



Out of State Adoptions and and Hospital Protocol Please Read Carefully

Dear Adoptive Family,

Out of state adoptions (adoptions that occur outside of Utah) are by nature very different than an in-state adoption. Although we have a large network of legal experts, we have worked with for years in the adoption field, many things are out of our control. This requires our families and workers to be very flexible.

If you are not someone that can roll with changes of plans, please do not apply for an out of state adoption.

Some of the areas that are different are:

- lack of regular medical care and drug testing,
- difficulty staying in contact with some expectant mothers,
- differing laws that may affect signing times, revocation periods, ICPC and finalization,
- state laws that do not work well together or cause problems,
- unknown hospital staff, negative opinions about adoption and differing protocols,
- unforeseen family and friend involvement.

Travel:

We will let you know which airport is best for you to travel to. We will also give you our recommendation on when you should travel. If you choose to travel earlier than we recommend that is your decision and we cannot be responsible for a later delivery or other unforeseen circumstances that may lengthen your stay. When your birth mom goes into labor it is very important that you travel ASAP. You being on the ground to support your birth mom is a very important part of bonding with your birth mom and baby. If birth moms feel they need to parent in the absence of the adoptive family, it can cause the birth mom to have second thoughts about placement. Please do not drive unless we give permission. If you cannot travel at the appointed time, please do not be presented on the case. When you have made travel plans and know when you will be arriving at your destination, 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:

Please do not bring other children on an out of state adoption. 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 to be there for them both. This is very difficult if you have the distraction of other children, feel like you need to get back to them or if you are worried about how they are. Hospitals will not allow your children to visit at the hospital.

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Dinner:

If timing works, we try to have dinner with the birth family and adoptive family however sometimes this is not possible before delivery and may happen after delivery if birth mom would like this. 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 may close in the evening. If you are entering the hospital before or after these hours, you may need to enter through the emergency room doors.
- Your birth mother will fill out a document (something like a See and Hold document) that will allow you to be with your baby. Your case manager will instruct you on visitation.

- Most hospitals ask that you 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.
- During the nurses shift change in the morning and evening and also 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 bonding 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 and availability.
- 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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Agency and Legal Work

When you are matched, we will schedule a legal call with Katie, our Out of State Legal Coordinator and your Case Manager to explain in detail the legal plan for your adoption. When we have sent the file to the agency and or attorney's office and give you the go ahead it will be also necessary for you to retain the attorney and/or agency that will be taking relinquishment, terminating birth father rights as well as process your ICPC. You may also need an attorney to represent you at finalization if you are finalizing in your home state. 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 can help you find a qualified attorney in your area. Please be aware that in some states we will need an agency as well as an attorney and you are responsible for the fees paid to both to cover the required agency and legal work in the state you are adopting in. Wherever you finalize your adoption you agree that you will not challenge or contest A Guardian Angel Adoptions, LLC's fees.

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Medical Costs

Most out of state expectant mothers have Medicaid or will qualify for Medicaid, however some do not. You will know when the information on the case is presented what the medical coverage will be for the case.

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Finalization.

As part of the legal information, you will be informed as to which state your adoption will be finalized in. This information will include post-placement visits required as well as the waiting period for finalization.

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 invited to 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 Days:

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. We try very hard to have the signing as soon as is legally possible, however some factors may delay the signing. Birth mothers 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. Please initial here confirming you have read and understand this section. Parent #1 _____ Parent #2 _____

In Between Delivery and Signing:

On the in between days if there is one, please 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. If you have a separate room, of course feel free to stay with your baby as much as you are able as long as birth mother is comfortable and gives her blessing and isn't requesting time. Your case manager will help you know what your birth mother needs. Please initial here confirming you have read and understand this section. Parent #1 _____ Parent #2 _____

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 traveling so your placement will not be delayed. The social worker will usually arrive a little bit early to counsel with your birth mother and answer any remaining questions she may have. Please be sensitive to your birth mother as she may still want to be included in her/your 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 these things graciously. Please initial here confirming you have read and understand this section. Parent #1 _____ Parent #2 _____

Discharge Day:

Depending on how things work out, the discharge day and signing day may be one in the same. Your case manager or a case manager from the agency or attorney's office may need to sign the discharge paperwork and walk out of the hospital with you. Please bring a car seat, and clothing and a blanket for your baby to go home in. Please make sure you have assembled your car seat prior to discharge. You may also be required to have teaching from the nursing staff to make sure they feel like you are ready to care for your new little one. Please initial here confirming you have read and understand this section. Parent #1 _____ Parent #2 _____

Post Placement:

On signing day your case manager will give you your post placement information which contains valuable information for you. Please review it carefully. Included will be the requirements for post placement visits, legal items you may still have to take care of for finalization and tax credit information. You will also review post placement protocol. Your case manager will go over your birth mother's desires for openness and how those desires can best be met in a way that is comfortable for you as well and her. We have an amazing post placement coordinator to help you get the necessary information concerning your birth mother as well as navigate the post placement process. Your information packet will include her number and the P. O. Box address for post placement contact. When she receives a packet for your birth mother, we will take off the identifying information, document the contents and 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. Please initial here confirming you have read and understand this section. Parent #1 _____ Parent #2 _____

Interstate Compact (ICPC):

If you are a family from outside the state you are adopting in, it will be necessary for ICPC to be cleared by the state you adopting in 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 depending on the hospital. Please be advised that the agency or attorney will do all in their 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 up to 14 days after placement. Please do not contact the ICPC offices as this causes confusion and frustration which can delay the process! Please initial here confirming you have read and understand this section. Parent #1 _____ Parent #2 _____

Medical Records:

You will hopefully receive a copy of your baby's medical records in the mail after you return home. Some hospitals are more difficult than others but we will do our best to get them for you. Please initial here confirming you have read and understand this section. Parent #1 _____ Parent #2 _____

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

Going Home:

Supervisory Visits: There is a supervisory period of generally 3 to 6 months before finalization is allowed. You will visit with a Social Worker 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. We require a minimum of two visits, but some states may require more. Generally, these visits are 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 schedule your post placement visits for 2 weeks and 6 weeks.

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Insurance:

Please notify your health insurance company of your new addition and send over the 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 credits.

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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