



## POST ADOPTION SERVICES

At New Life Family Services, we realize that adoption is a lifelong journey and different adoption related needs arise throughout the years. New Life Family Services is committed to offering you as much support as possible to assist you in seeking answers to your questions, searching for your birth family or the child you placed for adoption, reconnecting after you have lost contact, or exploring opportunities for new levels of openness.

### SERVICES FOR OPEN ADOPTIONS

Even if you correspond with the adoptive family or birth family directly, it is still important to keep current contact information on file with us. We would love to communicate by email, but having a current phone number and address on file is a good idea.

Here's why:

- Sometimes an adoptive family or birth family reaches out to us if they can't get ahold of you.
- If you are working through a change in your relationship with the adoptive family, sometimes it is helpful to talk it through with us or someone else who has been there.
- We can provide you with resources that would be helpful to you on your journey.
- We are expanding our post adoption services to better capture what birth parents and adoptive families are interested in. Hearing from you helps us know what direction to go in meeting your needs.

### UPDATE MY INFORMATION

Please update your information every time it changes. By doing so, we will be able to contact you if we have information specifically for you, but also to keep you informed of upcoming events and information. The best way for us to contact you is through email, so if you have an email address, please share that with us.

### OTHER POST ADOPTION SERVICES

#### Correspondence

While most birth parents and adoptive parents correspond with each other directly, New Life can also serve as the intermediary for correspondence between parties. For example, if an adoptive family and a birth mother want to exchange letters and pictures a few times a year but personal mailing addresses have not been shared, they can do the following: The sending party can mail the correspondence to New Life's Post Adoption Social Worker and the worker will then forward the correspondence to the receiving party. The same can also be done with packages. When sending correspondence through New Life, please include the correct postage.

#### Coordination of in-person contact

New Life's Post Adoption Social Worker is available to coordinate in-person contact between parties. For example, if an adoptive family and a birth mother would like to have in-person contact but the parties do not have direct contact with one another, the Post Adoption Social Worker can facilitate the contact between each party. The party initiating the in-person contact should call the Post Adoption Social Worker and indicate the request. The Post Adoption Social Worker will then call the other party to coordinate the in-person contact.

### **Ongoing assistance with an adoptive relationship**

At New Life, most of the placements that happen have some level of openness. We believe that openness is valuable for all parties involved yet we also acknowledge that there can be challenges in an openness relationship, similar to any other relationship. New Life's Post Adoption Social Worker is available to provide openness consultation for any member of the adoption triad in recent and not so recent placements.

### **Obtaining information from my file**

If you are any member of the adoption triad and are interested in obtaining information from your file, such as a social and medical history, please contact the Post Adoption Social Worker to request this information.

### **Search and Reunion Services**

If you are part of the adoption triad and have a more closed relationship, you may be interested in the Search and Reunion Services that New Life offers. These services are used when there is little or no contact between two parties (such as the adoptee and the birth parents). New Life can facilitate the reuniting of two parties or can conduct a search for a party whose contact information is outdated.

There are a lot of things to think about as you start a search or try to reconnect after some time has passed. We can help you talk through what your options are and things to think about as you begin. However, our post adoption services are not a substitute for counseling or therapy. If adoption-related matters need to be managed by a professional therapist, we will help you find appropriate referrals. We look forward to serving you as you explore your post adoption needs!

### **Fees and financial assistance for services**

There are fees for most of the post adoption services provided through New Life. However, New Life recognizes the importance of these services for birth parents, adoptive parents, and adoptees. If you cannot afford the fees but you are in need of a service from the Post Adoption department, we offer financial assistance. If you have questions about the fees to discuss your situation, contact the Post Adoption Social Worker.

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

If you are requesting post adoption services, your first step is to submit the post adoption services application. The application can be found on the New Life website at [www.nlfs.org](http://www.nlfs.org). Once we receive your application, we will send you a copy of a contract for services and an explanation of the next steps. There are fees charged for various post adoption services; however, scholarships are available if needed.

Please note that the post adoption services application must be notarized for your protection. You can find a notary at any of our offices free of charge, and most banks have notary services at no cost or for a nominal fee. You are required to present identification when having a document notarized. It is best to call ahead to ensure a notary is available.

**If you have questions, email us at  
[adoption@nlfs.org](mailto:adoption@nlfs.org) or call us at  
612-746-5670**