

Adoption Center of Illinois at Family Resource Center Domestic Programs Overview and Fee Structure

Effective January 2018

All fees paid are non-refundable unless otherwise noted. All fees are reviewed annually by our Board of Directors and are subject to change.

There is no guarantee of placement in any adoption program.

Traditional Adoption Placement (TAP) Program

The TAP Program is the primary program through which US-born children are placed with families who are working with our agency. This is considered a “traditional” program because our agency matches birth parents that are considering placing a child for adoption and prospective adoptive parents who are hoping to adopt a child. In TAP, we provide supportive services and resources to birth parents who contact the agency through our outreach efforts, and also support prospective adoptive parents by guiding them through the adoption process. To minimize prospective adoptive parents’ financial risk, there are no matching fees and our agency pays all BP expenses. **Placements made through this program are primarily newborns.**

TAP families are asked to state their adoption preferences regarding factors such as race, ethnicity, health, prenatal substance exposure, legal risk and post-placement communication with birth parents. TAP families are presented to birth parents whose circumstances match their preferences. Birth parents select the adoptive family. In general, the broader a family’s adoption preferences, the more frequently their profile will be presented.

An important note: Because birth parents select the adoptive family with whom they would like to work, it is impossible to predict when a birth parent will choose any particular family. As such, an estimated timeframe for completing an adoption is not available. We do not guarantee placement for any family.

Please note: Prospective adoptive parents are responsible for obtaining legal counsel at their own expense. Prospective adoptive parents are also responsible for expenses including but not limited to: fingerprinting, registry clearances when prospective adoptive parents have resided in other states/countries, out-of-state agency expenses, travel and lodging, USCIS fees for international adoption.

Traditional Adoption Placement (TAP) Program

Phase I – Comprehensive Home Study Services

Services:

- Initial Application Interview
- Orientation
- Home Study¹
- Adoption Education/Training (classes offered at our agency)
- Up to 5 Post Placements Visits for one child
- Court report
- FBFA Application (TAP Only)
- ICPC (Interstate Placement of Children)

¹All domestic home studies must be updated annually for a \$600 fee until placement occurs.

Fee [due with application] - \$4,200

\$3,900 for returning ACI applicants

\$2,500 for applicants with current Home Study²

²Fee only applies to applicants who are using another agency to provide home study and post placement services.

Phase II – TAP Program

Services:

- BPs outreach/advertising efforts
- Emergency response service – staff on call 24 hours per day
- Support/feedback in the creation of family profiles
- Presentation of family profiles to Illinois BP's
- Family profile on our website
- BP expenses paid by agency
- Coordination of post-placement communication plan between APs and BPs

Fee [due after acceptance into program] - \$5,800

Phase III – Placement

Fee [due at the time of placement] – \$24,000³

³Sibling Placements: When two or more children from the same birth parent(s) are placed at the same time through the TAP program, prospective adoptive parents will pay \$36,000 (1.5 full placement fees).

Total Fees for TAP Program

\$34,000

\$33,700 for returning ACI applicants

\$32,300 for applicants with current Home Study

Family Based Financial Aid – TAP PROGRAM ONLY: Our Board of Directors created the FBFA program to support prospective adoptive parents from a wide range of economic circumstances in pursuing adoption. The FBFA program provides non-cash grants to prospective adoptive parents who demonstrate financial need. Need is not determined strictly on an income-based sliding scale. This program takes into account a variety of factors including, but not limited to: household income, assets, age, extenuating circumstances, extraordinary medical expenses, and number of dependents. However, in reviewing financial aid grants awarded over the past 10 years, it is extremely rare that financial aid is awarded when the total household income of the prospective adoptive parents is over \$135,000 unless there are extenuating circumstances.

Prospective adoptive parents have the option of applying for FBFA prior to submitting their Phase I fee by submitting a non-refundable \$250 fee payable to Adoption Center of Illinois. Prospective adoptive parents must otherwise apply for FBFA within 60 days of submitting their application and Phase I fee, with no additional FBFA application fee.

FBFA award amounts range from \$1,000 to \$13,000. If any amount of FBFA is awarded, \$1,000 of the total award amount will be applied to Phase II fees. Financial aid grants can only be applied toward the TAP Program Phase II program fee and Phase III placement fee. At the time of placement, your financial aid grant letter will act as cash in your payment of the placement fee. *This program is only open to US citizens and US residents.*

Adoption Center of Illinois at Family Resource Center's Refund Policy

In the spirit of transparency, and in order to avoid any confusion, our agency wants prospective adoptive parents to know what fees are refundable and under what circumstances. Unless otherwise stated below, all fees paid to our agency are non-refundable.

I. Phase I Fee

A portion of the Phase I fee may be refundable under the following circumstances:

A] If prospective adoptive parents submit an application to our agency and withdraw¹ it before the initial application interview, all but \$250 of the Phase I fee is refundable.

B] If prospective adoptive parents submit an application to our agency and withdraw¹ it after the initial application interview, all but \$1,500 of the Phase I fee is refundable.

C] There shall be no refund of the Phase I fee (which includes post-placement fees) once a worker enters a prospective adoptive parent's home and begins an in-home visit and interview. The post-placement visit fees are part of the all-inclusive fee and are not billed separately.

II. TAP Program Placement Fee

The TAP Program Placement fee is refundable under the following circumstances:

In legal risk situations involving unknown putative fathers, the actual amount of the placement fee paid by prospective adoptive parents will be fully refunded by Adoption Center of Illinois at Family Resource Center in the event that the adoptive placement of the child is reversed prior to the finalization of the adoption, due to (1) a successful legal challenge brought by a putative/biological father and (2) loss of custody of the child by the prospective adoptive parents. This refund will be made by our agency to the prospective adoptive parents within 60 days after **both** the entry of the final court order and the return or surrender of the child to Adoption Center of Illinois at Family Resource Center or the putative/biological father. The 60 day period will begin after the second of the aforementioned events occurs.

¹ An application shall be considered "withdrawn" when prospective adoptive parents send an email or fax to an ACI staff member indicating their desire to withdraw their application. If prospective adoptive parents do not receive confirmation within 48 hours, please contact the agency's Executive Director.