

## *Fees:*

We are happy to provide information and referral as well as accepting updated information to your files. There is no charge for these services.

Individual and family counseling fees are based on a sliding scale according to one's income.

There is a \$100 fee to begin any research of our records or record review. A non-identifying profile or background history, based on information on file, is included in this fee.

There is an additional fee of \$395 which will include the search and intermediary services, making the total fee \$495, which must be paid in full prior to the initiation of any outreach services.

Checks should be made payable to Catholic Charities and sent to the Administration Office. These fees are paid for services provided and, as such are not refundable. Services are never denied on the inability to pay. A sliding scale fee can be arranged upon demonstration of need.



Office for  
**Catholic Charities**  
*Diocese of Springfield*  
*in Illinois*

## *Send Requests to:*

### **Administrative Office:**

Catholic Charities — Post-Adoption  
1625 West Washington  
Springfield, Illinois 62702  
Telephone: 217/523-9201  
FAX: 217/523-5624

### **Area Offices**

#### **Office Name and Service Area:**

#### **Madison County Catholic Charities**

Serving Madison, Calhoun, Jersey, Bond,  
and Fayette counties

#### **Carlinville Catholic Charities**

Serving Green, Macoupin and Montgomery  
Counties

#### **Decatur Catholic Charities**

Serving Coles, Douglas, Edgar, Macon,  
Moultrie and Shelby counties

#### **Effingham Catholic Charities**

Serving Clark, Crawford, Cumberland, Jasper  
and Effingham Counties

#### **Quincy Catholic Charities**

Serving Adams, Brown and Pike counties

#### **Springfield Catholic Charities**

Serving Cass, Christian, Menard, Morgan,  
Sangamon and Scott counties



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## *Post-Adoption Services*

The post-adoption services of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois are designed to support and strengthen family life. Through the local offices these services can help meet the concerns and interests of adoptive parents, adult adoptive persons and birth parents, as well as other extended members of these families. For members of the adoption triad this can mean comfortably integrating adoption into their lives.

The assistance is provided in accordance with the laws on confidentiality and privacy.

## Services include:

- **Individual and Family Counseling**

—by request from anyone involved in an adoption plan at any time.

- **Mutual Consent Registry**

—A birth parent or adult adopted person may complete a future contact statement indicating their interest (or non-interest) in meeting with each other should the other party also request or express a desire for this contact. Persons can, at any time, request their desire for this contact. Also, at any time, persons may request that written, updated information be placed into the agency's records.

- **Information and Referral**

—Assistance securing services in your local area gaining knowledge about adoption law and legislative efforts, information on state and national registries, search groups, support groups, publications or other organizations serving the needs of people involved in adoption.

- **Background Histories**

—By request from anyone involved in an adoption plan at any time.

This profile will include data on the adopted persons birth history and the following background information on birth parents, if known: their age, race, religion and ethnic background, their marital status, a physical description, education and employment, personality, interests/talents, existence of other children born to the birth parents and information about birth grandparents, health history of birth parents and their immediate relatives, relationship between the birth parents, the reason(s) given for making an adoption plan — depending on the content of information contained in the agency's record.

- **Non-identifying Profile** of the adoptive family compiles from existing case records.

This profile will include the birth and developmental history of the child, a physical and personality description of the adoptive mother and father, a description of their home and community, their educations and occupations, family history and involvement with extended family, their lifestyle, experiences with children, a sharing of their marriage, religion and its meaning in their lives, child rearing ideas, reason(s) for choosing adoption, and feelings/thoughts on the birth parents and their experience — depending on the content of information contained in the agency's record.

## Intermediary Services:

- **Indirect Contact**

—A professional, confidential intermediary contact designed to allow an exchange of information between members of the adoption triad. These services can be used to secure updated medical or social information. Information exchanged through this channel may be directed from the adoptive parents or adult adopted person to birth parents, birth siblings or other biological relatives or vice-versa. This service is offered in order to permit the exchange of information without jeopardizing personal privacy.

- **Direct Contact**

—A search to locate an adult adopted person or birth parent or other members of the birth family for the purpose of establishing personal contact.

Outreach is made in a personal and confidential nature. In all instances, the party to be contacted has the opportunity to decide whether to receive

or share information or to enter into a future meeting. Their written permission will be secured. If the birth parent and the adopted person desire contact with one another, the agency will help them make such a contact in a way that is comfortable and respectful. When persons are under twenty-one years of age, the permission of their parents or legal guardian is needed. For a birth parent to request a search for his/her birth child, the child must have reached the age of maturity (twenty-one). The search will be completed in the earliest possible time frame.

## To Request Information:

You may arrange counseling or receive information and referral by calling any Catholic Charities office. A request for further information or service should be sent to the Catholic Charities Administrative Office.

This request:

1. Must be in writing and signed by you. It needs to be specific about the information and/or services you desire:
  - \* an adult adopted persons correspondence shall include the adopted name, their birthdate and birthplace, as well as names and address of the adoptive parents at the time of placement;
  - \* a birthparent's request shall give their name and address at the time of service, the child's name, sex, birthdate and birthplace.
2. Must contain two forms of personal identification, such as a photocopy of birth certificate or driver's license.
3. Must include the appropriate fee.