

MAPS Domestic Adoption Programs

Dear Prospective Families:

Thank you for your interest in our domestic adoption programs. In this packet you'll find information about our domestic programs – **the Domestic Infant Program and the Domestic National Program.**

Here at MAPS, we have been building families through adoption for over thirty years. Our services, which began with domestic adoption, have continued to grow and expand, and today we also offer international adoption programs, humanitarian aid projects around the world, and residential programs for pregnant and parenting women and teens.

When you choose to work with MAPS, you will work with knowledgeable staff who will walk you through the sometimes complex adoption process. Your program coordinator will work closely with you, from the initial steps of creating your family profile to providing the advocacy and support you may need at the time you travel to meet your child. We strive to ensure a positive experience for your family and your new child, both before and during your adoption.

In any adoption, a measure of patience and flexibility is required. In dealing with different state requirements, program and policy changes can occur during your adoption process. While these factors are out of any agency's control, our experienced staff will keep you informed of such changes and will help you navigate any challenges that arise during your adoption.

MAPS will provide you with the support and guidance you need throughout this journey, as we strive to bring you and your child together, and home, as quickly as possible.

Please review the enclosed material and let us know if you have questions regarding adoption through our domestic programs. I would be delighted to speak with you and look forward to discussing your plans to build your family through adoption.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Libby Walch
Manager of Adoption Services

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GENERAL DOMESTIC ADOPTION PROCESS

If you are completing your home study with MAPS, the adoption process begins with submitting the home study application packet to us, which includes all the materials needed to *begin* your adoption. Should you have any questions or need any help preparing these materials, we are always here to help. If you are completing your home study with another agency, the process will begin with a MAPS non-Home Study application packet. Your Home Study will need to be submitted to MAPS in order for your application to be complete.

After acceptance into the program, you will create a family profile that will be shown to appropriate birth parents. Once your family is selected by birth parents, information will be shared with you about the birth parent(s) and pregnancy. Background information will include any available social and health history on the birth family, and typically includes prenatal records. If the adoptive family is comfortable with the match, the adoption plans will proceed.

Often, birthparent(s) will ask to meet or correspond with the adoptive family prior to the birth. One of our staff members will coordinate/facilitate this meeting.

Adoptive parents may or may not be present at the hospital depending on birthparent wishes and other circumstances. Babies are typically released from the hospital into their adoptive parents' care awaiting the termination of birth parent rights. This stage is commonly known as the legal risk period, and varies in length from state to state.

For adoptions of babies born outside of the family's state of residence, Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) will apply. ICPC is a law that requires the baby's birth state and the adoptive parent(s) residence state to both give permission for the adoptive family to travel home with the baby.

AFTER THE ADOPTION

We recommend that adoptive families make every effort to understand the idea of adoption from their child's point of view. Since adoption issues do not end with placement, it is suggested that families remain open to seeking support from various resources as their child grows into adulthood. These resources include adoptive parent support groups, professional counseling, and an ever-expanding body of literature on adoptive parenting. MAPS is always available to help parents with such resources.

GETTING STARTED

Please let us know if you have any further questions regarding adoption through the MAPS domestic programs. Once all of your questions are answered, we will be happy to send you an application so you can begin the process.

We look forward to helping you build your family through adoption.

THE DOMESTIC INFANT PROGRAM

In this program, we work with birthparents that have decided to make an adoption plan and would like to select a family. In making this decision they are seeking caring families willing to love and parent these new lives. We work with the adoptive family and the birthparent(s) to create a birth plan respectful of everyone involved, as well as provide counseling and support services.

This program is specialized to working with pregnant women typically within the state of Maine. MAPS birthparent counselors provide free options counseling throughout the state. Occasionally, within this program, we also work directly with pregnant women residing in other states throughout the U.S. and help connect them with the in-state counseling and support they may need as they develop an adoption plan for their unborn child.

THE CHILDREN

Newborns of varying racial/ethnic backgrounds, most commonly Caucasian and/or biracial. Families may specify racial preference; however, keep in mind that MAPS cannot guarantee the race of a child. Families may not specify gender.

Health: We gather as much information as possible about health from the birthparent(s). Although prenatal records are not always available, summaries of the labor, delivery, and discharge are always shared with families.

FAMILY REQUIREMENTS

Married couples, single women and men, and same-sex couples can adopt through our Domestic Infant Program. All applicants should have established and maintained a stable home life for at least two years. There should be no more than 45 years between the younger adoptive parent and the infant. Must be 25 years of age to apply to any MAPS program.

MAPS home studied families living in Maine, Massachusetts, and Vermont may apply. Families with a current non-MAPS home study may also apply.

Families adopting a child of different ethnicity should demonstrate a sincere willingness to understand and appreciate the culture of other ethnicities, and be prepared to impart that knowledge and affirmation to their child.

ESTIMATED TIMEFRAMES

In domestic adoption, timelines vary from case to case. In general, you can expect to be chosen by the birth mother or birth parents within 6 to 24 months once the Home Study and profile are complete.

TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS

Travel will likely be only within Maine. For birthparents residing outside of the adoptive parent(s) home state, both parents must travel. Length of stay is 2-5 weeks, but may be longer depending on the requirements of the state where the child is born, upon the status of the birthfather, and on the probate court schedule.

FEE SCHEDULE FOR DOMESTIC INFANT PROGRAM

MAPS Application Fee(due with application; non-refundable)	\$600
MAPS Agency Fee (due at program acceptance; non-refundable)	\$5,000
MAPS Program Fee (due at Birth Parent(s)/Child Acceptance;)	\$25,000
<i>* Different fees apply for non-Maine/non-Massachusetts birth parents</i>	
ICPC (Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children) [if applicable]	\$1,200

- As a special part of this program, MAPS offers agency financial assistance to families open to the adoption of African-American or biracial infants that are part African-American. This special incentive was created by MAPS to bring attention to the need for families to adopt African-American or part African-American children in the U.S. Across the nation, there is a vast shortage of families seeking to adopt children of African-American descent. Due to this shortage, MAPS implemented this financial subsidy to aid families seeking to adopt African-American children. MAPS is able to subsidize the advertising costs to make the adoption process more affordable for these families. As a result, the remaining non-subsidized program fee due by the family is \$20,000.
- On occasion, MAPS will work with a birthparent who has a history of significant mental health and/or substance abuse concerns that persist throughout pregnancy. In these cases, MAPS may reduce the program fee in response to the Clinical Director's assessment. Reasoning behind this reduced fee include the potential but yet unknown special need(s) of the child and/or other risk factors which are not determined nor may not ever be determined at the time of the placement, and the need to more readily locate a family.
- Multiple birth (twins, triplets) program fee will increase determined fee by \$7,000 to cover additional expenses incurred by MAPS.

The Program fee covers counseling with birth parent(s), up to \$3,000 in approved living expenses, and legal costs associated with obtaining routine surrender and release or waiver.

ADDITIONAL COSTS (applies to all Domestic Programs)

Additional expenses, which will vary on a case-by-case basis, may include:

1. MAPS home study fee, adoption education, home certification if required, and post-placement supervision (approximately \$4,000 - \$6,000 depending on state of residence)
2. Profile compilation, printing, and distribution (\$75-\$100)
3. Travel (expenses will vary depending on destination, length of stay and personal preferences regarding transportation, accommodations and meals).
4. FBI fingerprinting (\$18 per parent); may need to be done more than once
5. Medical examinations for each parent (physical required for home study)

THE DOMESTIC NATIONAL PROGRAM

Through this program MAPS partners with a birthparent outreach coordinator to bring birthparents from throughout the country together with MAPS adoptive families who are seeking a Caucasian child. The outreach coordinator assists with your profile and matches families with a birthparent(s). MAPS facilitates connecting birthparents with the in-state counseling and support they may need as they develop an adoption plan.

THE CHILDREN

Caucasian newborns. Families may specify racial preference; however, keep in mind that MAPS cannot guarantee the race of a child. Families may not specify gender.

Health: We gather as much information as possible about health from the birthparent(s). Although prenatal records are not always available, summaries of the labor, delivery, and discharge are always shared with families.

FAMILY REQUIREMENTS

All married applicants should have established and maintained a stable home life for at least two years. There should be no more than 45 years between the younger adoptive parent and the infant.

This program is only open to MAPS home studied families living in Maine, Massachusetts, and Vermont.

ESTIMATED TIMEFRAMES

In domestic adoption, timelines vary from case to case. In general, you can expect to be chosen by the birth mother or birth parents within 2 to 18 months. The average wait for childless couples is approx. 9-12 months, while parenting couples wait is approx. 12-16 months.

TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS

For birthparents residing outside of your state of residence, both adoptive parents must travel. Length of stay is 2-5 weeks, but may be longer depending on the requirements of the state where the child is born, upon the status of the birthfather, and on the probate court schedule.

FEE SCHEDULE FOR DOMESTIC NATIONAL PROGRAM

MAPS Application Fee (due with application; non-refundable):	\$600
MAPS Advocacy/Case Management Fee (due at program acceptance):	\$10,000
Outreach Fee to coordinator (due at commencement of services):	\$9,500
Additional expenses (legal, pregnancy-related pass through, counseling, and travel)	\$5,000 – \$15,000
ICPC (Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children) [if applicable]	\$1,200

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2. Profile compilation, printing, and distribution (\$75-\$100)
3. Travel (expenses will vary depending on destination, length of stay and personal preferences regarding transportation, accommodations and meals).
4. FBI fingerprinting (\$18 per parent); may need to be done more than once
5. Medical examinations for each parent (physical required for home study)