

Lifeline Children's Services, Inc. received its license to operate as a non-profit child-placing agency from the State Department of Human Resources in September 1981. Since that time, Lifeline has placed hundreds of children for adoption into Christian homes. We are a non-denominational, Christian ministry.

Lifeline Children's Services receives client referrals from a number of sources, but also works very closely with crisis pregnancy centers, counselors, pastors, physicians, attorneys, and social workers. These contacts are primarily across Alabama, but our outreach extends into other states as well. The purpose of Lifeline has been to assist young women experiencing an unplanned pregnancy who are considering placing their children for adoption. Lifeline Children's Services provides free professional counseling, medical care, shelter and legal services to these clients. In addition to this goal, Lifeline exists to assist prospective adoptive families in achieving their desire to adopt. The Lifeline ministry also oversees a network of volunteer foster families, as well as operating two group homes dedicated to providing for the housing needs of young women.

Following the submission of an application, a preliminary screening interview will be held between a staff member and the prospective adoptive applicants. Typically, the length of wait time varies from four to six months between the initial application and the completion of the adoptive home study report. Additional time should be expected before the placement of a child occurs. This wait could be between one and four years.

Lifeline Children's Services does not keep a chronological list of applicants. Birth mothers may select an adoptive family for their child by viewing non-identifying profiles of families with completed and approved home studies. In some cases, adoptive families may meet with the birth mother. Adopting a child depends on being selected by the birth family through this profile system, or by locating your own prospective adoptive child and allowing Lifeline Children's Services to provide services to a birth parent. The very nature of the process makes it difficult to specify when a prospective adoptive family would be chosen to receive a child, or if the birth mother will place the child for adoption. You will have much latitude in determining what direction you wish your adoption to take.

Lifeline Children's Services is funded by both private contributions and adoption-related fees. The adoption fee each adoptive applicant would pay is based on the expenses of providing care to the birth mother and child, as well as the costs associated with completing the home study report. Special financial consideration is given to those couples who are adopting special needs children (ie: medically or physically handicapped). Prospective applicants must meet our established criteria before submitting an application (see the following Qualifications for Prospective Adoptive Applicants).



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We appreciate your interest in our program and hope that it will be the beginning of a rewarding relationship. You are welcome to call our office with any questions related to our application and adoption process. We also invite you to visit our web site at www.lifelineadoption.org for additional information. ■