

## THE BABY FOLD

### BASIC TENETS OF THE BABY FOLD'S ADOPTION SERVICES

1. Children are worthy human beings, entrusted by God to society at large for their nurture, care, and protection.
2. The family is the human community through which children can develop to their fullest potential. A healthy family will meet the physical needs of children, as well as the needs for security, affection, and a sense of belonging.
3. The birth family is the preferred family setting for children and should be fostered and preserved whenever possible.
4. When parents are unable or unwilling to raise their child, extended family should be considered for their potential to provide for the care and protection needed by the child.
5. When neither birth parents nor extended family is available to assume responsibility for a child, society has an obligation to ensure that an alternative family setting will meet the child's needs.
6. Adoption is the means of ensuring that a child has a permanent, legally sanctioned family.
7. Adoption should not be denied to any child by reason of age, religion, race, nationality, or handicap.
8. Adoption has a lifelong impact on all parties involved in an adoption. The agency has the responsibility to provide support and resources to families formed by adoption.
9. The agency has the obligation to provide full and complete information to birth parents and adoptive parents prior to the making of decisions to place a child for adoption or to receive a child for placement.
10. Adopted individuals, birth families, and adoptive families are best served by a process that is open and honest; one that supports the concept that all information, including identifying information, may be shared between birth and adoptive parents. Decisions regarding the sharing of information should be reached by mutual agreement following a thoughtful, informed, decision-making process by the birth parents, adoptive parents, and the child, when appropriate.

