



Let it Be Us
Adoption Listing
Service of Illinois



DCFS
Illinois Department of
Children and Family Services

Adopt a Child Through the Illinois Foster Care System

Adoption Listing Service of Illinois at Let It Be Us

In partnership with Illinois Department of Children & Family Services

What is the Adoption Listing Service of Illinois at Let It Be Us?

The Adoption Listing Service of Illinois at Let It Be Us is a program dedicated to helping children in the Illinois foster care system find permanent, loving families. We take into account each child's specific strengths and challenges and connect them to licensed foster families who are equipped to meet their needs and honor their strengths.

These children have a court-ordered permanency goal of:

- Adoption, or
- Substitute care pending termination of parental rights - which means that they are not expected to return to their biological families

Their profiles can be found on the [**Heart Gallery of Illinois**](#). If you're hoping to grow your family through adoption, the Heart Gallery allows you to learn more about children in the Illinois foster care system who are ready for their forever families.

Please note that these children are not newborns. Nationally speaking, 74% of children are 13 years of age or older, 21% are 9-12 years old, and 6% are 8 years old or younger. Learn more about the types of children we typically work with [HERE](#).

Eligibility to Join the Adoption Listing Service of Illinois

You must have a valid Foster Care License to adopt a child through the foster care system in Illinois.

Not Licensed Yet? That's okay! If you live in Illinois, fill out this [**form**](#) and we'll share your info with the DCFS licensing office in your area so they can assist you to obtain a foster license. If you live outside of Illinois, reach out to your state's foster care licensing agency. Once licensed, you're welcome to register with the Adoption Listing Service of Illinois.

How to Register for the Adoption Listing Service of Illinois

To be considered as a prospective adoptive family, complete these two steps:

1. Family Registration Form

- Fill out our [**Family Registration Form**](#)
 - Note: This form is very detailed, and that's intentional! Your answers provide us with a comprehensive understanding of your family and assist us to make thoughtful, strategic decisions about whether your family may be a good fit for a particular child. We encourage you to download this form [HERE](#) as it will likely take you some time to review it and make all necessary decisions.
 - Please click [HERE](#) or reach out to us at adoptionlistingservice@letitbeus.org with any questions you may have or if you would like assistance registering

2. Foster Care License

- Submit a copy of your Foster Care License to adoptionlistingservice@letitbeus.org

What Happens After You Register?

Your family will:

- Receive a welcome packet with additional information about the program. Be contacted directly if your profile matches the needs of a child or children we're recruiting for. Be able to inquire about children whose profiles are featured on the Heart Gallery of Illinois. Please note that we will consider your family for all children posted to the Heart Gallery of Illinois so you don't have to feel pressured to be checking the Heart Gallery every day.

What Does The Process Look Like?

Pre-Referral Call

If you're a potential match, an Adoption Recruiter will reach out to learn more about your family and share information about the child. If you'd like to continue and the Recruiter agrees that your family seems like a good fit, we'll submit a referral to the child's case management team.

Referral

The Recruiter will send your family's information to the child's case team and explain why you may be a good match for the child. If the team agrees, we'll schedule a Full Disclosure Meeting.

Full Disclosure Meeting

The child's team will share detailed information about the child, answer your questions, and learn more about your family. If all parties believe your family is a good fit for the child, the child's team will arrange your first visit.

Initial Meeting With Child & Official Match

The first meeting may be by phone or video, leading up to an in-person visit. If the in-person visit goes well and everyone agrees, you'll be officially matched! The child's team will set the pace for visits, moving from short supervised meetings to overnight visits and, eventually, placement.

Placement

The child must live in your home for at least 6 months before you can begin the legal adoption process. If you live in Illinois, there is a panel of approved adoption attorneys who can represent you for free.

Let's Work Together to Build Forever Families

We are committed to making the best possible matches between children and families, always with the child's best interest in mind. If you're ready to open your heart and home, we're here to guide you every step of the way.

Let It Be Us Adoption Listing Service Team

Please feel free to reach out to our team with any and all questions about the program!

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