

Initial Contact Disclosure and Waiver
STATEMENT OF RISKS IN ADOPTION, WAIVER OF LIABILITY
STATEMENT OF GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE, NON DISCRIMINATION POLICY, PREFERENTIAL
TREATMENT POLICY, CLIENT RIGHTS, AND CLIENT RESPONSIBILITIES

In this document, “we” or “us” refers to Family Choices, NFPC, our employees, and attorneys.

In this document, “you” refers to _____ and _____, jointly and severally, and their heirs, executors, administrators and assignees.

INTRODUCTION

As prospective adoptive parents, you are embarking upon an exciting and sometimes unnerving experience. Adoptions can be a very emotional experience, and it is sometimes difficult to remember all the details and information we have provided to you concerning the adoption. Because of this, we have found it helpful to put some of this information in writing so you can refer to it from time to time throughout the adoption process. This is important information and it is important for us to know you have it, so we will ask you to sign a copy of this disclosure letter for our files.

Adoption placements have certain risks, which may or may not be known at the time of placement, or may never be known by us. The purpose of this letter is to set forth several, but not all, of the significant risks associated with entering into an adoption plan. You, as potential adoptive parents, are urged to review this document, and all documents we ask you to sign, with an attorney or anyone else you choose. Also, we want to emphasize that the adoption process is completely voluntary. You should not feel pressured, nor are you obligated or required to continue the adoption plan at any time up to the Court finalization of the adoption.

The amount of information available to us varies from placement to placement. As a result, certain risks may become known to us and/or become significant to the placement. You understand that as significant, material information becomes known to us, it will be disclosed to you so that you can review it and possibly re-evaluate your participation in the proposed adoption placement. You also understand and acknowledge that not all information will be known to us or knowable by us, and that it is possible that all of the information, both known and unknown, may create risks and have an effect on the future health, social and/or emotional development of the child.

MEDICAL RISK ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We cannot predict an adoptive child’s mental or physical development, emotional and/or personality characteristics, health, medical problems, learning disabilities, intellectual abilities, hyperactivity, attention deficits, appearance or inherited characteristics.

Information provided by or through us may be incorrect because any social, medical or family history has been provided by the birth parents or sources are beyond our control. We ask each birth mother and, when possible, each birth father to complete a Social/Medical/Genetic/Educational History Form, which will be given to you (with identifying information removed, if so requested by the birth parent). We will also make our best efforts to obtain hospital records, pre-natal records and/or a hospital record summary for the child and the birth mother.

You understand and acknowledge that the medical, social and educational information given to us by the birth parents or by hospitals or doctors and passed on to you may be incomplete or erroneous. It is possible that the birth parents have intentionally given incorrect information. You should consult with a physician or appropriate medical specialist to review such information or provide you with an opinion regarding this information, or absence of such information, before accepting physical placement of any child.

Unless there is a state statute or regulation to the contrary, we do not assume any duty to independently verify the information given to us by birth parents or other sources, nor will we make an independent investigation into the birth parents’ backgrounds and health, social, or educational situation other than through interviews

and conversations. You agree not to expect or rely upon us to verify or investigate the truth of information provided to us by the birth parents or third parties at the time of placement or in the future.

We, recommend that both miconium and umbilical cord testing be conducted on all newborns placed through adoption. While Family Choices has the ability to provide the kits for testing, we cannot guarantee that birth parents, doctors, or hospitals will cooperate, nor can we guarantee that the samples will be collected and/or stored correctly prior to shipment. The results of any of this additional drug testing will be provided to you. We do not have the medical expertise to interrupt the results and strongly advise you to discuss any results with your physician. You further understand that the costs associated with this testing must be provided to the Agency prior to the test being submitted.

LEGAL RISK ACKNOWLEDGMENT

In any adoption there may be legal risks.

At any time prior to the execution of the surrenders for adoption, the birth parents can change their minds and elect to parent the child themselves. The birth parents can leave town or otherwise disappear prior to the birth or placement of the child, or choose other adoptive parents. The laws defining whether or when birth parents can revoke their surrenders for the purposes of adoption or termination of an adoption plan vary from state to state. It is important that you fully understand which laws will apply to any placement prior to accepting physical custody of the child.

In cases involving the placement of a child, the placement will likely take place prior to the termination or relinquishment of the parental rights of some of the biological/legal parents. This situation is considered a legal risk placement. Legal risk status is resolved when the appropriate surrender or consent or court-ordered termination becomes legally irrevocable. It is possible that you will have to wait a specified amount of time for an appeal of an involuntary termination of parental rights.

If you accept a legal risk placement, you take the child understanding the possibility that the birth parent may revoke his or her consent to adoption within the time legally allowed, and that the birth parent's rights to the child may supersede your legal rights, even if the child has lived in your home for a period of time. You may be required to return the child to a birth parent, or to an adoption agency.

If your adoption is an interstate adoption, the laws of the state where the child is born may control the birth parent's consent to the adoption and the termination of parental rights. If the birth parent executes an Illinois surrender, the surrender must be signed before and acknowledged by an agency representative or a licensed social worker in the state where the birth parent resides. A properly executed Illinois surrender is final and irrevocable when it is signed in accordance with Illinois law. If the birth parent executes a consent document of another state, than the laws of that state control finality and revocation. Illinois judges will accept the consent documents of other states and will impose that state's rules regarding termination of parental rights and revocation.

Disruption of an adoption plan, before or after placement, is rare, but almost always results in emotional turmoil and financial loss to you. Your financial losses may include (but are not limited to) all costs and fees paid and owing to Family Choices, NFPC, birth parent's legal fees, travel costs, agency fees, fees to consulting attorneys in other states, and payments made for hospital, medical, and living expenses. The birth parents will not be obligated to go through with the adoption just because you have paid birth-related expenses to the birth mother or on her behalf. Most states characterize pre-adoption payments by you as a gift or charitable (but not tax-deductible) contribution and prohibit those payments to be conditioned upon completion of the adoption. Even if you are permitted to sue the birth parents to recover the birth-related payments you have made on their behalf, they usually have no assets to pay a legal judgment against them. You understand and agree that Family Choices, NFPC will not pursue the birth parent or otherwise harass the birth parent to complete an unwanted adoption plan or repay any of the funds that may have been paid to, or on behalf of, the birth parent. Depending on the nature of the expenses you may incur, you may be able to claim an adoption tax credit even if the adoption fails or disrupts. You understand that Family Choices, NFPC are not tax specialists and you acknowledge that you have been advised to discuss with a reputable certified public accountant, tax preparer or tax attorney regarding the applicability of the adoption tax credit to any failed or disrupted adoption.

You understand than more than the laws of Illinois may impact the payment of living expenses. If the birth parent resides outside of Illinois, the laws of the state where she resides potentially impact the payment of living expenses. Additionally, if you are an adoptive family residing outside of Illinois, but working with an Illinois birth mother, your state's laws may impact payment of living expenses. Family Choices must consider both states laws when living expenses are being provided.

BIRTH FATHER ISSUES

Determining the rights a birth father may or may not have is very complex. The man who is married to the birth mother is the legal father of the child. His rights are the same as the birth mother's rights, even if he is not in actual fact the biological father of the child. His consent to the adoption or a court-ordered termination of his parental rights is required. A biological father who is not married to the birth mother is a putative father. The rights of putative fathers vary depending on the state where the child is born and on the particular facts of the case. As a basic concept, you can assume that the more involved a putative father is with supporting the birth mother and/or the child, the greater his rights.

Under Illinois law, a putative father has the right and duty to file with the Illinois Putative Father Registry and to file a parentage action regarding the child. He can file at any time after the child is conceived but not later than 30 days after the child is born. He must also file a parentage action not less than 30 days after the date he files with the registry or the date of the child's birth, whichever event occurs last. His failure to timely register and timely file a parentage action constitutes abandonment and evidence that his parental rights should be terminated. It is very difficult for a putative father who fails to register to fight a proposed adoption. Please note that this is Illinois law. If the child you are adopting was born in a different state, it is likely that the laws of that state will apply to the rights of the putative father. Currently, approximately 31 states have putative father registries similar to the Illinois Putative Father Registry.

It is possible that a birth father will refuse to consent to the adoption or take legal action to disrupt the adoption plan. If this occurs, it is possible that the child may have to be removed from your home and returned to the birth parent.

INTERSTATE COMPACT ON THE PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN

If you and the birth parents are in different states, then you may need to comply with the Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children (ICPC). This law, effective in every state, says that you will not be permitted to bring the child to your home state until you have approval from the Compact Administrators in both states. In order to obtain ICPC approval to travel outside the state of the child's birth with the child, you must have a completed home study and obtain other legal documents required by both states. Specific requirements for approval and the length of time to review and approve the placement vary from state to state. By Illinois law, you must have both a home study by an Illinois licensed agency and a foster care license. The licensing process takes several months and requires CANTS clearances as well as finger print criminal records checks at both the state and federal levels. It is advisable for you to begin on the home study and licensing process as soon as possible. By Illinois law, home studies are valid for 1 year from the date that they are signed by the agency and finger print clearances are good for 2 years, even though the foster care license is good for 4 years. If you are residence of another state and adopting from Illinois, you must provide Family Choices, NFPC with state and federal level fingerprint criminal background records checks and a statement of clearance from the appropriate state agency indicating that you do not have a history of child abuse or neglect. These clearance are part of the Illinois ICPC requirements.

It is illegal to return to your home state with the child before the Compact Administrators in both the "sending state" (state of the baby's birth) and the "receiving state" (your home state) approve the placement. You should be prepared to stay in the sending state waiting for ICPC approval for 10 to 14 days, but the period may be more or less, depending on the details of your case. Failure to comply with ICPC may jeopardize your adoption and subject you to criminal charges.

Please note that, as a general rule, ICPC adoptions cost significantly more than adoptions where you and the child are both in the same state.

INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT

Any time you are planning to adopt a child who is eligible for membership in an American Indian tribe, you must comply with the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). ICWA is a Federal law that must be complied with, regardless of state law, when Indian children are adopted. Each tribe has its own criteria for membership, so even if a birth parent is not an official member, the tribe may decide that the child is eligible for membership. Even if the birth parents do not want the tribe to be involved, ICWA requires notification to the tribe and gives the tribe the right to intervene in and prevent the adoption.

Basically, if the child you want to adopt has American Indian heritage, the tribe has more rights than the biological parents and has the right to prevent the adoption regardless of the desire of the biological parents.

We cannot guarantee that ICWA does or does not apply in a particular case. We will ask the birth parents if they have any American Indian ancestry. We will rely upon the statements of the birth parents and assume no duty to verify or investigate the truth of the birth parent's statements regarding American Indian heritage. If the birth parents do have Indian ancestry, then we will need to contact the specific tribe(s) to see if the tribe considers the child to be a member of their tribe and to see what action the tribe intends to take regarding the proposed adoption. Please be advised that some tribes defer to the preferences and desires of the biological parents, while other tribes will be opposed to any adoption by non-Indian parents. If the birth parents indicate that they have American Indian ancestry but that they do not know their tribal affiliation, we will contact the Bureau of Indian Affairs to determine if it is possible to ascertain the correct tribe(s) to contact. The tribe may seek to intervene if the child is eligible for membership and demand to have the child placed in the home of another member of the tribe or in the home of an American Indian. You may be required by law to give up the child to a representative of the tribe or to a person or persons identified by a state or tribal court. It is also possible that the tribe will require that the adoption case be heard in the tribal court rather than in state court.

The tribe may decide not to intervene, so the adoption can proceed as planned. If ICWA applies, even if the tribe does not oppose adoption by you, the adoption will be more complicated and require additional paperwork. We may charge you an extra fee if we find that the child has American Indian heritage and ICWA applies.

ADOPTION ASSISTANCE/SUBSIDY

Adoption assistance/subsidies may or may not be available for children who meet certain criteria established by law. Such children may include sibling groups, older children, children with problematic medical conditions, those prenatally exposed to drugs or alcohol, children manifesting or at risk for developing learning disabilities, emotional or behavioral problems, or other criteria. There are Federal and State laws addressing the rules, regulations and criteria for a child's eligibility for adoption assistance/subsidy. We make no guarantee or promise that your child will qualify for assistance/subsidy under State or Federal law. If you want us to make an application for adoption assistance/subsidy and we are legally eligible to make such an application for adopting families residing in Illinois, you may be charged an additional fee. Even if we make an assistance/subsidy application, we still do not guarantee or promise that your child will qualify for assistance/subsidy, Medicaid or any Federal, State or local governmental financial assistance program.

CONFIDENTIALITY

We understand that confidentiality is important to you and to birth parents. We will not intentionally exchange identifying information about you to the birth parents or about the birth parents to you unless you and the birth parents agree otherwise. In working with you, however, it is often necessary to coordinate with physicians, social workers, court officials and others. During this process, information about you will be shared on a "need to know" basis. You hereby release and authorize us to release both identifying and non-identifying information, as the laws of the involved jurisdictions require, about you with others. This authorization does not permit us to release identifying information about you to the birth parents. Release of identifying information to the birth parents requires a separate authorization that must be given after you have received information about a specific proposed placement.

During the course of the adoption, your identity and that of the birth parents may become known to numerous

persons and institutions, including, but not limited to, medical providers, hospitals, courts, social workers, court officials, and to the birth parent's counsel. We cannot control the actions of these persons and institutions regarding releasing confidential information. We will advise such persons and institutions of your request regarding sharing of information and request that they respect your confidentiality. We also advise you that, in some instances, subsequent to adoptive placement, the birth parents may request a meeting with you or identifying information about you, even if you had previously agreed upon and prefer confidentiality and/or anonymity. We encourage cooperation between you and the birth parents and encourage you to reach an agreement with the birth parents about what information will be exchanged, both before and after placement.

Information about you may be obtained by a birth parent through accidental disclosure by us, or through many other sources such as motor vehicle registration, internet resources, birth parent advisory groups, private detectives or any person involved in facilitating the adoption matching process. You also understand that there are legal methods of tracing a child placed for adoption through adoption registries, vital records, school and medical records, and the work of confidential intermediaries. Further, when your adoptive child becomes an adult, it is likely that your child will have access to identifying information about the birth parents and may share identifying information about you with the birth parents. Based on the ready availability of information, especially via the internet, we cannot and do not guarantee life-long confidentiality.

FACILITATORS

You understand that, by Illinois law, only a licensed agency can be paid regarding placement of a child. While unpaid facilitation by non-licensed agencies or persons is allowable, paid facilitation violates Illinois law.

You understand that, for the most part, our experience with non-licensed, non-agency, facilitators (basically those in the business of facilitating adoptions) has not been positive. As a general rule, these adoptions are more expensive, more risky and significantly more legally complicated.

You understand that, while we leave the ultimate decision regarding use of facilitators to you, we strongly discourage their use. If you opt to work with a paid facilitator, you further understand that we cannot guarantee that the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services will approve an interstate placement, or that the court will approve the fees charged by the facilitator, or that the adoption will ultimately be granted by the court.

You understand that your use of a paid facilitator could absolutely jeopardize the success of your adoption either out of or into Illinois.

You understand that intentional or unintentional withholding of information regarding the use of a facilitator, fees paid to a facilitator, or any other form of facilitator involvement will likely jeopardize the success of your adoption.

FINALIZATION OF ADOPTION

You understand that working with us does not guarantee that you will be successful in adopting a child even if you are selected by birth parents or a child is placed with you in a pre-adoptive placement. In addition to issues with the birth parents and or their consents/surrenders, it is possible that the agency you select to provide your home study will write a non-recommending home study or deny issuance of a foster care license. It is also possible that the court will refuse to grant an adoption. While it is rare that any of these events will occur, you understand that the usual reasons for a non-recommending home study, denial of a foster care license or refusal of a court to grant an adoption are failures and issues with the adoptive parents such as: failure to obtain medical insurance coverage for the child, inability to financially afford to add a child to the family, criminal history, child abuse or neglect history, inability to parent and misrepresentations on the part of the adoptive parents and/or their agents. You understand that our ability to help you succeed in the adoption process is directly related to your providing us with accurate and timely information about finances, insurance, criminal, abuse history and statements made by you or anyone assisting (regardless of compensation) you in locating the child you desire to adopt.

MANDATED REPORTER STATUS

All employees of Family Choices, NFPC (the Agency) are mandated reporters. In the event we suspect child abuse, we must make a hotline call. If the Agency has legal custody of a child who has been placed in your home for the purposes of adoption, and abuse is suspected, an Agency representative will immediately remove the child from your home and place a call to the DCFS Child Abuse Hotline. In the event you do not live in Illinois, and this is an Interstate placement, we will contact the appropriate agency within your state to remove the child. At that point, the child will be returned to Illinois. Should the case be unfounded, the child will be returned to your home and additional supervision may be requested prior to the finalization of the adoption.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

All clients of the Agency have the right of grievance on matters related to fair and equitable provision of the Agency services. The grievance procedure is as follows.

1. When a client registers a grievance relating to service with a staff person, the client will be contacted within two business days. At that time, a meeting will be scheduled, either in person or over the telephone. This meeting will clarify the issues, and attempt to resolve any conflict.
2. If resolution is not achieved in this meeting, the client may submit a grievance to the Executive Director within 30 days.
3. If the Executive Director is unable to resolve this matter, the client has the right to appeal within 30 days, in writing, to the Grievance Committee of the Board of Directors.
4. The Executive Committee shall make the final decision on the matter.
5. The client has a right to contact the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services for assistance. Family Choices staff will offer assistance to the client by providing the telephone number of this organization.
6. Client services will not to be denied, reduced, suspended or terminated for exercising a grievance.

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

Family Choices does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, marital status, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation.

STATEMENT REGARDING PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT

It is the policy of Family Choices to prohibit preferential treatment to any board member, contributor, volunteer, employee, agent, consultant, or independent contractor or their relatives. Preferential treatment means any action that would allow any party to receive consideration with respect to the placement of a child or any matter that relates to adoption services different or more favorably than any other applicant.

CLIENT RIGHTS

Clients' right shall be protected in accordance with the Illinois Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Code (IMH&DDC) and the Illinois Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Confidentiality Act (IMH&DDCA).

1. The right to be treated with dignity and respect.
2. The right to receive services regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, gender preference, or medical disability.
3. The right to be advised of any policy, requirement, eligibility criteria, or situation that would affect placement of a child.

4. The right to confidentiality (unless mandated otherwise by Illinois law or directed by court order).
5. The right to be informed of the range and scope of services provided by the agency, including:
 - Verification of current license and certifications claimed by the Agency.
 - Description of philosophical perspective.
 - Information regarding eligibility criteria, content of the home study preparation and licensing process, training hours required and duration of home study.
 - Determinants of placement and in what time period.
 - Understanding what background information about the child will be gathered and in what form it is shared.
 - Knowledge about the post-placement process and the requirements for the finalization of your adoption.
6. The right to receive a copy of the Agency Grievance Policy.
7. The right to receive information about the State of Illinois information and complaint toll free number (when available) and the DCFS hot line 1-800- 25ABUSE.
8. The right to review your completed home study.
9. The right to be apprised of birth parent rights.
10. The right to be advised that adoption agencies cannot guarantee the placement of a child.
11. The right to make decisions regarding prospective or pending placement of a particular child free of pressure or coercion.
12. The right to receive all non-identifying information about the child.
13. The right to seek medical, emotional or social advice from independent resources prior to proceeding with placement.
14. The right to be advised of the possibility of an adoption subsidy for a special needs child.
15. The right to obtain independent legal counsel and be advised if the attorney has any financial relationship with your adoption resource.
16. The right to be informed of the Illinois Adoption Registry and Medical Information Exchange.
17. The right to receive a fee schedule, including disclosure of refund policies.
18. The right to request a transfer of licensing file to another agency in a timely manner.

CLIENT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The responsibility to work cooperatively and honestly with the Agency.
2. The responsibility to disclose if you have ever been the subject of a unfavorable home study.
3. If transferring a home study from one agency to another, the responsibility of arranging for the original agency to send the home study directly to the subsequent adoption resource.
4. The responsibility of paying agreed upon fees promptly

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Initials

Initials

_____ _____
We/I acknowledge and understand that Joyce Crouse, the Executive Director of Family Choices, NFPC is the mother of Deborah Crouse Cobb and Kirsten Crouse Bays; that Deborah Crouse Cobb and Kirsten Crouse Bays are partners in an adoption law firm; and that Deborah Crouse Cobb is the Agency's attorney.

_____ _____
We/I acknowledge and understand that Susan Wolk is the sister of Deborah Crouse Cobb and Kirsten Crouse Bays; that Deborah Crouse Cobb and Kirsten Crouse Bays are partners in an adoption law firm; and that Deborah Crouse Cobb is the Agency's attorney.

_____ _____
We/I acknowledge and understand that Susan Wolk, Licensing Coordinator at Family Choices, NFPC is the daughter of Joyce Crouse, Executive Director at Family Choices, NFPC.

_____ _____
We/I acknowledge and understand that if we choose to work with Family Choices, NFPC, **and** Crouse, Cobb & Bays, the Agency has no control over the legal process and cannot direct Deborah Crouse Cobb or Kirsten Crouse Bays on how to proceed with your case.

_____ _____
We/I acknowledge and understand that if we choose to work with Family Choices, NFPC, **and** Crouse, Cobb & Bays, neither Deborah Crouse Cobb nor Kirsten Crouse Bays can direct the Agency in how to proceed with licensing, an adoption placement, or any other aspect of agency business.

_____ _____
We/I acknowledge and understand that if we choose to work with Family Choices, NFPC, either Joyce Crouse or Susan Wolk may have either a personal or professional relationship with the attorney we may choose to work with, that the attorney cannot direct the agency in how to proceed with any aspect of agency business, and that the agency cannot direct the attorney as to the legal process involved in your case.

_____ _____
We further understand that the only legal aspects that the agency has the ability to control are the termination of parental rights, and consent for the finalization of adoption.

_____ _____
We/I acknowledge and understand that Deborah Crouse Cobb, as attorney for the Agency, may direct the Agency on how to proceed with certain aspects of your case, i.e. termination of parental rights, notice to putative fathers, etc.

_____ _____
We/I acknowledge and understand that if we choose to work with Family Choices, NFPC, **and** Crouse, Cobb & Bays, there may be times when either Susan Wolk or Joyce Crouse must discuss issues with either Deborah Crouse Cobb or Kirsten Crouse Bays. These discussions will only occur within the scope of your signed Release of Information document. Sometimes these discussions are necessary to clarify issues which may negatively impact your adoption process. (Ex: how to handle a putative father, possible legal issue with a birth mother, etc.) The only information the Agency will release on you is the information which is specifically contained in your home study, post placement reports, and report to court.

_____ _____
We/I acknowledge and understand that prior to the surrender of a child, the Agency's first responsibility is to the biological mother. Even though you will be paying for birth parent services, and possibly paying living expenses for a birth parent, the Agency has a responsibility to implement the birth mother's parenting plan. We will not knowingly participate in any adoption fraud perpetrated by a biological parent. In the event we suspect fraud, we will immediately discuss this with you and your attorney.

_____ _____
We/I acknowledge and understand that after a child is surrendered to the Agency, the Agency's first responsibility is to the child. The Agency has a duty to protect the child.

We/I acknowledge and understand that if the putative father should step forward either by filing with the Putative Father Registry or by filing a parentage action in a court with appropriate jurisdiction, within the appropriate time frame, the Agency must engage him. Timely steps by a putative father may result in required DNA testing, visitation, and may ultimately result in the child being placed with the father. Prior to a change of custody, the Agency will request a suitability study to insure the environment is safe.

STATEMENT REGARDING CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

The use of corporal punishment on any child served, or under the care of, a licensed child care institution constitutes a violation of State Licensing Standards. Corporal punishment is defined as any type of physical punishment, discipline, or retaliation inflicted on any part of the body of a child. This includes such actions at slapping, hitting, punching, spanking, shoving, shaking, pinching or any other type of action which inflicts pain or body discomfort on a child. Violation of this licensing requirement might well result in the revocation of this Agency's license to provide care for children.

The use of corporal punishment, verbal reprimands which are abusive, and sexual abuse of children served by this Agency is a clear violation of the policies of Family Choices, and will not be tolerated. This Agency is mandated, as are school, hospitals, doctors, etc., to report suspected use of corporal punishment and suspected sexual abuse to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. An investigation by the IDCFS Division of Child Protection which results in an indicated finding of abuse will be recorded in the State's Central Registry, and for families or individuals providing substitute or supplemental care, the license to provide care for children will be revoked. It is possible that the child or the child's parents or guardian may press charges or initiate a legal suit.

Families and individuals providing substitute or supplemental care who may experience stress and are in need of suggestions for alternative methods of behavior control are requested to call the Agency for assistance.

CONFIDENTIALITY OF PRIVATE INFORMATION

The work of Family Choices is highly confidential. A failure on the part of any staff member, service provider, or volunteer to realize this may result in harm to those whom the Agency serves. All persons are expected to hold in strictest confidence all material related to Agency clients or staff, verbal or written, which comes to them in their work.

Unnecessary discussion of private information with other staff, service providers or volunteers violates the confidential relationship. Furthermore, any discussion of private information with fellow citizens violates the confidential relationship.

This policy does not refer to the general interpretation of the Agency's programs. Such interpretation, using typical information with discretion, is a desirable and necessary part of the responsibility of each staff member.

I understand that the Agency operates under the above confidentiality procedures and that I am bound by the same policy.

_____ and _____ acknowledge and understand all the risks of adoption as set forth in this document.

_____ and _____ wish to pursue an adoption plan and continue to seek an adoptive placement, knowing and assuming all the medical, legal and other risks of adoption and pre-adoptive placements as set forth in this document.

_____ and _____ wish to work with Family Choices and may choose to also work with Crouse, Cobb & Bays. We understand and acknowledge that we are doing so

with full disclosure of the familial relationship between the Agency employees, between the Agency employees and the attorneys, and between the partners in Crouse Cobb & Bays.

We, _____ and _____, release Family Choices, NFPC, its employees, attorneys, independent contractors and affiliates from any and all liability.

Dated: _____

Adoptive Parent 1

Adoptive Parent 2

Agency Case Worker