



Helping People, Strengthening Families, Building Community

Catholic Charities Agency Infant Program

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Green Bay believes in the innate dignity and value of every human life and that every child is entitled to an environment in which he or she is loved and accepted unconditionally. The goal of adoption is finding safe, permanent homes for children and assisting birthparents, children, adoptive parents throughout the adoption process. Catholic Charities helps prepare your family for the adoption process from starting the home study through adoption finalization. The program matches families who have an approved home study with birthparents who create an adoption plan for their child.

The agency infant program is birthparent driven, meaning that birthparents choose adoptive parents from adoptive parent profiles. At any given time, the program maintains 10-15 active family profiles. Once a family is selected by birthparents, they are placed on hold until the termination of parental rights hearing when the court terminates the birthparents' rights and grants Catholic Charities guardianship of the child. Catholic Charities maintains guardianship and supervises the placement in the adoptive parent home for at least six months before the finalization can occur according to Wisconsin state law.

If you are interested in applying to the program and the program is already full, your name will be placed on the waiting list. Your adoption social worker will discuss other options available to you while you are waiting to become active in the agency infant program.

Due to the limited number of birthparents and infants available for adoption, some guidelines have been placed on the program. Below are the eligibility criteria for the agency infant program. If eligibility criteria for this agency infant program are not met, please talk with agency staff as there may be other adoption options available.

1. Applications for agency infant program will not be accepted from families with more than one child, including step children, adult children, children from previous relationships, and children whom the prospective adoptive parents are guardians of or have in their legal custody.

2. Applicants must reside in the following counties; Door, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Calumet, Winnebago, Waushara, Outagamie, Brown, Waupaca, Shawano, Oconto, Menominee, Langlade, Forest, Florence, and Marinette.
3. Applicants must be in a legal and valid marriage according to Wisconsin law and must be married for at least two years prior to starting the home study application process.
4. Applicants must meet age requirements; be at least 25 years of age, and at least one spouse is younger than 45 years of age when entering the program.
5. Applicants must submit reports of a recent physical examination within the most recent 6 months. Their health must allow them to provide proper care to a child and raise a child to adulthood.
6. Applicants must have sufficient financial income and have sound financial management in order to provide for an additional child in the household.
7. The applicants' home must meet Wisconsin state statutes for licensing foster homes.
8. Applicants must be committed to participating in an open adoption with the birthparents. Open adoption includes, but is not limited to, pictures and letters at least twice per year, visits with the birthparents, and the exchanging of identifying contact information with the birthparents.
9. Applicants must demonstrate the emotional stability, maturity, and character needed to successfully raise a child.
10. Applicants understand that if they become pregnant during the adoption process, their profile is placed on hold. If the pregnancy is carried to term, the applicants' participation in the program will be re-evaluated. In the event of an unsuccessful pregnancy, the applicants will resume having their profile actively shown to birthparents.
11. Upon placement of an infant in the adoptive home, at least one parent must stay home with the infant for the first twelve weeks (FMLA) of placement. This time period can be split between both parents, if needed.
12. Applicants who wish to re-enter the agency infant program may do so one year following their first adoption finalization, provided that all other eligibility criteria are met and space is available in the program. If no space is available the applicants will be contacted when space is available.
13. During the timeframe of initial placement of an infant in a potential adoptive/foster home through adoption finalization, the child must be immunized in accordance with American Academy of Pediatrics' recommendations.

If you have any questions about the agency infant program, please feel free to contact our adoption staff. We look forward to assisting you in your adoption.

Tara DeGrave, CAPSW
Program Manager

Chelsea Baucom-Young, CAPSW
Adoption Social Worker

tdegrave@gbdioc.org
920-272-8234

cbaucomyoung@gbdioc.org
920-272-8234

8/2013