

## What We Offer

Families United Network provides comprehensive **home study, post-adoption, and placement services** for a select group of adoptive families in Pennsylvania. We guide these families through the entire adoption process, from application to finalization.

Expectant parents across the state can also access our free counseling services. Should they decide to place their baby for adoption, they select from our list of waiting adoptive families, each having their own social worker for support.

## How Long Does It Take to Adopt a Child?

Our home study process takes 8 to 12 weeks to complete. We try our best to work at your pace. Unfortunately, we cannot predict how long a family will be waiting to receive a placement. We do allow families to sign up with additional placement agencies if they keep us informed because we understand that adoptions involve a lot of waiting and that it is unsettling for some families.



## Adoption Office Locations



For more information, please contact Heather O'Neill, MSW, Private Adoption Supervisor at [hnoneill@families4kids.org](mailto:hnoneill@families4kids.org), [adoption@families4kids.org](mailto:adoption@families4kids.org) or (717) 492-9338.



Find us on:



Foster Care | Adoption | Peer Support



[adoption@families4kids.org](mailto:adoption@families4kids.org)

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## Private Adoption



[www.families4kids.org](http://www.families4kids.org)



## I am Interested in Adopting. How Do I Get Started?

- You may contact us through email or phone to receive our welcome packet with all the information needed to get started on completing the first step of your journey: **the home study**.
- After you have received our information via email or mail, you will then review and sign all the documents: contract, fee schedule, and grievance form.
- We will get started right away to complete your home study within 8 to 12 weeks and then you will be available to be considered by expectant families wishing to create an adoption plan.

## What Are The Risks?

There are always risks involved in the adoption process and we want families to be as knowledgeable about these risks as possible.

- In Pennsylvania, birth parents must wait at least 72 hours, after birth, before they can sign a consent to adopt, which is followed by a 30 day period during which they can change their mind.
- If a birth parent is unknown, four months must pass before termination of parental rights may occur, and therefore, can delay finalizing the adoption. The adoption can also be contested at a later date.

For these reasons each placement is a legal risk. We try to lessen the risk by providing a partial refund when a placement is unsuccessful. The family will then automatically be placed among our waiting families once more.



*We were so impressed with how quickly this agency was able and willing to help us! We will definitely recommend this agency to others!*

**– An Adoptive Mother**



## What Contact Will I Have With the Birth Family?

The amount of contact between the birth family and the adoptive family depends on what you both find comfortable. There are two options – a closed adoption and an open adoption.

- A **“closed adoption”** refers to a placement where little to no confidential information is shared.
- An **“open adoption”** is broader. It means the birth family meets with the adoptive parents before the birth. After birth, they sometimes send texts, letters, and photos, or they even make scheduled visits.

## Private Adoption Additional Information

- Families United Network has a domestic program which showcases adoptive families to birth mothers who choose to move forward with an adoption plan.
- Families United Network only provides placements within the state of Pennsylvania.
- We also have a worker for both the birth and adoptive families during counseling and at the hospital.