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A non-profit humanitarian and adoption agency licensed by the state of Wyoming

Dear Prospective Adoptive Parents:

Thank you so much for inquiring about our domestic adoption program. We look forward to hearing from you to discuss how we can help you adopt in the US.

Please feel free to contact:

Danalee Thornock at 435-881-805, email [thorns@allwest.net](mailto:thorns@allwest.net)

Dellory Matthews at 801-577-5283, email [dellory@juno.com](mailto:dellory@juno.com)

Connecting Hearts has been a licensed adoption agency in the state of Wyoming for 17 years and has placed hundreds of international and domestic children with families across America. All of our staff are experienced adoption personnel and most are adoptive parents themselves.

In the U.S. each year, there are thousands of newborns who are placed for adoption. Adoptive families are needed now and we are accepting applications from married couples, single women and single men.

The following is a brief overview of the process. Your Connecting Hearts adoption counselor will be there for you throughout each step to explain the adoption process in detail.

### **Domestic adoption procedure:**

- ✓ The first step is to fill out an application and remit the \$300 application fee to CH. CH then becomes your case manager. We will do your home study anywhere in Wyoming (additional fee). It will be necessary for you to have an FBI criminal check and a child abuse registry clearance as part of the home study process.
- ✓ After the home study is completed, the next step is to prepare your birth mother letter. You will be asked to tell about yourselves and the family life you will offer a baby. Many photographs illustrating your life style will be required. For a \$250 fee, CH can provide comprehensive assistance in preparing your birthmother letter and photos. These are needed to introduce your family to birthmothers.
- ✓ We believe that a very crucial step is to match birthmothers and couples with regard to temperament, personality and special talents (e.g. musical skill, educational values, aptitudes, etc.) The more we know about you, the better we are able to connect you with the right child-placing agency and/or birthmother. A careful match will help ensure that the baby will be brought up in a home that will nurture all of his or her innate talents.
- ✓ The matching process:
  1. The birthmother is screened in person, if possible. The birthmother is tested for HIV and drugs.
  2. CH will inform you when there is a birthmother who is interested in being considered by your family. Pictures of the birthmother are usually available. You will be given information about the

birth mother and the birthfather (if available) and information about fees and expenses for the adoption.

3. Your attorney screens the birthmother and works through the legal aspects of the adoption plan. The legal aspects include birthfather issues, a budget for pregnancy-related expenses, the interstate compact and termination of tribal rights if one of the birthparents has any Native American heritage.
  4. You meet the birthmother first in a phone conversation and then if possible in a face-to-face meeting.
  5. You make the decision whether to match with the birth mother.
- ✓ After the baby is born (or shortly before if the birth mother wishes) you travel to meet the child and complete the paperwork.
  - ✓ Once the interstate compact is satisfied you may travel to your home.
  - ✓ You then start the process to finalize the adoption and begin your post placement reports.