

**THE BABY FOLD**  
**ADOPTION QUALIFICATIONS**

ALL APPLICANTS FOR ADOPTION MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

1. Live within The Baby Fold's service area, currently defined as within 55 miles of the agency.
2. Meet State of Illinois Licensing Standards for Foster Family Homes. Some of these requirements include:
  - a. All members of the household must provide medical evidence that they are free of communicable diseases or physical and mental conditions which affect the ability of the family to provide care.
  - b. Criminal background clearance for all household members age 17 or older and CANTS clearance for all members 13 years or older. Certain criminal convictions prohibit an individual from being licensed.
  - c. Applicants must be single or married.
  - d. Applicants must be 21 years or older.
  - e. Home must meet standards for space and safety.
  - f. Applicants will be required to participate in a training program.

ADDITIONALLY THE FOLLOWING APPLIES TO APPLICANTS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION PROGRAM:

Adoptive applicants must meet requirements established by the State of Illinois, U.S. Federal Government, the country-specific program requirements and the Hague Convention.

THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS AND THEIR FAMILIES ARE EXCLUDED FROM ADOPTING A CHILD FROM THE BABY FOLD:\*

- A. Current employees of The Baby Fold and their immediate families. Immediate family includes spouse, parent, child, sibling, in-law, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, grandparent, grandchild and member of the household.
- B. Others for whom the staff determines that there may be a conflict of interest.

An exception to this policy is the situation of Professional Foster Home Supervisors who are both foster parents and employees of The Baby Fold. These individuals can adopt children who have been placed in their home and are legally freed for adoption.

\* The Director of Family & Community Services can assist these individuals in applying to another licensed child welfare agency for adoption services.