



**AGAPE CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES, INC.
APPLICATION FOR ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE**

	Applicant	Spouse
Name:		
Address:		
Cell Phone:		
Email:		
Place of Work:		
Occupation:		
Work Phone:		
Date & Place of Birth:		
Race:		
Church Membership:		
Date of Marriage:		
Place of Marriage:		
Previous Marriage:		
Education:		

<u>CHILDREN'S NAMES</u>	<u>DATE OF BIRTH</u>	<u>SCHOOL GRADE / OCCUPATION</u>

Please list any other people living in household: _____

How did you learn of Agape's childcare program? _____



REFERENCES:

References should have accurate and complete information. You may not use the same person or family for more than one reference. Please review the attached "CHURCH LEADERSHIP REFERENCE" sheet before listing your Church Leader's Name below.

Church

Leader (s): _____
Name Address City/State/Zip Email

Minister: _____
Name Address City/State/Zip Email

Employer (Husband): _____
Supervisor Name Company Address City/State/Zip Email

Employer (Wife): _____
Supervisor Name Company Address City/State/Zip Email

Current Neighbor: _____
Name Address City/State/Zip Email

Friend (Non-relative): _____
Name Address City/State/Zip Email

Relative of (Husband): _____
Name Address City/State/Zip Email

Relative of (Wife): _____
Name Address City/State/Zip Email

Are you interested in **foster care** or **adoption**? _____ Why? _____

Do you have a specific age, race, gender, and number of children in which you are interested? _____

Applicant's Signature Spouse Signature Date

This form is merely a statement of intent and can be withdrawn by the applicant at any time.



CHURCH LEADERSHIP REFERENCE

A letter requesting this information will be mailed to the address that you provide for us in the reference section of the application.

This is for your information only

It is our policy to obtain a letter of reference from the leadership of the church where an applicant(s) attends. The Board of Directors of Agape requests that the church leadership (or designated committee or representatives) meet with the applicant(s) personally to discuss this reference. We request that applicants work with the church leadership to facilitate this process.

Because Agape is a Christian based agency, understanding the spiritual health of our families is a crucial part of this evaluation process. Following is a list of the questions that we will send to your church leadership regarding your Christian commitment.

- How long have you known the applicant?
- When did they place themselves under your spiritual oversight?
- Describe their faithfulness in attendance.
- Please describe their spiritual soundness and maturity as a Christian.
- What can you tell us about their commitment to Christian Service and Christian association?
- What do you understand their reasons to be for wanting to foster or adopt children?
- Are you aware of any problems regarding this (these) applicants stewardship of their finances?
- Do you have any reservations about the addition of a foster or adoptive child (or children) to this household?
- Please evaluate this couple's marriage relationship based on New Testament descriptions of what the relationship should be.

NOTE: The following question applies only to couples who have a history of divorce and remarriage.

- As church leaders with the God given responsibility for the oversight and shepherding of this church, does the church leadership view this couple's divorce and remarriage to be scripturally acceptable?



AGAPE CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES, INC.

STATEMENT OF AFFIRMATION

Each adult member of a family applying to be a **Foster Family, Adoptive Family** or **Volunteer** serving clients with Agape Child and Family Services must be able to agree with and affirm all of the following statements by signing below before proceeding further.

1. I believe the Bible to be the only inspired, authoritative Word of God.
2. I believe in one true God, eternally existing in three persons, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. These three are equal in divinity and are one God.
3. I believe Jesus Christ to be the Son of God who died for the sins of the world and through whom alone salvation is found.
4. I commit to honor Jesus Christ through worship, prayer and obedience to the Word of God. I am currently and commit to remain a faithful member of the Lord's Church, consistent with the guidelines set forth by the Agape Board of Directors.
5. I pledge to model a life of moral and spiritual purity.
6. I commit to seek growth and development in my relationship with God and others so that the services I offer at/through Agape will exemplify spiritual and professional maturity.

My signature below notes my agreement with and affirmation of the above statements.

Signature of Applicant

Signature of Applicant

Print Applicant's Name

Print Applicant's Name

Date

Date

Revised and Approved by the Agape Board of Directors
January 28, 2006



AGAPE CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES, INC.

APPLICANT CRITERIA

- Applicants must be residents of Tennessee, Mississippi or Arkansas and live within a 100 mile radius of the Memphis office
- Be a high school (or GED) graduate.
- At least 21 years old.
- If married, must have been married at least one year.
- Must be willing to sign a statement of affirmation regarding your faith.
- Must be a member of the Christian faith and actively attend in a church or fellowship.
- Provide reference from your church leadership addressing your spiritual life and marriage.
- Participate in the PATH, NAP, or Agape approved online training program.

Please initial below if you have read and understand these requirements.

Applicant Initials

Co-applicant Initials



AGAPE CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES, INC.

FEE SCHEDULE 2019-2020

Adoption Application Fee **\$200**

This fee covers costs associated with the opening of the adoption file, processing the application materials and securing references. Due at the time of application

Pre-service Training

PATH (Parents As Tender Healers) **\$100**

There is no fee for PATH to families wanting to adopt children from Agape's private foster care or from the child welfare system. There is a fee for the general public (per family) of \$100 for PATH. The collection of fees is addressed as a department procedure. The PATH training is 15 hours and does not include the 8 hours of First Aid and CPR training required by DCS.

Online Education Fees will vary depending on what training the family selects.

Initial Home Study **\$1,200 + mileage**

This fee includes social work interviews and study preparation. The collection of fees is addressed as a department procedure. Fee is due at the time services are rendered.

Home Study Update **\$250**

Charged for annual home study update. The collection of fees is addressed as a department procedure. Fee is due at the time services are rendered.

Program Specific Fees:

- **ADOPTION PLACEMENT FEE** **\$6,500-\$14,000**

For those children placed with Agape by a parent through a Surrender of Parental Rights, the adoption fee for services is as follows:

The adoption fee is 15% of the adoptive parents' combined adjusted gross income from the previous year. This fee includes but is not limited to the work with the birth parents, expenses incurred by the agency for birth parent as considered appropriate by State laws, reports to the court, placement fees, social worker's time and travel, and supervision of Agape placements. The collection of fees is addressed as a department procedure. If the child has special needs or is considered "hard to place," fees may be reduced or waived.

- **COURT COSTS AND ATTORNEY FEES**

Court costs and attorney fees vary case by case. Prospective adoptive or adoptive parents will be responsible for reimbursement of all court costs and attorney fees accrued by Agape for legal services pertaining to family's adoption.

- **POST PLACEMENT SUPERVISION FEES** **\$600 + mileage**

Fees for post placement supervision are \$200/visit + mileage. Agape requires a minimum of 3 post placement visits before finalization. This fee includes reports of supervision and the completion of necessary court documents. Fees for post placement supervision are due at the time of the scheduled home visits.

(Continued on next page)



- **OLDER CHILD (NON-NEWBORN) SEARCH FEES** **\$200/month**

The fee is for following up on family's inquires of children in the child welfare system, being a liaison between the family and the child's worker and sending the family's home study for consideration. The collection of fees is addressed as a department procedure.

Miscellaneous Fees:

- **INTERSTATE COMPACT FEE** **\$300**

This includes the cost of providing the necessary documents to establish the compact as well as the cost of telephone expense and postage. Applies to private agencies involved in cooperative placement with Agape.

- **TRANSFER FEE** **\$50**

This applies to families who want their file to be transferred to another agency while they have a current home study with Agape. This fee is charged each time a home study is sent to another agency for the purpose of an adoption.

- **EXPEDITED SERVICES FEE** **\$250**

An Expedited Services Fee of \$250 will be charged in instances in which home studies or home study updates must be expedited. This fee enables the home study or home study update to be completed within ten (10) working days of the receipt of ALL required documentation and completion of all required interviews.

- **HOME STUDY FEES FOR PREVIOUSLY APPROVED FAMILIES** **\$500 + mileage**

A previous adoptive family who has requested that their file be closed or has been inactive for more than a year and returns to Agape wanting to adopt must pay a \$500 + mileage fee for a home study update, unless 3 years has passed since the closure or inactivity of their file, or if the family has changed residence, a new child is in the home, or a marriage and/or divorce has occurred, in which case a full home study must be completed. The full fee of \$1,200 + mileage will be charged for the new home study. The collection of fees is addressed as a department procedure. For these reasons, Adoption Social Worker are encouraged to keep a copy of home studies on file in the event families return and request a home study update after the original adoption file has been closed and sealed.

- **HOME STUDIES AND POST-PLACEMENT SUPERVISION FOR OTHER AGENCIES**

Fees for home studies done for other agencies and intermediaries are charged at a minimum of \$1,000 + mileage. The collection of fees is addressed as a department procedure. Fees for post placement supervision are \$200/visit + mileage, due at the time of home visit. Agape requires a minimum of 3 post placement visits.

Statement of Understanding and Acknowledgement:

I/we, _____, am/are satisfied with the explanation of this fee schedule as presented to us by the staff of Agape. I/we understand which fees apply to my/our adoption or foster care process, as well as the timing in which those fees are to be paid. I/we agree to abide by this fee schedule as it is written. I/we understand that if it is not possible to comply with this fee schedule, services may be delayed or discontinued. Knowing all of this, I/we desire to pursue the adoption or foster care process with Agape.

Applicant Signature _____

Co-Applicant Signature _____

Date _____

Revised and Approved by the Agape Board of Directors
September, 2019