



*Adoption
Network*SM
LAW CENTER

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Network News

ADOPTION NETWORK LAW CENTER'S NEWSLETTER

FIRST QUARTER 2007



Who knew when you decided to adopt a newborn that you would need *so much stuff*?

There are so many things you'll need before you bring your baby home so we thought we would help you by starting a list for you. Take stock of the things you will need for baby, and remember...have fun shopping!

Your Baby Checklist:

- 4-6 baby washcloths
- 4-5 bodysuits
- 4-5 infant t-shirts
- 3 gowns
- 1-2 baby hats
- 2 pairs of baby mitts (newborns like to scratch at their face)
- 3 hooded bath towels
- 2-3 long sleeve footie rompers
- 2-3 onesies
- 4-5 pairs of socks and booties
- 3-4 pairs of pull on pants
- 4 receiving blankets or swaddle blankets
- 1 sweater or jacket
- Baby Bed (bassinet, co-sleeper, play yard, and/or crib)
- Bedding (several sets)
- Basic mid-weight stroller or travel system
- Bath Tub
- Bottles
- Bouncer Seat
- Car Seat
- Carrier and/or Sling
- Diapers (cloth & disposable)
- Diaper Bag
- Diaper Pail
- Formula
- Health & Baby Care Items
- Lightweight Stroller
- Monitor
- Play Mat and/or Baby Gym
- Soft Toys
- Swing and/or Baby Jumper



Coping with Mother's Day

We're all surrounded by a lot of commercially driven hype around Mother's Day. The many emotional issues raised by infertility may be heightened when everyone around you is celebrating motherhood. We urge women who are experiencing infertility to plan ahead for Mother's Day by acknowledging their feelings and preparing themselves emotionally to handle questions and comments from family and friends.

If you desire, you need to find a way of honoring your own mother/mother-in-law, etc. without slamming yourself into very painful experiences. For instance, any woman who's going through infertility and/or who has gone through pregnancy loss would naturally have a very difficult time being out at a restaurant on Mother's day, or with other family members (in addition to one's own mother) who themselves have young children or may be pregnant. Protect yourself! You're entitled to do this.



A more detailed list is available on page 42 of *The Adoptive Parent's Handbook* (sent to all Adoptive Families when ANLC's services are retained). If you see that we've left anything off this list that you simply could not live without, please let us know by sending us an email.

*From one of our
courageous birthmothers
to her adopted family
and child*

**THIS IS DEDICATED TO
FIONA AND OUR SON DANIEL,
BORN JUNE 2006**

*I pray and thank the angels
for the both of you.*



**THE LEGACY OF
AN ADOPTED CHILD**

Once there were two women...
who never knew each other.

One you do not remember...
the other you call your mother.

Two different lives shaped
to make you one,...

One became your guiding star...
the other became your sun.

The first one gave you life...
The second taught you
to live it,...

The first gave you a need
for love...

The second was there to give it...
One gave you a nationality...
The other gave you a name...
One gave you talent...
The other gave you aim...
One gave you emotions...
The other calmed your fears...
One saw your first sweet smile...
The other dried your tears...
One sought for you a home she
could not provide...
The other prayed for a child...
Rest assured my child, their hopes
and dreams were not denied.

My Dearest Matthew,

I have a strong belief that we get to choose our family before we are born. That we live with God before we become a flesh and blood person and He offers us a number of people to be our families on earth. As a result of this belief, I wrote you a short story.



Once a small angel waited by the pool of life. Eager to jump in, he started to put his big toe into the warm comforting water.

“Matthew,” God called, “Before you can be born, you must choose the family with which you will reside. Come...choose your new home from the Great Tree.”

The Great Tree loomed above Matthew. Its beautiful golden branches made his step falter with awe. Angels fluttered everywhere, hovering like hummingbirds under the wide canopy; they gently plucked the brown leaves.

Kneeling so that he could speak into Matthew's ear, God whispered, “One of those branches holds your family. All you need to do is choose the family you want. Touch a branch and it will show you all the joys and trials that you will have in that life.” With that, God lifted the boy up to the tree and asked, “Which leaves would you like to look at first?”

Many hours later and after looking at many families, Matthew did not see any that he liked and so he asked God, “May we look at the very tippy top?”

Heavenly Father smiled a warm and comforting smile. “Those are the adopting families” He thought. He did not say a word but simply moved to the highest and most center part of the tree.

Matthew looked and looked, but he still didn't find any families that he was happy with. He was just about to give up when he saw one of the leaves sparkle. He reached out and touched the branch, and he knew that was his home. Excited, he turned his little head to God and exclaimed, “This is it! This is my family! They are the ones I want to be with! They are waiting for me!”

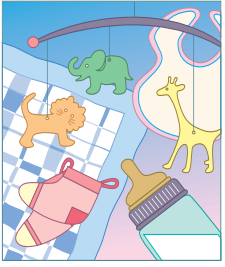
The Lord looked at the branch and smiled. It had two large leaves and one small one. “That is a very special family my son. You will not be able to go to them the traditional way.” Upon seeing the crushed look on Matthews face, God continued, “You get to choose another mother, she will be your birth mother and she will be guided to your parents and you will end up in their arms as you have chosen to be.”

After another long while, Matthew found someone, he believed, would be a great birthmother. Beaming he touched another branch and said, “This one! She will love me and she will want me to be happy with my family, I choose her.” Again God smiled.

Thank you for choosing me. Much love always and forever ~

Your Birthmother, Cristal

Baby Showers



You may not have a baby shower until months after your baby is born.

Since the adoption process is often filled with

so much uncertainty, many prefer to wait until after their baby is home before having a shower. Often, this is a practical course of action especially since once you are settled into a routine, you'll have a better sense of what you need. And just because you already have your baby doesn't mean you can't still register for gifts. In fact, most invitees prefer a registry so as to not duplicate items you may already have. You may want to go with a special theme and registering is a great way to let your attendees know about it. Knowing the sex of your baby also helps you with color choices and other items.

THE BEST REGISTRIES WE'VE FOUND

- **Babies R Us or BabiesRUs.com** Invitees can browse either online OR in a store. Both registries are very easy to prepare especially with the invention of the bar-code scanners. In store, registers are instructed to scan any items you want on your list. Visitors to the store or website can print out your wish list. When your guests make their purchases, your list is updated to reflect the remaining items desired.
- **Target or Target.com** Same design as Babies R Us, but you might find that Target does not have as many items as Babies R Us. Target may be a good alternative or compliment, since you can usually find a Target easier than Babies R Us.
- **Babycenter.com** This registry is available online only. Your invitees can order your gifts often with discounted or free shipping. Baby Center offers a low price guarantee, and you can often find great deals during their frequent sales and promotional events.
- **Pottery Barn Kids** Offers a gift registry specifically for the nursery including furniture, décor, and some accessories. This is a great registry for grandparents, as the prices are a bit higher than the other registries.

If you know of any additional Baby Registry Services, please feel free to email us and give us the details so we can pass them on!!!

Newborn Development

Did you know that a newborn can only see 8-12 inches in front of his face clearly? The rest is a blur. Bring your baby close to your face so he can start to memorize all your features. Your face is what he desires. Black and white objects can be seen best. If you have any that you can hang up, it will keep his neurons firing. For the next few months, your baby's brain will be growing rapidly so remember, the more visual stimulation, the better.

The first few days are filled with sleeping, but don't worry. He'll be up and lively before you know it! His umbilical cord is still attached and will soon fall off. Until then, keep it clean with cotton swabs and alcohol and do not submerge it in water.

Baby's days may run into his nights, so keep him close by for feedings. Newborns like to eat every three hours or so. Have those extra bottles of formula ready to go and make sure dad knows how to handle both the bottle...





ADOPTION NETWORK
 23161 Lake Ce
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 Lake Forest



all our love,
 Sophie, Darren and Sebastian

We thought that we would send you a photo of our family. Sebastian has filled this enormous hole in our lives, and ~~that~~ brought so much love and happiness that we could not have imagined possible. We would not have had our family if wasn't for you and your team, what you achieve for childless couples is truly amazing. The time and care that was given to Darren and I by yourself and Gina Bert throughout Sebastian's adoption was so caring, you all made us feel so calm when we were treading into such unknown territory. Our beautiful boy is now one year old, and we can't believe how fantastic this year has been for us, he has erased all of our pain and sorrow. We want to wish you and your family a happy, healthy New Year, and pray all your future dreams come true.



Don't forget, this and all past newsletters are available on our website...see what you've been missing!
<http://www.adoptionnetwork.com/adoptiveparents/adoption-articles.shtml>

On November 5th, 2006 a Baby Angel Boy was Born!

WE ARE SO HAPPY TO HAVE ISAAC DYLAN

When we contacted your firm we thought that we would be waiting for a long time for our little angel. We couldn't have asked for a better person to assist us in our short journey to having a family. Gina, our Adoption Consultant, was always a phone call or email away.

Our adoption process was rocket fast!! After being active on your website for only one month, our birth mother found us and choose us to raise Isaac. She is truly a wonderful person and kind hearted. She wanted nothing from us but only to raise Isaac and be sure he would have a wonderful life.

When we got our call from Carissa, she told us that a birth mom had selected us and that she was already three centimeters dilated. We set up a phone conference to talk with our birth mom for the following week. We would talk with our birth mom every other night. She was funny and very helpful. She was very active and being 3 centimeters dilated we decided to hit the road to Florida to be close when she went into labor. We got to go to a doctor's appointment with her and meet the doctors that would be delivering Isaac. We were so nervous but scared at the same time.

We were only in Florida a few days before she went into labor. I will never forget the call. We went to Disney to spend the day to pass time, we were there just 2 hour and I got a call but I couldn't hear my cell phone. We left the store we were in and the phone rang again it was our birth mom. She said "Did you get the call" and I explained what happened and asked her how she

was feeling. She then said "I guess you didn't get the message," and said her mom wanted to talk to me. I wanted to faint. Her mother said "Mel-Jean you might want to come to the hospital and meet your baby boy he was born this morning." The tears of joy were definitely there. We ran thru Disney to the car and drove to get our camera and then to the hospital. We were welcomed at the hospital with open arms from our birth mom and her mother. While at the hospital we got to learn as much as we could about our birth mom and her family so we can share it with Isaac when he grows up and understands. We also learned that she included her family and helping her pick us to raise Isaac.

The following day Isaac was released to us. We talked with the birth mom once since then and hope to hear from her again soon. She is truly welcome in our hearts.

We just finalized our adoption and are very happy to have Isaac with us. Start to finish our adoption including home study and post placement was all of six months. Thanks, in part, to the quick work from Adoption Network Law Center.

I would highly recommend your firm in a heart beat. Your staff really does care. Special Thanks to Gina, Carissa and Sue.

We would be honored to have our story told over and over again.

Sincerely,
Mel-Jean, William & Isaac



Remember...

Our annual Calendar Contest begins in April. Start getting your pictures together!

Wait for the official announcement to send in your submission!



Monthly Reminders

- ♥ **Don't delay** – Our stats show that profiles appearing on more than one website get matched much quicker. Our relationships with Courageous Choice and Christian Adoption Center allow you to have your profile seen by even more prospective birth moms.
- ♥ **Moving? Change of address?** Don't forget to call us to update your personal information so that you will continue to get updates, information and invitations.
- ♥ **In the Next issue of Network News**
 - Great family photos
 - More baby stats
- ♥ **Don't forget**, an electronic copy of this and all past newsletters are available on our website.

F.Y.I.

PROPOSED IMMIGRATION FEE CHANGES WOULD INCREASE ADOPTION COSTS

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has submitted a proposal to change the current fee structure for immigration and naturalization applications which, if approved, would lead to average increases of 66 percent in filing fees for international adoptions. The proposal was submitted to the Federal Register on Feb. 1 for a 60-day public comment period. After that time, USCIS will submit its final proposal for review to the Office of Management and Budget, which will make the final decision on the fee structure and issue the final rule.

Not just Mother's Day... Birth Mother's Day CELEBRATING MOTHERHOOD *Saturday, May 12, 2007*

Explanation of Birthmother's Day:

Birthmother's day is a day to celebrate and honor birthmotherhood. Its a day to reflect on the choices made by courageous women and the lives given. Its a day to recognize those good mothers who made the ultimate sacrifice for their children.

History of Birthmother's Day:

Birthmother's Day is celebrated the Saturday before Mother's Day. It originated in 1990 by a group of birthmothers in Seattle, Washington. Most birthmothers will agree that Mother's Day is a very painful holiday and these women wanted to create something that would honor their birthmotherhood.

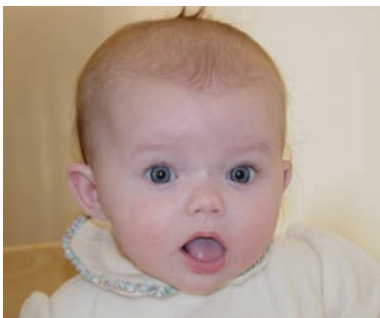
Celebrating Birthmom's Day:

Birthmother's Day unites birthmoms. The day has become more recognized by the adoption community as a day of remembrance for birthmothers.

Don't Forget!

If you have a testimonial to send us, you can mail it or submit it via our website at:
<http://adoptionnetwork.com/adoption-testimonials/adoption-testimonials-submit.shtml>

See what our clients are saying about us:
<http://adoptionnetwork.com/adoption-testimonials/>



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