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FAQ's

- **Do I have to complete training with Chrysalis House even through I'm a parent/adoptive parent?**
 - All families are required by the state of California to complete a minimum of 12 hours of training annually. Chrysalis House's training curriculum provides our families with information relevant to adoption and parenting children with varying needs. If you have previously attended our current training program then alternative options may be provided at the discretion of the Executive Director.
- **We believe spanking children is the most effective form of discipline, does Chrysalis House have a policy against spanking?**
 - Chrysalis House's discipline policy prohibits the spanking of any child in the home. All families will be asked to sign a discipline policy agreeing not to spank any foster, adopted or biological child throughout the duration of the adoption process. Chrysalis House will provide families with alternative discipline methods which are proven to be effective and appropriate for children of all ages.
- **We are still actively trying to get pregnant but don't want to wait to start our family, can we start the adoption process while still trying to conceive?**
 - Chrysalis House asks that families not actively try to conceive throughout the adoption process. Adoption is an emotional and potential lengthy journey and we ask our families to be 100% committed to this process.
- **We want to have a large family, can we adopt more than one child at a time?**
 - Siblings are available for adoption and we support efforts to keep these siblings together.
- **Our youngest child is under 1 but we know that the adoption process can take a long time, can we start the process now?**
 - The adoption process can be lengthy and we do work with many families who are parenting young children. As an agency we will not approve a family until their youngest child is at least 1 year old. However, you may begin the process at an earlier time as the approval process can take approximately 6 months.
- **We're thinking of planning a trip out of state in the near future, how will that impact this process?**
 - Please let us know if you are planning a long trip at any point during the adoption process. Depending on where you are in the process we may simply place your family on hold for the duration of your trip since you will be unable to take placement of a child during that time. Should you have placement of a child at the time of your trip, please note that a Court Order is required to take the child outside of the state/country. It may take several weeks/months to obtain a Court Order so we encourage families to begin this process at the earliest time possible.
- **We love taking trips as a family, are there any travel restrictions once we are placed with a child?**
 - A Court Order is required when traveling outside the state or country with a foster child. When traveling within the state a Court Order is not required however families are required to let us know the dates of travel, destination and contact information for the hotel or the place where you will be staying. Please keep in mind however, your new child's temperament or specific needs may require your family to stay home for several months post placement to ensure your child feels secure and bonded. Too many changes too quickly can be a trigger for some children so we encourage all of our families to talk with their Social Worker prior to planning any trip.

- **I'm a working parent, how much time off am I expected to take and do I need to tell my employer that I'm planning to adopt?**
 - Families are asked to make themselves available during regular business hours at various times throughout this process therefore it is important to inform your employer about your intent to adopt. We ask all families to plan to take a leave of absence from work upon placement of a child to facilitate the bonding and attachment process. The duration of leave varies from family to family and child to child. Families may be able to stagger time off with their spouse to extend the amount of time a parent can be at home bonding. Families are asked to keep outside childcare to a minimum at the beginning of placement for the benefit of your child. We advise our families that your time-off plan may need to be adjusted depending on the specific needs of your child. The State of California recognizes adoption as part of the Family/Medical Leave Act. Please check with your employer regarding the benefits of this program.
- **What if we move during this process?**
 - Please notify us if you have immediate plans to move at any point during this process. Your home does need to meet safety standards set forth by the State of California and a home inspection is a required part of the approval process. Families who choose to move during this process should be aware of these standards and ensure their new home meets all of these requirements to prevent any delay in the process. When placed with a child, we ask families to minimize change during the early months of placement to help your child settle. It is strongly encouraged to delay any move during this time.
- **What if we become pregnant during the adoption process?**
 - We have worked with many families who are faced with a sudden pregnancy. Should you become pregnant prior to being placed with a child, we will no longer move forward with the adoption process to ensure that your focus is solely on your new pregnancy and newest addition. Families who are in the middle of their placement at the time of a new pregnancy typically will not see any change to their adoption process.
- **My spouse works odd hours, do they need to be present during this process?**
 - The State of California requires all adoption applicants to receive a minimum number of training hours. Our training curriculum is an in-house course that runs weekly for 5-6 consecutive weeks. Both applicants are required to attend this training. Additionally, both applicants must make themselves available for interviews during the home study process and both must be present at the time of being matched with a child.
- **Why do some of your adoption programs cost money while others don't?**
 - We strive to keep our costs low to make adoption affordable for all. We have different rate structures depending on the adoption program because of the amount of work that is involved. Much of the fees involved with International Adoption are third party fees, i.e. immigration, country fees, etc. We are reimbursed by the State of California for our work with Foster Children. Anytime one of the children placed in our Fost/Adopt program gets adopted, we are reimbursed by the State for our costs associated with the case and we pass those savings on to our families.
- **We live out of town, do we need to come into the office for any meetings, trainings or appointments?**
 - Families are expected to come to our office for training as a requirement of the home study process as well as for some of your home study interviews with your Social Worker. Additional in office meetings may be required throughout the adoption process.