

Adoption Network Law Center

Newsletter Update June/July 2003



It Wasn't Meant to Be

Anyone who is in the process of adopting has probably had this nagging fear looming in the back of their heads "What if our Birthmother changes her mind?" Unfortunately, this became a reality for us eight weeks after welcoming into our hearts and home a beautiful baby girl named Kimarie Joy.

Because there were issues with the Birthfather from the onset we knew there was a possibility the adoption might not happen. We embraced the belief that "if it was meant to be, it would work out". Ultimately, it wasn't meant to be. To our shock and dismay, our Birthmother changed her mind.

Yes, we were heartbroken and angry and went through an intense period of grieving. Pam remembers it as "drowning in sadness". Although there was not a physical death, we mourned the loss of our hopes and dreams for this precious baby we hoped to raise. We were saddened that she wouldn't be able to enjoy the comforts we could offer her. We were angry in giving up a name we had chosen years before. While we could have reused the name, we didn't wish to confuse our three-year-old son, Cory, and felt there could only be one Kimarie in our lives. We struggle with what to tell Cory, and like us, he was angry, confused, and sad.

With this incredibly painful experience for us, we found great comfort in knowing that we gave Kimarie a wonderful, loving start in life. In less time than we would have expected, we let go of the hurt and were ready to move on.

We were not alone in this ordeal. Carol Gindi and Kelly McMaster, of Adopton Network Law Center, worked hours on our behalf in communication with the Birthmother and others. They shared in our pain. We were grateful for their dedicated service and for the

fact that they would reapply our fees to another adoption when we were ready. Our decision to try again would not be made for us by a lack of remaining funds, as would have been the case with other adoption services.

Did we still want to adopt? Could we emotionally deal with adoption again? Would we be able to bond as deeply with another child? Is it worth it? We asked ourselves these questions many times. Our answer was "yes". We feel strongly that part of our purpose here is to make a positive difference in a child's life. This would only be a setback, not a defeat. This proved to be the case.

Within a month of returning Kimarie, we were holding our new angel, Ariana...the baby who was meant to be our new daughter.

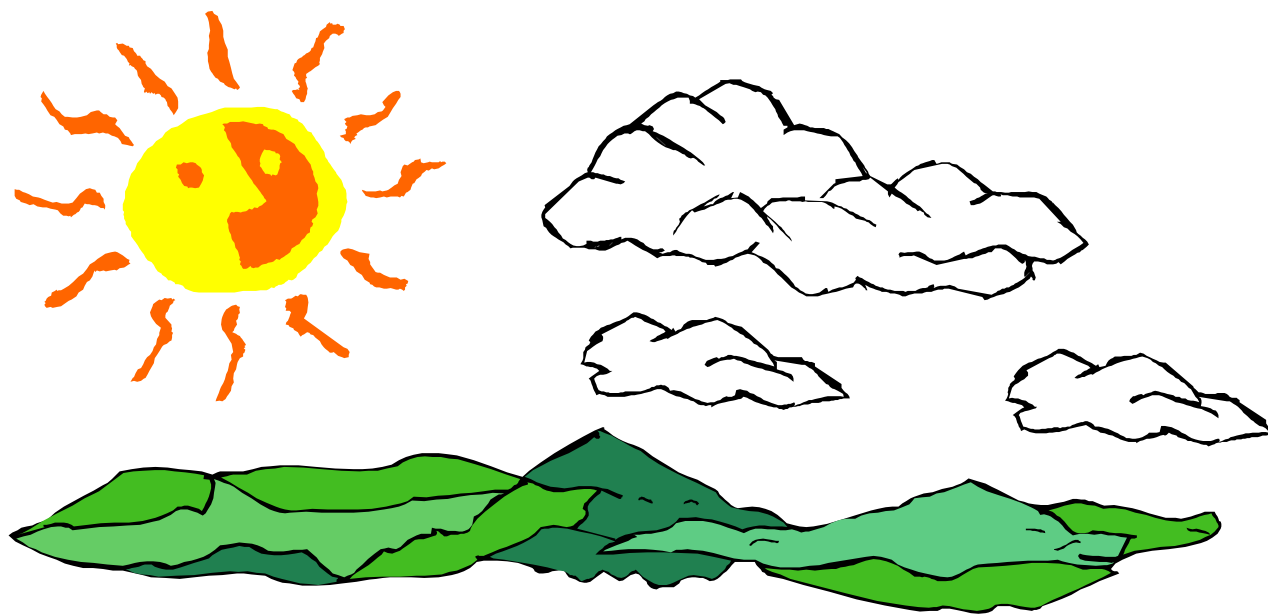
- Ron and Pam Wagner

The Wagners brought Ariana home on May 2, 1996, and Adoption Network Law Center's Al Coen finalized the adoption. The ANLC staff sends its warmest wishes to the Wagners. We are very grateful to them for sharing their emotional experience with other Adoptive Couples. Thank you.



Do you have comments or questions regarding ANLC's Monthly Update? We welcome any and all comments about our Monthly Update. Please send an e-mail to newsletter@adoptionnetwork.com expressing your concerns. We look forward to addressing your issues and concerns so that we can better accommodate your needs.

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Book of the Month

Lost & Found: The Adoption Experience

By Betty Jean Lifton \$13.00

The author, herself an adoptee, explores the harmful effects of secrecy on a child and the positive effects of openness for all parties involved. Includes suggested rights & responsibilities for adoptees, adoptive parents, birth parents and adoption professionals. The chapter on telling your child he/she is adopted is helpful.

