St. Mary's Services
Maternity counseling and adoption agency

300 E. Northwest Hwy, Ste 200
Arlington Heights, IL 60004
847-870-8181
www.StMaryServices.com

Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

While our headquarters are in Arlington Heights, we have resource centers in Burr Ridge, Chicago, Crystal Lake, Elgin, Frankfort, Rockford and Waukegan.

For more information, visit www.stmaryservices.com or e-mail us at information@stmaryservices.com.

St. Mary’s Services is a licensed, Christian, non-profit child welfare agency and an affiliate of Episcopal Charities and Community Services. The agency is licensed by the Illinois Department of Children & Family Services (6040254).

Building Loving Families
for more than 125 years

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ST. MARY’S SERVICES’ PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Following our mission, St. Mary’s takes great pride in finding loving, stable homes for infants. We work with prospective adoptive couples and singles of many different backgrounds to ensure that every child placed for adoption through St. Mary’s has a good home. All applicants must be at least 23 years of age and demonstrate a healthy lifestyle. Applicants who are accepted to St. Mary’s adoption program are required to participate in ongoing adoption education, complete all adoption and licensing paperwork, and adhere to agreed-upon birth parent correspondence. For applicants interested in international adoption, they must also adhere to the adoption requirements of the country of origin. For domestic adoption applicants, it is important to remember that the birth mother makes the final decision about with whom the infant is placed for adoption. At St. Mary’s, we provide guidance and support to everyone in the adoption triad—birth parents, adoptive parents, and adoptees. Please speak with one of our adoption counselors to learn more about St. Mary’s requirements for the domestic and international adoption programs.

GUIDING FAMILIES THROUGH ADOPTION

Beginning with an initial phone consultation, a St. Mary’s counselor will gather basic information from you. An orientation meeting is also scheduled at this time when you can meet individually with a counselor. At the orientation meeting you will learn basic information about adoption, St. Mary’s programs and eligibility requirements, the home study processes for domestic and international adoption, licensing and adoption fees. All of your questions are welcome during this meeting and throughout your adoption journey.

The next step is to complete your application materials. When these materials are completed, St. Mary’s staff will notify you about moving forward with the home study process, which includes a series of interviews, a home visit and educational opportunities. During the home study process, a counselor will interview you and observe your home environment and ensure that you meet the Illinois adoption standards.

As you prepare for placement, St. Mary’s counselors maintain regular contact to support you throughout the waiting period. For those interested in international adoption, St. Mary’s will help you prepare a dossier for the specific country from which you are adopting as well as assist you with filing an I600A orphan visa. You also will gain valuable information on resources available to assess your child’s social-medical records at this time.

After you bring your child home, you will be asked to attend monthly new-parent meetings where you can develop relationships with other adoptive families. Your counselor also will schedule monthly post-placement visits for approximately six months and will serve as an ongoing resource for you. For international adoptions, post-placement visits will be scheduled according to the requirements of the child’s country of origin.

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St. Mary’s Adoption Programs

DOMESTIC PROGRAMS

Traditional: Through this program our experienced staff provides professional guidance and support for adoptive families as they complete their home study and move through their unique adoption journey. St. Mary’s ensures that all adoptions are completed in an ethical and legally safe manner. In our traditional program, St. Mary’s assists families in finding the birth mother that is a perfect match for them.

Home Study Services: St. Mary’s provides home study and post-placement services to families who are working with an agency outside of Illinois. We work closely with your placing agency to provide you with the same guidance and support you would find in our traditional program.

Special Needs: While our agency places many healthy children with loving families, we occasionally work with children who have special needs. St. Mary’s works closely with families interested in our special needs program to help you prepare for a child that requires extra attention and resources. As part of St. Mary’s agency requirement, families in this program follow the same home study and adoption process as our traditional program. This program is subsidized by St. Mary’s.

African-American: Through this program our agency works closely with birth parents and families specifically interested in adopting an African-American infant. As part of St. Mary’s agency requirement, families in this program follow the same home study and adoption process as our traditional program.

St. Mary’s embraces open relationships between all parties for the best interest of the child. We provide ongoing education and support as you build your relationship to ensure that all parties are comfortable with the mutually agreed upon contact.
OUR MISSION
We strive to strengthen each member of the adoption triad—birth parents, adoptive families, and especially the children—so that their inclusion in the St. Mary’s family results in the creation of the best possible home for each child.

- We ensure the well-being of each child for the duration of that child’s relationship with St. Mary’s.
- We provide expectant mothers with support through the pregnancy process, in developing a plan for their babies and, where the adoptive choice is made, we partner with the birth family to find a good home for the child.
- We provide adoptive families with compassionate emotional support and training throughout the adoption and after the child is home.

OUR VISION
With confidence that stable families build strong communities, St. Mary’s will lovingly serve and support children, birth parents and adoptive families to ensure that every child is raised in a good home.

A HISTORY OF HELPING CHILDREN
St. Mary’s Services was founded in 1887 by the Episcopal Sisters of St. Mary. Originally an orphanage for homeless children and then a foster care facility, in the 1940s St. Mary’s Services embarked on adoption.

Since that time St. Mary’s has facilitated thousands of successful adoptions—each providing new beginnings for infants, birth parents and adoptive parents of all races, religions and backgrounds.

St. Mary’s is an Illinois-licensed, non-profit child welfare agency that provides preparation and placement services to families looking to adopt infants domestically. We offer free counseling to pregnant women considering adoption and are committed to matching birth mothers with adoptive families to provide all infants with loving homes. We also facilitate international adoptions by coordinating the Illinois home study requirements and assisting parents with foster care licensing, dossier preparation and post placement.