

## **Special Needs Children**

Thousands of children in the United States are waiting for permanent families who can provide the love, security, and support they need. Many are in foster care due to abuse or neglect. Nationwide, a majority are of a minority race or mixed heritage. Most are older children. Some are siblings who wish to be placed together. They bring with them physical and/or emotional problems of varying degrees. These are the waiting children longing for forever families.

## **Who May Adopt?**

Wyoming residents of any religion or race, married (at least 2 years) or single, who are at least 21 years of age, have a suitable residence, are financially stable, and are in good physical and emotional health may apply to adopt. Questions about adoption are welcome. Arrangements can be made to talk with a caseworker free of charge about adoption, to get your questions answered, to learn more about the children available, and to give you an opportunity to decide whether this is something you want to do. Application packets are available through the main office and from area caseworkers.

## **The Process**

### **Application**

An application is submitted to the main office along with a nonrefundable application fee. Once references, autobiographies, health information, and background check information is gathered your caseworker will be notified so the Home Study can be started.

### **Home Study**

The home study process usually involves several visits, at least one of which must be in the home. In addition to getting to know you and discussing many subjects including the type of child you are seeking, the process is intended to be informative and helpful. When the caseworker has all the information needed to write a quality home study it is submitted to the main office with a recommendation regarding approval. If you also want/need a foster care certificate we can refer you and send file information to prevent as much duplication as possible.

### **Selection**

Once approved by the agency's Director, work begins to match you with an available child or children. This is done by utilizing adoption exchanges, networking with other agencies and states, checking websites, and participating in Wyoming's privatized system. Informed decisions are important, and you may determine whether any given child is appropriate for you.

### **Pre-Placement**

Once chosen for a child, the pre-placement process begins. This may include being furnished with additional information about the child, talking with the child's caseworker and sometimes others such as foster parents or therapists, and visits. Preparation of the child for the transition is also important. Arrangements for any needed support services are made as well.

### **Placement**

Once placed, there is a minimum period of six months before an adoption can be finalized in Wyoming. Catholic Charities can provide post-placement supervision.

### **Other Information**

Many of these children come with a monthly foster care payment and medical coverage or adoption subsidies which can assist you with some adoption expenses and those associated with meeting the child's needs. One time nonrecurring expense reimbursement is also a common benefit. Tax credits may help as well. There is a benefit for military families who adopt. Catholic Charities of Wyoming cannot guarantee placement and reserves the right to classify a child as special needs or not. There is no way to predict the time frame for a family and child/children to be matched. Fees may be subject to change. Subsidy agreements are negotiated on a case by case basis. Training/educational programs and support groups may be available depending upon your location. Other resources are available via the internet and through libraries.

### **Costs**

Catholic Charities of Wyoming has worked hard to keep adoption affordable to those with a variety of income levels. We accept payments and credit cards. Please see fee sheet.

### **International Adoption**

International adoption falls in the special needs category with this agency. Catholic Charities can work with any out of state licensed international agency of your choice in the country. (In state international agencies are expected to provide their own home study services.) Charges are based upon services rendered. The agency also requests the state letter for you for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and sends your home study to them and to your international agency. Under the Hague Treaty education (in the amount of 10 hours) is now required for those seeking to adopt internationally.

**Catholic Charities of Wyoming  
is a statewide, non-profit,  
licensed adoption agency.**

**Affiliations include Catholic  
Charities USA, the Wyoming  
State Adoption Council, and  
adoption exchanges.**

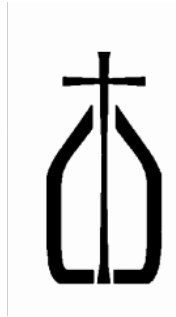
**For more information contact  
the main office or your area  
caseworker.**

**Main office:  
1-800-788-4606  
P.O. Box 907  
2315 Bent Avenue  
Cheyenne, WY 82003  
(307)637-0554  
fax (307)632-2346**

**[www.charitieswyoming.org](http://www.charitieswyoming.org)**

**Caseworker Locations:**

**Casper  
Cheyenne  
Cody  
Gillette  
Riverton  
Rock Springs**



**WANTED**  
  
SPECIAL PARENTS  
FOR  
SPECIAL CHILDREN



**Call Catholic Charities  
of Wyoming  
at  
1-800-788-4606**