents and birth parent(s) at no legal or financial obligation. If the adoptive client family should be selected by the expectant/birth parent(s) and accept the "match," then and only then do they make a financial and legal commitment to that adoption provider. Prior to a "match" our client families are able to wait on their financial or legal commitments and have a greater opportunity to view information from a variety of agencies and attorneys.

DO YOU WORK WITH FAMILIES FROM ALL THE US STATES?

Currently, we cannot work with families who are residents of NJ or NY.

WHERE WOULD WE GO FOR AN ADOPTION?

Most of the providers with whom we work are located in these states: AL, AZ, CO, FL, GA, KS, NC, NV, OK, SC, SD, TX and WA. If you research the adoption laws in these states, you'll learn that they tend to be considered "adoption friendly" states for adoptive parents.

DO YOU WORK WITH ADOPTION PROVIDERS IN ALL US STATES?

We have built relationships with adoption providers in the most "adoption friendly" states. That is not to say we won't work with every state that permits our services, but most of our client families prefer to take placement through agencies/attorneys in states that have adoption regulations favorable to an irrevocable placement.

IS THERE A REQUIREMENT FOR FAITH, RACE OR MARITAL STATUS?

We work with all types of families from single persons, married couples (traditional and same sex), domestic partnerships and common law couples. We accept all faiths and races. Our guiding principle is your family is able to successfully complete a home study and provide a stable home with unconditional love for a child/children. We do request you have a brief phone interview with the owner of our company to assess if your priorities match our service abilities. We do request if you are a couple that you have been together at least 1 year (partnership or marriage) before applying for our program.

HOW LONG DO YOU WORK WITH YOUR CLIENT FAMILIES?

We ask everyone to sign a Fee Service Agreement that binds us to our client families for one year from signing on with our services. If the family becomes dissatisfied, they may disengage at any time during that year, but no refund is provided. At the end of the year, we offer our clients to sign on for a second year if they choose to do so. Your one year will start on the date that you sign and return your contract.

ARE YOU READY TO START YOUR ADOPTION JOURNEY WITH US?!

FOLLOW THE STEPS BELOW TO GET STARTED

1. Complete our online application: www.asteпаheadadoption.com
2. Click forms
3. Click on Application Form (it takes 20-30 minutes to complete and runs best in google chrome or Safari)
4. Look for our confirmation email. Once your application is complete, we receive a message that your family is in the “queue” and we will confirm with an email.
5. Sign, date and return the Authorization Release Form and Fee Service Agreement then make your payment. All of this will be emailed to you.
6. When all steps above are completed, you will be assigned your adoption coach and you will be well on your way to bringing home your baby; with us by your side every step of the way!



Thank you for considering A Step Ahead Adoption Services and taking the time to see what we have to offer! Adoption is a BIG decision; I applaud you for taking the time to do your research on what avenue is the best for you! When my husband and I first started to explore the adoption world more than 7 years ago, we were so overwhelmed! It was so reassuring to have an adoption coach to help us through the process.

Our number one priority is making sure our families feel supported every step of the way as they navigate their adoption journey. All of us here at ASA have literally walked a mile in your shoes, because of that, we are fully equipped to help you through every part of your journey, and we are dedicated to providing you with honest, whole-hearted support and education!

- Valerie Marble, Owner

