



Coming to Utah and Hospital Protocol Please Read Carefully

Travel to Utah:

When you have made travel plans and know when you will be arriving in Utah, please be sure and let your case manager know. Text as you land to let us know you have arrived, and we can set up a place to meet.

Please initial here confirming you have read and understand this section. Parent #1 _____ Parent #2 _____

Other Children:

We strongly recommend you leave other children in the family home. However, if you choose to bring other children to Utah, please do so after discharge and 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. The hospital will not let children visit the baby at the hospital.

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Dinner:

The dinner will usually be at a restaurant of your birth mother's choosing. Both the birth mother and the adoptive family will have case managers present to support you for this first in person meeting. During the dinner try to keep the conversation light and mirror your 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.

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Gifts:

It is completely appropriate for you to bring a gift for your birth mother/father and her children. 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 your expectant 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. These funds will also be carefully reviewed by the Judge finalizing your adoption and we do not want any issues or problems at finalization. This is for your protection. Your birth mother will be given post-partem expenses to help her in the first six to eight weeks after her delivery and appropriate documentation from her doctor to justify these funds must be in her file.

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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 room 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. During shift change and also 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 requires that the baby stay in the hospital until your birth mother is released. The time in the hospital is possibly the only time your birth mother will have with her baby. Please be respectful of this precious time.
- A Guardian Angel will NEVER release a baby AMA! Please do not ask!!

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Legal

When you are matched please call the attorney that will be finalizing your adoption. It will be also necessary for you to retain an attorney to terminate birth father rights as well as petition the courts for adoption as well as 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.

We recommend that you call Larry Jenkins, Attorney at Law, (801)328-3600. Once your birth mother has signed her relinquishment documents and placement papers have been signed by you please call to let you legal counsel know placement has happened so they can begin DPR/Finalization processes as well as provide the documentation needed for ICPC. 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 expectant 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. Please initial here confirming you have read and understand this section. Parent #1 _____ Parent #2 _____

Finalization.

In most cases, adoptive parents are eligible to finalize the adoption of their baby in Utah under Utah law if adoptive parents are resident of Utah, the child was born in Utah, or one of the expectant 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 their adoption in Utah. In rare cases, where finalizing the adoption in Utah 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 your home environment and bonding to your 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 their adoption. An *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. In Utah you may finalize when your baby is 3 months old provided all requirements have been met.

Note: 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.

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Benefits:

Please be aware that if your child has a disability, the child may be eligible for SSI benefits and/or federal adoption assistance. If you think your child may qualify, please contact the Division of People with Disabilities for further resources.

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Case Managers:

The expectant 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.

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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 your 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 and may be grounds for visitation at the hospital to be denied until signing.

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Nursing:

If you choose to nurse your baby, we will support you 100%. However, you will not be allowed to begin nursing your baby until he or she is released from the hospital. The mere mention of this is VERY painful for the expectant mother and we ask that you be sensitive to this issue by keeping any plans about this to yourself.

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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 their adoptive family at the hospital during this time. 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 take you into the nursery to see your baby as soon as possible. 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 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. Birth mother's 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 to the signing.

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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 her 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 your 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 expectant mother needs.

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Signing day:

Please be aware that we will not be able to do placement papers until we have all paperwork in your file and all adoption fees have been wired. 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 your birth mother and answer any remaining questions she may have. Your case manager will also arrive a little bit early to go over your placement paperwork with you and answer any questions you may have. At the appointed time the notary will arrive, and signing will begin. Your 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. In your paperwork you will have a receipt. Please keep this for your records as well as for tax time. Copies of the relinquishment and the placement agreement will be given to the nursing staff to ensure that medical questions are asked of you and medical information shared with you as the legal guardians of the baby. Please be sensitive to your birth mother as she may still want to be included in baby's care. She also may want to offer you advice or help you name the baby. This is the only thing she can give her baby at this point so please be sensitive to her heart and accept it graciously.

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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, a clothing and a blanket for your baby to go home in. Please make sure you have assembled your car seat prior to discharge. You will also need to have teaching from the nursing staff to make sure they feel like 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.

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Post Placement:

On signing day your case manager will give you your post placement contact information which contains valuable information for you. 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 expectant 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 later. Please include postage for your packages.

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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 emailed 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 as this causes confusion and frustration which can delay the process!

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Medical Records:

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

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Payment of AGAA Fees:

Please make sure your wire transfer has been made and a copy of the receipt text messaged to Yvonne @ 801-755-9523 prior to traveling for the birth of your baby. A Guardian Angel Adoptions will not do placement until all fees are paid in full.

Your adoption 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 medical expenses as well as the contact information for each of the providers at signing. You may pay by, MasterCard, VISA, or American Express. Please review the medical fees portion of your payment agreement and reach out if you have any questions.

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Going Home:

Supervisory Visits: There is a supervisory period of generally 3 months before finalization is allowed. You will visit with a Social Worker on 2 or occasions (minimum of 2 visits as required by the state you are finalizing in) to help ensure that you and your child are adjusting to each other and to confirm the success of the placement. Generally, this is done by the social worker that completed your home study. Additional visits may be scheduled as needed. Note: If you are a Utah family post placement visits must be done by AGAA. Please make sure the last of these visits are done at 2 and 6 weeks prior to finalization.

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Insurance:

Please notify your health insurance company of your new addition and send over the “Adoption Placement Agreement” to them. This document will act as your birth certificate until you receive your amended certificate. Many insurance companies will reimburse some adoption expenses. Also check with your employer regarding additional adoption benefits and be sure to take advantage of all tax breaks.

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Travel:

Please let A Guardian Angel know if you plan to travel prior to finalization by sending an email to office@aguardianangel.com. Please include travel dates as well as destinations. Also, please be aware we do not allow international travel prior to finalization.

Please initial here confirming you have read and understand this section. Parent #1 _____ Parent #2 _____

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

Adoptive Parent #1 Date

Adoptive Parent #2 Date