

Who Are Our Adoptive Families?

There are many things to think about when selecting a family who will be raising your child. We recommend thinking about how you were raised and how that might affect selecting a family. Below are some questions to consider as you begin the process of getting to know our families:

Did you grow up with other siblings? Were you the oldest? Youngest?

Many of our families are 'seasoned' parents, raising biological and adoptive children or even both! Some of our families are also first time parents and hope to continue building their family through adoption. If siblings are important to you, consider the sibling order and where your child would fit into that order.

Where you raised in a location considered "rural" with few street lights or people? Or do you come from a city full of activity and sound?

All of our families live throughout Alaska. Some live in areas where they have a wide variety of culture while others live in rural settings with big yards and quiet surroundings.

The environment where families live allow you to get a sense of who they are and the lifestyle they might have. Thinking about such things will help envision the life you wish for your child. Do you wish for your child to have the opportunity to travel, fish on the Kenai, or do things you wish you could do but never got to?

Do you hold any special religious practices that are important to you? Would you like a family that is faith centered? Would you like a family that is not?

You may think that our families are all Catholic, and while some of our families are, our families come from many religious or non-religious backgrounds. Some of our families are very involved in their community churches while some families do not attend church at all. Some of our adoptive families beliefs may or may not match your own and it is your decision to decide if this is important in selecting a family.

If religion is important, we encourage you to talk to the adoptive family about your beliefs and what role it will play in your child's life.

What is your idea of child care? Do you plan for the adoptive family to provide stay at home care?

We require our adoptive families to make prior arrangements for child care once placement occurs. Some of our families will utilize outside child care resources when the child is older while some of our families make arrangements for someone to be at home at all times.

Other things to consider:

Our families are all different: some of our families have various pets, some families have different educational backgrounds, and some of our families have different cultural norms and values. Asking questions and learning about our adoptive families allows you to feel comfortable with the family you select.

**For more information,
please contact:**

Hollyn Dineen

Pregnancy Support Counselor
Catholic Social Services
3710 E. 20th Ave.
Anchorage, AK 99508

907-222-7315 Direct
906-258-1091 Fax
888-625-7315 Toll Free
hdineen@cssalaska.org