



## Coming to Utah and Hospital Protocol

### Please Read Carefully

#### Airport Pickup:

When you have made travel plans and know when you will be arriving in Utah please be sure and let your case manager know. If you would like we will meet you at the airport. Otherwise we can schedule a time and place to meet.

#### Other Children:

We strongly recommend you leave other children in the family home. However, if you choose to bring other children to Utah please bring someone with you to care for them. As the adoptive mother and father your time will be consumed with your new baby and your birth mother, they will both need your support and it is important for to be there for them both. This is very difficult if you have the distraction of other children.

#### Dinner:

The dinner will usually be at a restaurant of your birth mothers choosing. Both birth mother and the adoptive family will have case managers present. During the dinner try to keep conversation light and mirror the birth mother. If she wants to speak of more serious things, then follow her lead. The case managers will help you by intervening if the topic becomes difficult or inappropriate. The adoptive family usually pays for the birth mother and her family if they are there. The Guardian Angel case managers will pay for their meals.

#### Gifts:

It is completely appropriate for you to bring a gift for your birth mother. Some acceptable ideas are; a necklace or bracelet with the baby's birth stone in it, a scrapbook with the promise to send pages to fill it, a prayer box necklace with a lock of the baby's hair inside, or some other thing with sentimental value. We also suggest flowers at the hospital with a card expressing your gratitude. Please be cautious and do not give cash or large gift certificates as we can get into legal issues if this is done. Also, please realize that helping the birth mother in any way financially without involving the agency can jeopardize your adoption. Funds and gifts must be approved by and run through the agency. This is for your protections. Your birth mother will be given post partem expenses to help her in the first six weeks after her delivery and appropriate documentation from her doctor to justify this must be in her file.

#### Hospital rules and information:

- The main hospital doors are open from eight in the morning until ten in the evening. If you are entering the hospital before or after these hours you must enter through the emergency rooms doors.
- Your birth mother will fill out a document (See and Hold document) that will allow you to be with the baby. Your case manager will instruct you on visitation.
- Please never walk out of the room and into the hall with the baby in your arms. The baby must be wheeled in the bassinet to go to and from the nursery or to any other room.
- The nurses change shifts between 6:00 and 7:00 in the morning and evening. All babies must be in the nursery with no visitors during these times. If you are in the nursery and the nurses have a medical emergency with another baby, they will ask you to leave. Please do so promptly. If your birth mother does not want the baby in the room with her some nurses may allow you to be in the nursery with your baby or they may even have a room available for you to stay in. Your case manager will let you know. This is a favor to adoptive families by the nursing staff and is given according to the nursing staff's desires.
- There is a cafeteria on the main floor and meals snacks can be purchased there.
- **A Guardian Angel will NEVER release a baby AMA! Please do not ask!!**

#### Legal

It will be necessary for you to retain an attorney to terminate birth father rights as well as petition the courts for adoption and to represent you at finalization. We require you to use an attorney that is registered with the American Academy of Adoptions. These attorneys specialize in adoption and are well versed in adoption and adoption law. Using an attorney that is not qualified, less expensive or a family friend can result in difficulty. It is not worth risking a legal issue with your adoption. After placement, we recommend that you call Larry Jenkins, Attorney at Law, (801)328-3600 for DPR/Finalization processes as needed.<sup>11</sup> All legal expenses are the responsibility of the adoptive family. A Guardian Angel Adoptions, LLC will conduct a paternity registry search in the state of Utah only. A Guardian Angel will provide your attorney with the documents and information needed so that your attorney may do the necessary legal work to finalize your adoption. This may include doing paternity or putative father registry searches in other states, such as where the birth mother conceived or resided. Notice of adoption proceedings may also need to be provided to some potential or presumed fathers, depending on the circumstances of your case. You understand that it is the responsibility of your attorney to properly prepare your case for finalization. You understand that you are responsible for all costs associated with legal work. Legal fees with Mr. Jenkins are generally between \$2000 and \$4000. If you are legally able to finalize your adoption in Utah, you agree to do so. Whether you finalize your adoption in Utah or must do so in your home state, you agree that you will not challenge or contest A Guardian Angel Adoptions, LLC's fees

**Finalization.** In most cases, adoptive parents are eligible to finalize the adoption in Utah under Utah law if adoptive parents are resident of Utah, the child was born in Utah, or one of the birth parents resides in Utah when the adoption petition is filed. Finalizing the adoption in Utah typically saves adoptive families in legal expenses and provides for a more secure adoption. It also enables a representative from *A Guardian Angel Adoptions, LLC* to attend the finalization hearing to consent to the adoption and to address any issues that the court may have. For these reasons, adoptive families are required to finalize the adoption in Utah. In rare cases, where finalizing the adoption is not legally possible, adoptive families will need to obtain express written permission from *A Guardian Angel Adoptions, LLC* before commencing proceedings to adopt the child in another state.

Following the receipt of reports of sufficient positive post placement visits that show the child is thriving in its home environment and bonding to the family, and upon completion of all of the adoptive families' obligations as set forth under this and other agreements between *A Guardian Angel Adoptions, LLC* and the adoptive family, *A Guardian Angel Adoptions, LLC* will give approval for the adoptive family to finalize the adoption. *A Guardian Angel Adoptions, LLC* representative will attend the adoption finalization hearing before a Utah court to provide necessary agency documentation as well as family support for those adoptions finalized in the State of Utah and for which post-placement evaluations are done by the *A Guardian Angel Adoptions, LLC* staff. In rare circumstances, where the adoptive family is unable to finalize the adoption before a Utah court and *A Guardian Angel Adoptions, LLC* grants permission for the adoptive family to finalize the adoption in another state, *A Guardian Angel Adoptions, LLC* will provide the adoptive family's attorney with a written consent to the adoption and supporting documents instead of appearing at the finalization hearing, upon *A Guardian Angel Adoptions, LLC*'s approval for finalization pursuant to the conditions set forth above. Regardless of the state where the adoption is finalized, adoptive family agrees that Utah law shall apply to this Agreement and the fees charged by *A Guardian Angel Adoptions, LLC*, and hereby waives any claim against *A Guardian Angel Adoptions, LLC*, including any claim for reimbursement of fees brought in the court of another jurisdiction.

**Case Managers:**

The birth mother's Case Manager is at the hospital to care for her needs and to support her. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact YOUR case manager. They will be happy to help you in any way they can.

**Visitors:**

**No visitors will be allowed at the hospital except for the Adoptive Mother and Father. This includes siblings, grandparents and any other family members.** This is a very overwhelming time for the birth mother and she needs this time to physically heal, to get to know you, and to say her goodbyes to the baby. We have seen placements lost because of family members being at the hospital. This is for your protection and we will enforce this protocol aggressively.

**Nursing:** If you choose to nurse your baby, we will support you 100%. However, you will not be allowed to begin nursing the baby until he or she is released from the hospital. The mere mention of this is VERY painful for the birth mother and we ask that you be sensitive to this issue.

**Delivery Day:** On delivery day you will most likely be in the delivery room or in the waiting room. However, some birth mothers do not want the family at the hospital during this time. We will do our best to keep you apprised if this is the case. Your case manager will keep you informed on the progress of labor and where to be when. If you are in the waiting room, we will get you into the nursery to see the baby as soon as we can. You may look in the window if the blinds are up until you are able to enter. Please be aware that some babies have a hard time keeping warm and will need to be under the warmers until they can maintain their temperature without the warmers. After the delivery the birth mother's social worker will call to check on her and set up a time for the signing. It must be at least 24 hours after delivery to comply with Utah State law. We try very hard to have signing as soon as is legally possible however some factors may delay the signing. The birth mother will need to be off any narcotic drug for at least four hours before signing. If your birth mother is in a lot of pain or is recovering from a cesarean section delivery, we may need to delay signing to keep her as comfortable as possible. Your case manager will let you know when the signing has been scheduled. You will need to bring your photo identification and your cashiers check to the signing.

**In Between Delivery and Signing:**

On the in between day if there is one, be at the hospital to support your birth mother and see the baby but also give the birth mother some time alone. We suggest coming in the morning for a while and then leaving to get some lunch for a couple of hours. Then return for a while in the afternoon and then leave again to get some dinner. If the birth mother seems tired or like she needs some time alone let her have the evening to herself for time with the baby. Your case manager will help you know what your birth mother needs.

**Signing day:**

**Please be aware that we will not be able to do placement papers until we have all paperwork in your file, Please be sure to check with your case manager on the status of your file prior to coming to Utah so your placement will not be delayed.** The Social Worker will arrive a little bit early to counsel with the birth mother and answer any remaining questions she may have. Your case manager will also arrive a little bit early to go over the paperwork with you and answer any questions you may have. At the appointed time the notary will arrive and signing will begin. The birth mother will sign first in her hospital room. You will then complete the adoptive family paperwork in the waiting area. There are 3 copies of each document you will sign. You will receive copies of your paperwork. Copies of the relinquishment and the placement agreement will be given to the nursing staff to ensure that medical questions are ask of you and medical information shared with you as the legal guardians of the baby.

**Discharge Day:**

Depending on how things work out, the discharge day and signing day may be one in the same. Your case manager will need to sign the discharge paperwork and walk out of the hospital with you. Please bring a car seat, an outfit and a blanket for the baby to go home in. You will also need to have teaching from the nursing staff to make sure you are ready to care for your new addition. Please let your case manager know when this teaching has been completed and she will come to the hospital to discharge your baby.

**Post Placement:**

On signing day your case manager will give you your post placement manual. This manual contains valuable information for you and your attorney. Please review it carefully. Your case manager will talk with you about post placement protocol. She will go over your birth mother’s desires for openness and how those desires can best be met. We have a post placement coordinator for you to help you get the necessary information concerning your birth mother as well as navigate the post placement process. We have also set up a P. O. Box for post placement contact. You will find this address and information in your packet. When we receive a packet for your birth mother, we will take off the identifying information, document that it has been sent and forward it on to her. If your birth mother has not requested pictures and letters, we will keep them in a file for her to receive at a later date. **Please include postage for your packages.**

**Interstate Compact (ICPC):**

If you are a family from outside of the State of Utah, it will be necessary for ICPC to be cleared by Utah as well as your home state before you will be permitted to leave the state with your baby. ICPC will be started as soon as the medical records are received from the hospital. This usually takes approximately 48 hours after the baby has been released from the hospital. The medical records will complete the ICPC package and it will be emailed to the ICPC office in Salt Lake City. When the packet is approved it will be sent out overnight to your home state ICPC office. Please be advised that we will do all in our power to get your packet approved as soon as possible. We are however, working with bureaucratic agencies over which we have no control. **Please** be patient as you wait and enjoy bonding with your baby. When you return home, you will have many visitors and less time to be together as a family. The ICPC process may take 14 days after placement. **Please do not contact the ICPC offices! They are not able to talk to you and doing so may delay your approval!**

**Medical records:**

You will receive a copy of your baby’s medical records in the mail after you return home.

**Payment of AGAA Fees**

You will bring a cashier’s check for your remaining adoption fees written to A Guardian Angel Adoptions, LLC and give it to your case manager at the time of placement as well as a personal check for prescriptions.

**These fees are non-negotiable. Please do not ask for a discount. Also, please remember that sometimes babies are born early and in this case, you will still need to have the funds available. Please prepare early!** If your adoption includes medical expenses, you will receive a list of the actual medical expenses as well as the contact information for each of the providers at signing. To receive our 50 percent discount all charges must be paid to the medical providers before your birth mother and baby discharge from the hospital. You may pay by, MasterCard, VISA, American Express, or personal check. If your birthmother qualifies for Medicaid, you must still pay for your baby’s hospital stay as well as your baby’s visits by the hospital pediatrician.

**Travel**

Please let A Guardian Angel know if you plan to travel prior to finalization. You can send an email to angeladoptions123@hotmail.com. Please include travel dates as well as destinations. Also, please be aware we do not allow international travel prior to finalization.

I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the preceding policies and guidelines of A Guardian Angel Adoptions, LLC.

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Adoptive Mother Date

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Adoptive Father Date