



Q & A with CYFS Adoption Supervisor, Jennifer Walls

Q: If I was interested in adoption, tell me about the CYFS Adopt Waiting Children program and its benefits.

A: Our Adopt Waiting Children (AWC) program is a unique collaboration where our adoption and foster care programs work together to place children who are legally free for adoption and in need of a permanent home. The families in this program receive specialized group and individual training on things like

understanding that each child in this program needs to work through issues rooted in their past and we work on what it looks like to walk with them on their journey. We also help prepare them for the children they plan to adopt. Families in this program definitely receive individual attention from their adoption worker!

Q: How much does your program cost? What if I don't have that kind of funds?



Jennifer Walls is an Adoption Supervisor and currently resides at our Bloomington Center Street office. She has been helping children and families for almost 24 years!

A: Our AWC program does have some fees and can run a little over \$2,500 with \$300 covering the cost for the application, another \$300 for the orientation class, \$2,000 for the parent training and home-study and \$35 if it is a couple applying (there is a fee associated with for a couples assessment.)

Q: Can I get to know the biological parents?

A: In the AWC program we work with foster care to help families maintain contact with biological family when appropriate but that is not always possible. Also keep in mind in this program, the parental rights have been terminated.

Q: What are the average ages of the children in your program?

A: In our AWC program, the children are typically over age of 6. (6-18). We do get younger children in this program but it is rare unless they are connected to a siblings group or have special needs.

Q: What happens if I change my mind and no longer want to adopt?



A: If at any point during the Infant Adoption process, you simply can let your adoption specialist know. However, none of the fees associated are refundable.

Q: What if I need support after the adoption is finalized? Do you offer any ongoing resources?

A: The families in the AWC program will have access to the state's post adoption services through DCFS. They can also contact us and we can help refer them to services in the agency or to other service providers.

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<https://www.cyfsolutions.org/services/adoption/>



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