



SERVING ADOPTIVE PARENTS, BIRTH PARENTS AND ADOPTED PERSONS SINCE 1945
Non-Profit, Licensed in Maryland, Virginia, D.C.

Dear Prospective Adoptive Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in learning more about adoption through The Barker Foundation. The Barker Foundation is a non-profit adoption agency licensed in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Since 1945, we have been providing comprehensive adoption services and have placed over 6,000 children in permanent, loving homes. The agency's mission is to serve *all* participants in the adoption circle – birth parents, adoptive parents, and persons who have been adopted. During its first decades, Barker was known solely for its strong domestic adoption program and pregnancy counseling services; for the past 30 years, however, the agency has also developed strong international programs.

One hallmark of Barker's services is its commitment to providing lifelong support to all participants in adoption. Through our Department of Family and Post-Adoption Services, we offer counseling, support groups, educational and social activities, and informal discussion groups. We know our families take comfort in knowing that The Barker Foundation has been here for 62 years and will continue to be here to serve their needs.

Every adoption is different. Our staff will be happy to work with you in determining which of our programs is best suited for you and your family. At each step, Barker will be there with the information and support you need. We offer the following programs:

INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION PROGRAM

This program provides services for the adoption of children from other countries. Barker currently has adoption programs in China, Colombia, India, and Korea, as well as a networked program for Ethiopia. Eligibility requirements vary by country.

Barker also provides home studies and post placement reports for families working with Barker-approved out-of-area placement agencies in countries where Barker does not currently have direct programs.

DOMESTIC ADOPTION PROGRAM

This comprehensive program provides married couples and individuals with all services to assist them with the adoption of a child in the United States. Applicants for our full-service program should be between 25 and 45 years of age at time of application. Barker works with prospective adoptive parents and birth parents who reside in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. Barker also

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provides individual services for families pursuing an independent adoption or working with an agency outside our area. These services include the homestudy, post-placement supervision, and counseling for birth families.

We realize that adoption is a complex process, and we also know the tremendous joy it brings. While this is a time filled with many decisions and challenges, it may also be filled with hope and excitement. Becoming knowledgeable about adoption will help you make decisions that feel right for your family. To help you begin the process, we offer free monthly information sessions on both general and specific adoption issues. For almost 20 years, Barker has also provided pre-adoption group education and training. There is a fee for the pre-adoption groups, and participation is required for all applicants; please read the enclosed material about the pre-adoption seminars.

Enclosed you will find additional information about all of our programs, including the free information seminars; the pre-adoption education groups; estimated adoption-related fees, an application form; a bibliography with excellent resources about adoption; and a sample of Barker's key policies. Please review the enclosed information carefully. We hope you will be able to attend an information meeting where we have the opportunity to meet you personally. Upon request we will also make available comprehensive information about our services, fees, and placement history, as well as lists of U.S. and foreign supervised partners. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have further questions. You may also wish to visit our website at www.barkerfoundation.org.

We appreciate your interest in The Barker Foundation and its mission, and we would be privileged to assist you as you seek to begin or enlarge your family. Our very best wishes as you consider this important life decision.

Sincerely,



Marilyn C. Regier, Ph.D., LCSW-C
Executive Director



Tina Ji, LLM
Director of International Programs



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