



**TRINITY**  
*Pregnancy and Adoption*



# ADOPTION INFORMATION PACKET

*Serving the adoption triad across South Dakota, In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.*

## **CONTACT INFO**

Call or Text Pregnancy Helpline (605) 388-2799

***Trinity@cssrapidcity.com***

***www.trinityadoption.org***

## **CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES**

529 Kansas City St

CSS Main Line: (605) 348-6086

Fax: (605)



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# Welcome to the Adoption Process

Dear Prospective Adoptive Family,

Welcome to the adoption experience! Whether you have already taken this path or are just beginning the process, this experience will forever stay in your heart.

Enclosed is the initial packet of information about our adoption services. We are sending you information regarding our adoption program, fees, and other useful resources. We would love to meet with you to give you further information and answer any questions that you may have.

Please note that our domestic infant adoption program is currently full unless either parent is an enrolled tribal member. If you wish to be added to our waitlist, please fill out our pre-application and you will be contacted when a spot is open. We are now accepting applicants into our adoption from foster care program. If you are looking to complete a kinship or other contract home study, please contact your attorney or placing agency before contacting us about submitting an application.

# Our Services



## **Pregnancy Support**

We provide expectant families with pregnancy support case management, options counseling, and educational services



## **Adoption Services**

We offer domestic infant adoption, kinship adoption, designated placements, adoption from foster care, and other contract services.



## **Education and Support**

From adoption and foster care education, perinatal mental health, to car seat safety and support groups, we are a one stop shop for family education and support.



# Helpful Resources

- [The Adoption Home Study Process](#)
- [Families Considering Foster Care and Adoption](#)

## **Applicant Qualifications**

### General Qualifications for Trinity Pregnancy and Adoption Domestic Adoption Program

#### Housing:

The adoptive home must meet all of the health and safety standards established by SD Department of Social Services. A minimum of one contact by the Social Worker in the adoptive home is required.

#### Religion:

Although Trinity Pregnancy and Adoption, a program of Catholic Social Services is sponsored by the Catholic Diocese of Rapid City, we accept and consider applications from couples of all Christian and non-Christian religions and faith practices, including Native American spiritual practices, not inconsistent with the sincerely held beliefs and moral convictions of CSS. Both Applicants must give evidence of their spiritual commitment and must provide a religious reference from the spiritual leader from their faith community. They must have a desire to live these beliefs and teach them to their children.

#### Parenting Ability:

The adoptive couple must give evidence of a mutual desire and love for children. They must be able to provide for the physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual needs of the child being adopted.

If the couple is presently parenting or is responsible for children living elsewhere, the couple's capability of providing for the needs of an additional child must be determined. The termination of any prior adoption proceedings of either adoptive parent may be grounds for denial of adoption services through CSS. The prior termination of the parental rights of either adoptive parent may also negatively impact their ability to adopt through CSS. The effect that any such terminations have on the adoption process will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Any prior post-adoption dissolution by either adoptive parent may be grounds for denial of adoption services through CSS.

During the course of the home study, the adoptive family will be asked to discuss how they plan to provide discipline to their children. If the family is already parenting, they will be asked to describe their current methods of discipline. If the family uses or plans on using spanking or other types of physical punishment as a form of discipline, this could affect the outcome of the home study. Laws on the use of physical punishment vary across states as well as countries and the use of physical punishment may limit a family's opportunity to adopt a child. The adoption specialist will be happy to discuss with the family alternative forms of discipline as well as provide resources that will inform and enrich their parenting skills.

## **Applicant Qualifications**

### **continued**

Three non-relative personal references as well as family references will be requested regarding the applicants' ability to parent a child.

#### **Marriage:**

Applicants must have been married for a minimum of two (2) years at the time of the application, in a marriage legally recognized under the laws of the State of South Dakota and consistent with the sincerely-held religious beliefs and moral convictions of CSS. Applicants must also demonstrate a mature, compatible, and growing marriage relationship. A copy of the marriage license and/or marriage certificate shall be submitted. If either of the applicants have been divorced, copies of all divorce decrees shall be submitted.

#### **Age:**

At the time of the initial application, applicants must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age and at least one parent must be within forty-five (45) years of age of the potential adoptee. Couples will no longer be eligible for the infant domestic program after both people are 48 and older. Copies of birth certificates for all family members shall be submitted.

#### **Residency Requirements:**

Applicants must be residents of South Dakota.

#### **Fertility:**

Couples may apply for domestic adoption only if they are unable to biologically conceive or bear children. A couple may also apply if a physician finds that a pregnancy may adversely affect the mother's health.

#### **Health:**

A current medical examination of each parent and any children or other individuals residing in the home will be required.

## **Applicant Qualifications**

### **continued**

#### Finances:

The adoptive couple must submit evidence of their ability to financially provide for a child. In addition, a reference from the couple's financial institution will be requested.

#### Pregnancy:

For couples applying for the Domestic Infant Program, if a pregnancy occurs during the adoption process, the couple's application will be placed on hold pending the outcome of the pregnancy. Couples may wish to continue the adoption process 6 months after the birth of their child.

#### Background Investigation:

The following record checks will be conducted:

- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation
- Registry of Child Abuse/Neglect in each state of residence for the last 10 years or since the age of 18 (applicants and children over 18)
- South Dakota Child Support Enforcement Bureau
- Sex Offender Registry



## **Applicant Qualifications continued**

### Exceptions:

The Executive Director, with input and advice from the Family Services Staff, may make exceptions to these general qualifications under unique circumstances, provided such exceptions are in the best interest of the child and not inconsistent with the sincerely-held religious beliefs or moral convictions of CSS.

If CSS declines to provide any service that conflicts with, or provide any service under circumstances that conflict with, the agency's sincerely held religious beliefs or moral convictions, then CSS will provide the Applicants written information advising them of the South Dakota Department of Social Services website and a list of licensed child-placement agencies with contact information.

### Adoption Information Meetings

Prospective adoptive parents will be required to meet with one of the Catholic Social Services Adoption Social Workers to complete an Adoption Information Meeting before submitting an application. Topics will include: the history of adoption, current practices, common fears in adoption, adoption terms, information of the adoption triad, types of adoption, legal issues in adoption, the adoption process including fees, and adoption assistance.

### Application Fee

The application fee is \$500. This fee is due when the application form is returned to the agency. This fee is non-refundable.

## Agency Qualifications for Adoptive Applicants in the State of South Dakota

- 67:14:32:11.01. Adoptive study.
- 67:14:32:08. General qualifications for adoptive applicants.
- 67:14:32:05.03. Screening for substantiated reports or convictions of abuse and neglect.
- 67:14:32:05.05. Application denied if criminal record check detects certain crimes.
- 67:42:01:07. Physical health standards required of applicant and applicant's family.

## **SAFE Home Study Process**

On behalf of Trinity Pregnancy and Adoption, thank you for your interest in starting the home study process. You will be assigned a home study practitioner to help guide and support you through the process.

Our organization conducts a Structured Analysis Family Evaluation (SAFE) home study. SAFE is a structured, evidence-based methodology used to get to know you and your family. The home study process is very personal and will require you to share information about yourselves. The more we learn about you, your family history, your relationships, and your current circumstances; the better we can prepare and support you, your family, and any children/youth we place in your home.

You will be required to complete two questionnaires that provide information about your childhood, adolescent, and adulthood experiences. You will have an opportunity to discuss your responses and life experiences with your home study practitioner. We will also be speaking with everyone living in the home and possibly to those who are frequent visitors. Couples will be interviewed separately and together. Additional information will be gathered from references, adult children (if applicable), financial and medical reports, and background checks.

We do not expect or want you to be perfect. Perfect people do not exist. People who have experienced challenges often develop strengths and understanding that will assist them in supporting children/youth who have also experienced challenges and trauma.

Your open and honest participation in the home study process is essential for you, your family, our agency, and any child/youth placed in your home to have a positive experience. Any information you provide to us, whether verbally or in writing (including any documents obtained such as legal records, financial and medical reports, and interviews with any family members, friends, and references), will be confidential. Feel free to ask us any specific questions about how we collect and store your information.

You will be asked to read and sign your completed SAFE Home Study Report at the end of this process. The information gathered from record checks, references, questionnaires, and meetings will be compiled into the final home study report. We will discuss with you how this home study report will be used, and if needed, how it will be updated in the future.

If you have any questions at all, please reach out to your assigned home study practitioner.

Thank you again, and we look forward to working with you.

# Adoption Fees



Trinity Pregnancy and Adoption  
www.trinityadoption.org

## DOMESTIC INFANT ADOPTION

### FEE SCHEDULE

DESCRIPTION	FEE	NOTES
Application	\$500	
Home Study	\$3,000	Fee is covered by SD DSS
Pre-Placement	\$3,500	
Rapid City Diocese Placement	14% Annual Income	\$5,000-\$18,000
Sioux Falls Diocese Placement	18% Annual Income	\$5,000-\$20,000
Post Placement	\$300	per visit plus travel fees @\$1 per mile
Court Report Fee	\$250	

### PAYMENT INFO

Please make any checks out to "Catholic Social Services" with "Trinity" in the memo

+1 (605) 348-6086  
Fax: 1 (605) 348-1050  
css@radidcity.com  
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Suite 100  
Rapid City, SD 57701



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## ADOPTION FROM FOSTER CARE

### FEE SCHEDULE

DESCRIPTION	FEE	NOTES
Application	\$500	
Home Study	\$3,000	Fee is covered by SD DSS
Program Fee	\$3000	Plus \$350 per sibling
Post-Placement	\$300	per visit, plus travel fees (This fee applies to placement supervision contracted by out of state agencies)
Post-Placement Support Fee	\$1000	(This fee applies if South Dakota DSS is supervising the placement)

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## CONTRACT HOME STUDY

### FEE SCHEDULE

DESCRIPTION	FEE	NOTES
Application	\$500	
Home Study	\$3,000	Fee is covered by SD DSS
Post-Placement	\$300	(if necessary) plus travel fees @ \$1 per mile
Court Report	\$250	

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# Adoption Fees continued



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## KINSHIP ADOPTION

### FEE SCHEDULE

DESCRIPTION	FEE	NOTES
Application	\$250	
Home Study	\$3,000	Fee is covered by SD DSS

More Helpful Resources:

- [Planning for Adoption: Knowing the Costs and Resources](#)
- [You Can Adopt Without Debt: Creative Ways to Cover the Cost of Adoption](#)
- [\\$100K+ in Adoption & Infertility Expenses With \\*Zero Debt\\* ???](#)

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# While You Wait

- **Share our Flyers**
- **Register for a Class**
- **Schedule an Adoption Information Meeting**
- **Follow us on Social Media**
- **Learn More about WRAP care**
- **Fill out a pre-application**



# Schedule an Appointment

<https://calendly.com/cssfamilyservices/adoption>

(605) 348-6086

trinity@cssrapidcity.com

Keep up with our events on social media

[\*\*linktr.ee/trinityadoption\*\*](https://linktr.ee/trinityadoption)

