



Dear Prospective Adoptive Parent,

Thank you for your interest in the ministry of Life Choices of Memphis, Inc. Life Choices is a Christian adoption agency dedicated to placing infants with families who have received the gift of eternal life. Our minimum requirements for adoptive couples include the following:

1. Committed Christians who are ACTIVE MEMBERS in the same local, Bible-believing church
2. Between the ages of 23 and 49
3. Both parents must be in good health, with no communicable diseases, with an average life expectancy of 19 more years. All family members must be in compliance with the Tennessee Department of Health immunization requirements.
4. Married couple, husband and wife, that has been married at least 3 years with history of fertility/reproductive issues. If couple is wants to adopt a special placement needs infant, there are no restrictions.
5. If both parents are presently working outside the home, one parent must be willing to refrain from working outside the home at the time of placement for a recommended period for bonding. After the initial bonding period, any child care outside the immediate family must be approved by this agency until the adoption is final.
6. We will work with families in 12 West Tennessee Counties and eight counties in North Mississippi. If a couple lives outside this area, they would need to obtain a home study through a licensed agency in their area.

Additionally, Life Choices requires couples to sign doctrinal and pro-life statements, which are enclosed for your consideration. A schedule of fees is also included. You may return your signed statements to me at 5575 Raleigh Lagrange Road, Memphis, TN 38134. Please include your contact information. In addition to your signed statements, please send the orientation fee of \$50.00 (checks payable to Life Choices of Memphis, Inc.) When I receive your signed statements & orientation fee, I will contact you to schedule an orientation meeting. If we proceed with the approval of your application, a home study must be conducted by Life Choices or an approved agency in your state. Once you've been approved, you will be placed with a pool of waiting families. Please review the enclosed documents and call me if you have any questions (901-388-1172). You may also reach me by email at [judy.mclaughlin@lifechoicesmemphis.org](mailto:judy.mclaughlin@lifechoicesmemphis.org). Once again, let me thank you for your interest in our program.

Respecting Life,

Judith McLaughlin MS  
Director of Adoption Services

## **LIFE CHOICES OF MEMPHIS, INC.**

### **PRO-LIFE STATEMENT**

Since its inception, Life Choices of Memphis, Inc. has firmly stood opposed to abortion on demand and was formed to provide alternative solutions for women with a crisis pregnancy.

As Christians who believe in the authority of the Scriptures, we believe without reservation or qualification that the Scriptures teach that human life begins at conception. The Scriptures also teach that God highly values human life not only because man is a part of His creation, but because man is the pinnacle of His creation, having been created in His own image.

Thus, human life is sacred and is of inestimable worth. Man's value, which has been inalienably determined by God, must never be cheapened or subjected to utilitarian value. Every individual must be treated with this high degree of dignity and worth, regardless of their age, race, intelligence, and physical capabilities. We reject any philosophy or practice which determines a person's worth or right to live founded on elitist, humanistic perspective of valuing individuals, based on their race, potential social contribution, or physical and mental capabilities.

Since human life is sacred, the taking of a human life must only be done on the basis of a scripturally justifiable reason. And it is because the Scripture's prohibitions against the taking of the life of an innocent human being that we stand morally opposed to abortion on demand.

We do recognize that there are, on occasion, situations in which the mother's life is being endangered, but these situations must be cautiously and sensitively approached.

We, the undersigned, therefore affirm our strong opposition to abortion on demand.

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Signature

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Signature

LIFE CHOICES OF MEMPHIS, INC  
PHILOSOPHY OF ADOPTION

WE BELIEVE ADOPTION TO BE A GODLY AND BIBLICALLY-ROOTED CONCEPT. ADOPTION IS A POSITIVE OPTION FOR A WOMAN IN A CRISIS PREGNANCY AS WELL AS A DESIRABLE WAY FOR A COUPLE TO BUILD THEIR FAMILY. ADOPTION IS NOT THE RIGHT DECISION FOR ALL OF OUR CLIENTS, AND WE DO NOT ENCOURAGE ADOPTION OVER PARENTING. INSTEAD, WE TRUST THAT GOD WILL REVEAL HIS BEST PLAN TO THE BIOLOGICAL PARENTS TO WHOM HE HAS ENTRUSTED THE CHILD.

WE BELIEVE THAT BIRTH FAMILIES WHO CHOOSE ADOPTION ARE TO BE COMMENDED FOR THEIR SACRIFICIAL LOVE. COUNSELING AND CARE IS AVAILABLE TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE CHILD'S BIRTH FAMILY AS THE ENTIRE UNIT EXPERIENCES THE LOSS.

WE BELIEVE THAT ADOPTING SHOULD BE FINANCIALLY ACCESSIBLE, AND THAT POTENTIAL ADOPTIVE FAMILIES SHOULD BE TREATED WITH RESPECT AND CARING. THEY WILL FIND HERE AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE FRUSTRATION OFTEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE ADOPTION PROCESS. WE WILL STRIVE TO EDUCATE FAMILIES ABOUT ADOPTION AND KEEP THEM AS INFORMED AS POSSIBLE THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS.

WE BELIEVE THAT A MARRIED COUPLE, A MOTHER AND A FATHER, ARE THE FOUNDATION NEEDED TO RAISE A CHILD IN A STABLE, NURTURING HOME ENVIRONMENT THAT WILL MEET THE NEEDS OF THAT CHILD.

WE BELIEVE ADOPTION TO BE A PERMANENT, COVENANT RELATIONSHIP BOTH BETWEEN THE ADOPTIVE FAMILY AND THE CHILD, AS WELL AS THE ADOPTIVE FAMILY AND THE BIRTH FAMILY. ALONG WITH LIFE CHOICES, THE BIRTH FAMILY AND ADOPTIVE FAMILY WORK TOGETHER, ALWAYS KEEPING THE CHILD'S BEST INTEREST IN THE FOREFRONT WHEN MAKING THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PLACEMENT AND AFTERWARDS. MUTUAL COOPERATION, RESPECT, AND LOVE PERMEATE THE ADOPTION PROCESS.

## **LIFE CHOICES of MEMPHIS, INC. DOCTRINAL AFFIRMATION**

1. WE BELIEVE that the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, are the inspired and inerrant Word of God, the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men, and the Divine and final authority for Christian faith and life.
2. WE BELIEVE in one God, Creator of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
3. WE BELIEVE that Jesus Christ was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins according to the Scriptures. He arose bodily from the dead, ascended into Heaven where, at the right hand of the Father, He now sits as our High Priest and Advocate.
4. WE BELIEVE that the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ on the cross and His resurrection provide the only grounds for justification and salvation for all who believe, and that all those who receive Jesus Christ are born of the Holy Spirit and thus become children of God.
5. WE BELIEVE that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, and during this age to convict men, regenerate, indwell, guide, gift, instruct, and empower the believer for godly living and service.
6. WE BELIEVE that man was created in the image of God but fell into sin and is therefore separated from God. Only through regeneration by the Holy Spirit is salvation affected and relationship with God restored.
7. WE BELIEVE that the true Church is composed of all people who through saving faith in Christ Jesus have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and are united together in the Body of Christ of which He is the Head.
8. WE BELIEVE in the bodily return of our Lord Jesus Christ, and that His return has a vital bearing on the personal life and service of the Christian.
9. WE BELIEVE in the bodily resurrection of the dead; of the believer to eternal fellowship with God; of the unbeliever to eternal condemnation.

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***Signature***

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***Signature***

**Life Choices of Memphis, Inc.**  
**Fee Schedule**  
**Domestic Agency Adoptions**

1. Orientation Fee  
Due at Orientation Meeting \$50.00 (non-refundable)
  
2. Application Fee  
Due with completed application \$300.00 (non-refundable)
  
3. Family Assessment/Home Study Fee  
Due at first joint interview \$1000.00 (non-refundable)  
(Family Assessment/Home Study completed by Life Choices)
  
4. Home Study Update Fee \$500.00 (non-refundable)
  
5. Family Assessment Addendum Fee  
Due at first joint interview \$250.00 (non-refundable)  
(For couples with a current, approved home study from another licensed child- placing agency-Fee includes joint and individual interviews and parent preparation by Life Choices' staff)
  
6. Placement Fee – 15% of the previous year's adjusted gross income as stated on the 1040 Tax Form\*.  
Minimum - \$10,000 Maximum - \$20,000  
(Fee is due at the time of placement of a baby in your home)

\*Payment can be made by personal check, cashier's check or MasterCard/Visa. Credit card payments require a 3% handling fee.

Occasionally, expenses such as medical, legal, or other miscellaneous costs are necessary. The adoptive couple is responsible for these expenses in addition to the required placement fee. Payment of these expenses does not guarantee placement and are required once a couple commits to working with a birth family, despite a possible failed placement. Life Choices reserves the right to revise the fee schedule at any time to reflect added costs, which might be incurred. Additional expenses may include:

- Cradle care expenses (Life Choices will provide 15 days of care for the child. After 15 days, a charge of \$10.00 per day will be calculated until placement in adoptive home)
- Legal expenses associated with terminated birth parent's rights
- Birth Mother's medical and living expenses as permitted by Tennessee/Mississippi law

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Sworn before me this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

\_\_\_\_\_  
My Commission expires

