



# SPECIAL NEEDS **ADOPTION**

A Resource  
DIRECTORY



Arizona Department of Economic Security  
Administration for Children, Youth & Families



1-877-KIDSNEEDU / 1-877-543-7633 Toll Free

[www.azkidsneedu.gov](http://www.azkidsneedu.gov)

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Administration for Children, Youth and Families  
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## SPECIAL NEEDS ADOPTION

Adoption is the legal process by which qualified adults can become parents of children not born to them. The laws that cover all adoption cases are necessary to protect children themselves, the persons who wish to adopt children, and the birth parents of the children. Children who are adopted have the same rights and privileges as a child born to a family.

Although there are several adoption agencies in Arizona, the Department of Economic Security (DES) is the largest. Almost without exception, the children placed by DES have special needs; that is, they may be older or have physical or emotional handicaps. The information presented here is based on DES' statewide adoption program. You can obtain further details by calling **1-877-KIDS NEEDU (1-877-543-7633)**, or by logging on to the DES website at **[www.azkidsneedu.gov](http://www.azkidsneedu.gov)**.

DES contracts with several adoption agencies to complete adoptive home certification and training for families applying to adopt through DES.

This pamphlet has been prepared to answer some of the most frequently asked questions about adoption.

## WHO ARE THE CHILDREN IN NEED OF SPECIAL ADOPTION?

Children needing to be adopted are of all ages, races, religions, and intellectual and physical development. Children currently needing homes are age 10 and older, school age sibling groups and children of color. DES is recruiting families who will accept the following types of "special needs" children:

- ◆ age six or older
- ◆ children of color
- ◆ sibling groups of three or more
- ◆ physical, mental or emotional disabilities
- ◆ high risk of physical, mental or emotional disabilities

These children have been legally entrusted to the Department of Economic Security. The birth parents may have voluntarily surrendered the children, or the court may have terminated their parental rights to the children.

Children who no longer live with their birth parents usually have some challenges and can take a long time to adjust to a new family. Adoption case managers and foster parents do their best to prepare children for adoption, but the actual living experience with the new family may reveal unique adjustments. In the long run, adoption is a happy and rewarding experience.



## WHERE CAN YOU ADOPT A CHILD?

You can adopt a child through your local DES office/contract adoption agencies, or one of the adoption agencies listed in this booklet.

## IS THERE A FEE?

An \$800.00 certification, investigation and report fee may be charged by the contract agency. This fee may be reimbursable after a special needs child is placed in your home and the adoption is finalized. DES and its contracted provider agencies may waive the certification, investigation and report fees if the applicant demonstrates and the Department finds that payment would:

- ◆ cause financial hardship to the applicant;
- ◆ be detrimental to an adoptive child; or
- ◆ preclude the applicant from making application.

DES will collect the adoption certification, investigation and report fee from families who adopt a child outside DES, who is not a ward of this state or any other state.

## ARE YOU THE KIND OF ADOPTIVE PARENT WE ARE LOOKING FOR?

Adoptive parents come from all types of backgrounds and economic situations, and are of all racial and ethnic backgrounds. Some are single parents, some are couples, and often both work outside the home. Some live in apartments, some own their homes. Some already have children, some don't have children yet, and some are grandparents. If you enjoy children and the challenge of parenting a child or children who need very special care and love, you may be the parent for a waiting child.



## WHAT IF DES HAS NO CHILDREN TO OFFER YOU?

The Department of Economic Security has professional affiliations with national and international adoption agencies and organizations. Listings of adoption agencies and organizations, including state, national and international, are at the end of this Resource Directory. However, DES cannot guarantee the placement of a child through these agencies and organizations.

## WHAT IS AN ADOPTION SUBSIDY?

Adoption subsidy is a program intended to help foster children achieve permanency through adoption. The adoption subsidy program assists special needs children in different ways. It can provide a monthly payment to help with the extra expense of caring for a special needs child. It



also pays for medical, dental, psychiatric/psychological services and therapies not covered by private insurance or other public resources such as AHCCCS, school district, etc.) It may also pay for certain nonrecurring adoption fees that are reasonable and necessary expenses such as adoption fees, attorney costs and home study fees. An adoption case manager can help you find out more about the program and completing an application.

## WHAT IS FOSTER ADOPTION?

There may be a wait from the time it is certain that a child will not be able to live with his or her birth parents, until the time all legal matters are settled, freeing the child for adoption. During this time, frequent moves and living with temporary parents and relatives can cause emotional damage to the child.

To prevent this damage, DES is seeking families who are willing to take children before they are legally free for adoption, with the plan that adoption will occur in the future. Each situation is different, and the particular situation would be fully explained to you before you agree to take a child into your home.

Foster-adoptive parents are certified to adopt, and comply with DES Foster Home Licensing requirements.



## WHAT ARE THE STEPS TO ADOPTION?

### 1. INTEREST

You, as a single person or a couple, begin to consider adoption.

### 2. INQUIRY

You contact an adoption agency or call **1-877-KIDS NEEDU (1-877-543-7633)** to gather more information. An adoption case manager will talk to you individually, or invite you to an orientation meeting where you will learn about the adoption process. You will be asked to complete an inquiry form, with information about yourself and about the type of child you are considering. You will also be asked to select an adoption agency to do your adoptive home certification and training.

### 3. HOME STUDY

You begin the home study process, which takes about three months. This may consist of individual meetings, or a combination of individual meetings and training classes with an adoption case manager from an adoption agency contracted with DES. You will learn more about the types of children needing homes and the special care they need.

During this time, you will be asked to complete an application, which includes a financial statement, and each member of your household will have a medical examination. In addition, all of the adults in your household must be fingerprinted.



The adoption case manager will complete a written report about your family, which the agency will submit to the court for certification. The court certification remains in effect for 18 months.

**NOTE:** When adoptive applicants have adopted a child in Arizona or are foster parents licensed by this state, Arizona law requires DES or an adoption agency to provide only an update report on any change in circumstances that have occurred since the previous certification or licensing report.

#### **4. SELECTION**

After your home study is completed and certified by the court, you will be placed on the Central Adoption Registry. Your home study may be requested by a child's case manager when an Arizona child is available and compatible with your family. The case manager and others involved in planning for the child will consider your home study. If they agree that your family may meet the child's needs, you will be contacted.

#### **5. PRESENTATION**

You will receive information about the child, such as background, medical history, behavioral problems, possible adjustment problems, therapy needs, sibling contacts, and the type of subsidy for which the child may be eligible. You will be asked to consider whether this child is right for you and your family.

#### **6. VISITATION**

If you decide this is the right child for your family, visits will begin.

All children need time to get acquainted. The arrangements for these visits vary depending upon the child's needs.

#### **7. PLACEMENT**

Finally, the day arrives! Your child moves in. There will be adjustments for your family, and adjustments for your new child. Your adoption case manager will be available to answer questions or help you with your concerns. Sometime during this period, if applicable, an Adoption Subsidy Agreement will be completed.

#### **8. FINALIZATION**

You, your adoption case manager and your new child (if age 12 or older) will decide when the time is right to complete the adoption. Your adoption case manager will assist you with the paperwork necessary in filing a petition to adopt.

In most cases, less than six months after the petition to adopt is filed, your family will go before the judge to finalize the adoption. Soon after, you will be sent information on obtaining a new birth certificate showing the child's new name and you as the parent(s).

#### **9. ASSISTANCE**

Should you experience difficulties after the adoption is final, adoption subsidy case managers are available to assist you in finding the services you need. DES wants your adoption to be successful and will do everything possible to help you.

# ARIZONA LICENSED ADOPTION SERVICES

## **A PLACE TO CALL HOME**

1830 S. Alma School Rd., Bldg. 5, #122  
Mesa, AZ 85210

*Services include finding homes for children in the areas of adoption and foster care.*

www.tocallhome.com  
(480) 456-0549  
Fax (480) 456-0553

## **ADOPTION JOURNEY OF ARIZONA, INC.**

4065 E. Roberts Pl.  
Tucson, AZ 85711

*Services to birth parents adoptive parents and children.*

www.adoptionjourneys.org  
(520) 327-0899  
Fax (520) 327-0899

## **ADOPTIONS SPECIALIST OF ARIZONA**

1118 E. Missouri Ave., Ste. A-1  
Phoenix, AZ 85014

*Services to birth parents adoptive parents and children.*

(602) 248-8248  
Fax (602) 264-8967

## **AID TO ADOPTION OF SPECIAL KIDS (AASK-AZ)**

2320 N 20th St.  
Phoenix, AZ 85006

*Non sectarian services specializing in the placement of special needs children.*

www.aask-az.org  
(602) 254-2275  
(602) 212-2564

## **AMERICAN ADOPTIONS**

8676 W. 96th St., Ste. 140  
Overland Park, KS 66212

*Out-of-state agency licensed in Arizona, specializing in traditional adoptions in the U.S.*

www.americanadoptions.com  
(913) 383-9804  
Fax (913) 383-1615

## **ARIZONA BAPTIST CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

6015 W. Peoria Ave.  
Glendale, AZ 85302

*Nonsectarian adoption services to children, mothers planning adoptive placement, and adoptive families.*

www.abcs.org  
(623) 349-2229  
Fax (623) 776-0343

## **ARIZONA'S CHILDREN ASSOCIATION**

2700 S. 8th Ave.  
Tucson, AZ 85713

*Nonsectarian adoption services available to any child and to adoptive applicants living in Arizona.*

www.arizonaschildren.org  
(520) 622-7611  
Fax (520) 624-7042

### **Branch Office**

Phoenix (800) 944-7611

## **ARIZONA FAMILY ADOPTION SERVICES**

346 E. Palm Ln.  
Phoenix, AZ 85004

*Primarily home certifications and relative adoptions.*

www.azadoptions.com  
(602) 254-2271  
Fax (602) 254-1587

## **BIRTH HOPE ADOPTIONS AGENCY, INC.**

3225 N. Central Ave., Ste. 1217  
Phoenix, AZ 85012

*Nonsectarian adoption services to children, mothers planning adoptive placement with the agency, and to adoptive applicants from the U.S. or abroad.*

(602) 277-2860  
Fax (602) 277-3939

## **BLACK FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES, INC.**

2323 N. 3rd St., Ste. 202  
Phoenix, AZ 85004

*Nonsectarian services to all minority children and to minority or biracial adoptive applicants living in the United States. Primarily a DES/ACYF contract provider.*

(602) 256-2948  
(602) 276-1984

## **CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICES OF SOUTHERN AZ**

P.O. Box 5746  
Tucson, AZ 85703-0746

*Nonsectarian services provided by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Tucson to any child and to adoptive applicants living in the Tucson diocese (Cochise, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, La Paz, Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz, and Yuma counties).*

www.ccs-soaz.org  
(520) 623-0344  
Fax (520) 770-8578

### **Branch Offices**

Bisbee (520) 458-3530  
Yuma (520) 783-3308

**CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES OF CENTRAL AND NORTHERN ARIZONA**

1825 W. Northern Ave.  
Phoenix, AZ 85021

www.diocesephoenix.org  
(602) 997-6105  
Fax (602) 943-0377

**Branch Offices**

Bullhead City (928) 758-4176  
Mesa (480) 964-8771  
Flagstaff (928) 774-9125  
Prescott (928) 778-2531  
Yuma (520) 783-3308

*Nonsectarian adoption services to birth parents and to any child and adoptive applicants living in the northern half of state of Arizona covered by the Diocese of Phoenix, and that portion of northeastern Arizona included in the Diocese of Gallup, NM.*

**CHRISTIAN FAMILY CARE AGENCY**

3603 N. 7th Ave.  
Phoenix, AZ 85013-3638

www.cfcare.org  
(602) 234-1935  
Fax (602) 234-0022

**Tucson Office:**

1585 E. River Rd., Ste. 121  
Tucson, AZ 85718

(520) 296-8255  
Fax (520) 296-8773

*Services to any child and to adoptive applicants living in Arizona and meeting the agency's Evangelical Christian standards.*

**COMMONWEALTH ADOPTIONS INTERNATIONAL, INC.**

4601 E. Fort Lowell Rd., Ste. 200  
Tucson, AZ 85712

www.commonwelathadoption.org  
(520) 327-7574  
Fax (520) 327-8640

*Primarily international adoptions.*

**DILLON SOUTHWEST, INC.**

3014 N. Hayden Rd., Ste. 101  
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

www.dillionsouthwest.org  
(480) 945-2221  
Fax (480) 945-3956

*Nonsectarian services specializing in placement of children from the Republic of Korea with Arizona families.*

**FAMILY SERVICE AGENCY**

1530 E. Flower St.  
Phoenix, AZ 85014

www.fsaphoenix.org  
(602) 264-9891  
Fax (602) 234-2639

*Nonsectarian adoption services to an child and adoptive applicants living in Maricopa County.*

**FIRST STEPS INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION AID, INC.**

2320 Sausalito Trail  
Tucson, AZ 85737

(520) 825-3446

*International adoptions, primarily in Guatemala.*

**HAND-IN-HAND INTERNATIONAL ADOPTIONS**

931 E. Southern Ave., Ste. 108  
Mesa, AZ 85204

www.hihiadopt.org  
(480) 892-5550  
Fax (480) 381-1725

*Nonsectarian adoption services to children, birth parents, and adoptive applicants living in Arizona.*

**HOME BUILDERS FOR CHILDREN, INC.**

5040 E. Shea Blvd., Ste. 262  
Scottsdale, AZ 85254

(480) 429-5344  
Fax (623) 321-6444

*Nonsectarian services to children, birth parents, and adoptive applicants living in Arizona.*

**INTERNATIONAL FAMILY SERVICES OF ARIZONA**

1465 S. 58th St.  
Mesa, AZ 85206

www.ifservices.org  
(480) 924-1779

*Nonsectarian services to children from other countries and the U.S., and adoptive applicants living in the U.S.*

**LDS FAMILY SERVICES OF MESA**

235 S. El Dorado Cir.  
Mesa, AZ 85202

www.itsaboutlove.org  
(480) 968-2995  
Fax (480) 967-4103

**Branch Office**

Tucson (520) 745-6459

*Services to any child and to adoptive applicants identified as members in good standing with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (the Mormon Church) living in Arizona. All adopted children are expected to be raised within the Mormon faith.*

**LDS SOCIAL SERVICES OF SNOWFLAKE**

641 S. Main  
Snowflake, AZ 85937

(928) 536-4117  
Fax (928) 536-7626

*Services to any child and to adoptive applicants identified as members in good standing with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (the Mormon Church) living in Arizona. All adopted children are expected to be raised within the Mormon faith.*

**OASIS ADOPTION SERVICES, INC.**

11795 N. Via De la Verbentia  
Tucson, AZ 85742

www.oasisadoption.com  
(520) 579-5578  
Fax (520) 579-5578

Phoenix **Branch Office**  
602-254-1991

*Primarily home certifications, birth parent services and post-placement visits.*

**RISE, INC. dba ARISE**

4542 E. Inverness Ave., Ste. 116  
Mesa, AZ 85206

www.riseinc.net  
(480) 497-1889  
Fax (480) 497-8387

*Services include finding homes for children in the areas of adoption and foster care.*

## ADOPTION PHOTO LISTS

### NATIONAL

**www.AdoptUSKids.org**

*AdoptUSKids is a national photo listing service for children awaiting adoption across the United States. You may browse the "Meet the Children" area without registering as site member. Access more in-depth information about a child by registering.*

**www.adoption.com**

*Photolisting. Adoption.com is a popular photo listing of children awaiting adoption. It is a free community service dedicated to helping U.S. foster children and children in orphanages around the world find loving, permanent homes.*

### STATE

**www.de.state.az.us/dcyf/adoption**

*Arizona Department of Economic Security, Division of Children Youth and Families Foster Care and Adoption webpage, with useful information for adoptive families and applicants. From the menu, click on "Meet Arizona's Waiting Children."*

**www.aask-az.org**

*Aid to Adoption of Special Kids is a private, nonprofit adoption and child placement organization dedicated to building families through adoption and foster care, and to finding permanent, loving, culturally sensitive homes for Arizona's foster children. Click on "Child Profiles" to meet a few of these special kids.*

## ADOPTION EXCHANGES

**ARIZONA ADOPTION EXCHANGE BOOK**

P.O. Box 17951  
Tucson, AZ 85731-7951

(520) 327-3324

**NATIONAL ADOPTION CENTER**

1500 Walnut St., Ste. 701  
Philadelphia, PA 19102-3504

www.adopt.org  
(215) 735-9988  
Fax (215) 735-9410

**NORTHWEST ADOPTION EXCHANGE**

600 Stewart St., Ste. 1313  
Seattle, WA 98101

www.nwae.org  
1-800-927-9411

## POST-ADOPTION RESOURCES

**LODESTAR FAMILY CONNECTIONS CENTER**

2320 N 20th St.  
Phoenix, AZ 85006

www.familyconnectionscenter.org  
(602) 218-9110

**K.A.R.E. FAMILY CENTER**

4710 E. 29th St., Bldg. 7  
Tucson, AZ 85711

(520) 323-4476  
FAX (520) 323-9830