

“...I came so that they may have life,
and have it more abundantly.”

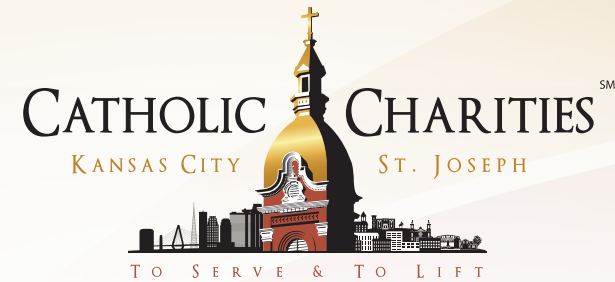
— John 10:10



4001 BLUE PARKWAY, SUITE 250 | KANSAS CITY, MO 64130 | 816.659.8235
1123 S. 10TH STREET | ST. JOSEPH, MO 64503 | ADOPTIONS@CCHARITIES.COM
WWW.CATHOLICCHARITIES-KCSJ.ORG



Catholic Charities of Kansas City-St. Joseph is accredited through the Council on Accreditation and licensed through the State of Missouri as a child placing agency.



Adoption Services

Adoptive Families



CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES

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Welcome to the adoption program at Catholic Charities of Kansas City-St. Joseph. We will partner with you throughout the adoption process and guide you in your journey. We will be with you every step of the way.

Serving the family is one of our essential duties and has been a part of Catholic Charities' identity for 140 years! Here are the expected phases you will go through on the way to creating or expanding your forever family.



PHASE ONE

Orientation

- You will meet the staff, learn about the adoption process and be given a lot of paperwork to complete.

PHASE TWO

The Home Study

- We will direct you in your paperwork to ensure you stay on track.
- The goal is to have your home study completed within 120 days of your orientation.
- The social worker interviews all household members over three home visits and completes the written home study report.

PHASE THREE

Waiting to be Matched

- This phase tends to be the longest. The average wait time is between two and three years; however, it can be shorter or longer.
- Your profile book and letter have the potential to be shown to prospective birthparents. Your profile book will not be shown without your consent.
- You will have at least monthly contact with staff.

Why Catholic Charities?

Catholic Charities has provided compassionate, caring, and professional adoption services since 1879

We help people of all faiths and backgrounds

We provide support during and after pregnancy to the birth parents

We support open adoptions and the desires of the families

Birth parents select the family they want to raise their child

PHASE FOUR

Matched

- This phase begins when you have been selected by an expectant mother.
- Generally, the birth family wants to meet the selected family. These meetings can occur before or after the baby is born.
- Once the baby is born, there will be a bonding time between you and the baby.
- Please remember the birthmother has full decision-making power until she signs the release of parental consent form. Catholic Charities staff respects her decision to either parent the child or place the child for adoption. These are very difficult decisions and some birthparents opt to keep their child.
- The length of this phase depends on what part of her pregnancy a birthmother comes to Catholic Charities. The matching phase can range from four months to just a few days.

PHASE FIVE

Temporary Custody Hearing

- The court hearing is typically held 2-5 days after the baby is born.
- You, your attorney and Catholic Charities staff will be present.

PHASE SIX

Post-Placement

- Post-placement supervision begins after the temporary custody hearing.
- A social worker will conduct three in-home visits and three phone calls in alternating months to see how you are adjusting and support you for at least 6 months.
- The finalization hearing will occur on average six to eight months after the temporary custody hearing.

Types of Adoption

The type of adoption depends on the request of the birthparent(s), the desire of the adoptive couple, and the court presiding over the temporary custody hearing.

	Information Sharing	Correspondence	Contact
Open Adoption	Definitely first names, possibly last names. Other information about your life can be shared by you as you wish.	The families decide if they want to have communication. The correspondence can be filtered through Catholic Charities or exchanged directly between the families.	The families may meet periodically. Before the finalization, Catholic Charities staff will be present. After the finalization, the families choose. Some meetings are in community locations. As families further develop their relationship, the meetings may be at a family's home.
Semi-Open Adoption	First names are known and some additional non-identifying information such as professional field, hobbies, family traditions, dreams for the future and anything else that each person chooses to share.	Any correspondence is filtered through the Catholic Charities office. There will be letters and pictures during the first six months. Correspondence after that point is determined by the families. It typically consists of annual or semi-annual pictures and letters.	The adoption agency coordinates any meetings between the families.
Closed Adoption	Possibly first names only, if both families agree.	Birthparents have the option of receiving letters and pictures during the first six months. Birthparents decide if they want to receive correspondence or have it placed in their file.	None.

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