Independent Adoption

An independent adoption is where birth parents and adoptive families mutually select each other without the assistance of an adoption agency. In order for placement to occur and to proceed with the legal process of adoption, the adoptive family is required to have an approved home study by a State of Wisconsin Licensed Agency. Catholic Charities can assist the birth parents through our Pregnancy Support Program (if local) and will provide you with a comprehensive home study in preparation for placement and adoption. Our agency also provides post-placement services after you have received placement.

When a family completes an independent adoption, an approval must be granted from the sending state (the state the baby is born in) and the receiving state (the state where the adoptive parents reside). This is referred to as the Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children or ICPC. ICPC is important to ensure that each state is following the same guidelines and procedures to ensure placements promote the best interest of each child. In partnership with your out of state agency, Catholic Charities will help you complete the necessary ICPC paperwork in order to ensure your adoption is in compliance with this law.

There are many considerations in Independent adoptions including the location of the birth parents and the adoptive family. Each state has its own adoption laws which vary greatly.
If completing an out of state adoption, it’s a wise idea to locate a licensed child placing agency in good standing to assist you with navigating state laws and ensuring your adoption is being completed ethically and legally.

If you have any further questions regarding Catholic Charities Independent Adoption Program or other available program options, please contact your Adoption Social Worker or visit our website at www.cclse.org.