1272 Gaylord St
Denver, CO 80206
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# MI YUNGS PRAYER

## Adoption Program Guide



**www.miyungsprayer.org**

Mi Yungs Prayer (MYP) is an established, non-profit agency, licensed through the Colorado State Department of Human Services.

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**As the Founder and Executive Director of Mi Yungs Prayer**
I personally believe in adoption because of my experience as an adoptee. My heart is for the families adopting and the many orphans who need loving families! Making the decision to adopt is not one that is taken lightly. There are many conversations toward this decision and we want to be with you every step of the way. MYP wants to empower families to break through the barriers of adoption and to unlock their vision to adopt so that adoption will be a viable option.




**You are our Priority!** MYP believes adoption is a journey. To travel that journey, you need and deserve adoption services that include transparency, coaching, prayer, and support. Every family has its own special needs, preferences, and circumstances. After all, you are about to welcome a child and his or her culture and history into your home.

**We are Here for You!** An Adoption Coach who will collaborate with you throughout your adoption process. Adopting a child is a complex process involving a significant amount of paperwork that must follow Federal and State adoption laws. If you are adopting internationally, this would also include immigration regulations and country laws. MYP will work with all these entities on your behalf.

## MYP's Approach:

- Explaining each step taken in your adoption process to make the adoption process understandable and answer your questions.
- Ensuring all your paperwork received is completed properly with the country's regulations and specifications.
- Guide you in completing all required adoption training.
- Update you of any new requirements that arise, in order to keep your adoption process moving.
- MYP will have consistent communication which is a vital part in supporting you with your adoption.



MYP encourages families to learn as much as they can about the adoption process, related issues and the variety of agencies and services available. There are advantages and disadvantages to the various types of adoption. We can help you identify programs that best meet your family's needs, but we also encourage you to question, investigate and pursue all resources available to you.

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Timeframes for adoption can vary dependent upon the adoption program. Domestic adoption can take between 1 to 2 years or more, while international adoption can take 1 to 3 year or more.

## The Adoption Process

Adoption can be a very emotional journey and adjustment for your family. MYP wants to be there for you, by simplifying as much as possible the complex process that includes coordinating with other entities and a significant amount of paperwork.

**Requirements for Prospective Adoptive Families**

- Domestic Adoption for Colorado:
  - Applicant must be 21 years of age or older.
- International Adoption:
  - Applicant must be 25 years of age or older.
  - One applicant must be a United State Citizen
  - Each country adopting from will have their own requirements.
- All Adoption Criteria:
  - Physically and emotionally healthy
  - Without a criminal history that would prevent placement of a child per federal, state and country regulations.

**Your 1st step** is what you are doing now! MYP will be reaching out to you, if you have not heard from us yet by phone and email. You will need to schedule an Informational Meeting to ensure all your questions and concerns are addressed.

**Step 2: Information Meeting,**
Once the meeting is completed, if you decide to work with MYP for your adoption, a $375 non-refundable application will be due. You will be invoiced by email. You are able to pay by Credit Card, ACH or check. Once MYP receives payment, you will receive an email inviting you to MYP's eAdopt portal for you to complete your paperwork and upload documents. Your assigned Adoption Coach can assist you in this process.

**Step 3: Home Study**
You will start our Home Study Process. The home study is a report about you and your family and is quite extensive. All adoptions, whether domestic, foster, or international, require an approved home study. The home study must be approved before moving forward with any adoption.

- If you live in Colorado, MYP will assign a Social Worker to work with you and she/he will also provide you with support and training. Three (3) home visits are required.
- If you live outside of Colorado, you will need to find a Home Study Agency to complete your Home Study. MYP Adoption Coach will assist you in this process.

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**Step 4: Adoption Training**
You will be given information regarding the required adoption training. This can be different, according to which adoption program you are in and where you live. This training will help prepare you for your adoption journey and most training must be completed during your home study process.

**Step 5: Immigration and Foreign Government Approval – *International Adoption Only***
If MYP is your placement agency once your home study is approved:

- MYP will assist you in apply to USCIS (United States Citizenship and Immigration Services) for an approval for you to adopt a child internationally within your approved specific parameters.
- MYP will assist and provide you with step-by-step instructions on preparing your Dossier (a packet with specific documents required by the Country). These documents can be very specific requiring notarization, authentication and certified/apostilled.

**Step 6: Matching – Child Referral**

- Domestic - This is dependent upon the birth mother, who is wanting to make an adoption plan for her child. MYP will work the placement agency/attorney representing birth mother.
- International - This is depends upon many factors and can take anywhere from six (6) months to three (3) years. Once you receive a Child Referral, you will generally receive medical and social information, and some photos or videos. The time to make a decision depends upon the situation and country you are adopting from.

**Step 7: Finalization of your Adoption and Travel**

- Domestic - You may have to travel to another state to meet and get your child. Finalization is completed in the state the child was born in.
- International - you may have travel to the Country your child resides. Time spent in the foreign country varies by country regulations. If MYP is your placement agency, we will assist you with your travel arrangements. Most finalizations are completed in-country. If the adoption is not finalized in-country, you would take guardianship.

**Step 8: Post Adoption/Placement Support**
When you arrive home, MYP will be there for you providing support! But you are not done yet! Visits from a Social Worker will be required and these visits are designed to be there for you if and when challenges arise related to your adoption. The number of home visits will vary depending on your agency, state, and court orders.

**Step 9: Validation of Foreign Adoption – *International Adoption Only***
When you adopt your child internationally, most of the time, the adoption will be finalized in-country. So, you will need to Validate your foreign adoption at your local country courts.

- If you live in Colorado, MYP will complete this process for you.
- If you reside outside of Colorado, your Home Study Agency will direct you accordingly.

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**International Adoption - Hague Convention** - Understanding the Hague Convention (state.gov)

The Hague Adoption Convention protects children and their families against the risks of unregulated adoptions abroad and ensures that intercountry adoptions are in the best interests of children. The Convention also serves to prevent the abduction, sale of, or trafficking of children. Adoption agencies in the United States that want to do international adoption must become Hague accredited and follow strict guidelines as well.

**Additional Information Available Upon Request**

The following MYP information is available upon request: (1) The number of its adoption placements per year for the prior three calendar years, and the number and percentage of those placements that remain intact, are disrupted, or have been dissolved as of the time the information is provided; (2) The number of parents who apply to adopt on a yearly basis, based on data for the prior three calendar years; and (3) The number of children eligible for adoption and awaiting an adoptive placement referral via the agency or person. *22 CFR 96.39(b)(1)-(3).*