

# **Guide for Embryo Placement**

## **Snowflakes® Embryo Adoption Program**



# nightlight®

christian adoptions

*...because every child deserves a loving family*

Domestic • Foster/Adopt • International • Snowflakes Embryo Adoption • Home Studies • Hague Accredited  
[www.Nightlight.org](http://www.Nightlight.org)



Dear Prospective Placing Parent(s):

Thank you for thinking of the Snowflakes Embryo Adoption Program as you consider a plan for your embryos! Please know that our team is here to support you throughout the process.

At Snowflakes, each embryo is a unique creation, precious and valuable – a life full of potential. Snowflakes accepts all embryos regardless of the number remaining, family medical history or embryo quality. Great care is taken to find the right families for all embryos. The Snowflakes team helps match embryos of families like yours with Adopting Parents that fit the criteria you outline. You may be as involved as is comfortable for you in the selection process, or designate Snowflakes to match on your behalf. Most embryo adoption costs are covered by the Adopting Family. The exception to this is if you only have 1 or 2 embryos to donate.

Included in this package are an overview of the program, our eligibility requirements for adopting families, frequently asked questions, and details of how to get started when you are ready. We hope that the information included in this packet is helpful and answers many of your questions. We also recognize that speaking with someone directly about your unique situation can be beneficial as you are making this significant decision. We would be delighted to speak with you and invite your questions by email or phone.

Nightlight has been helping families find solutions to difficult dilemmas through our Snowflakes program for 20+ years, and we bring over 60 years of adoption experience to each placement. We have assisted over 1,600 families seeking to place their embryos through our program. We carefully screen our adopting families to ensure that your embryos will be placed in a family who has been vetted through the adoption home study. It is our hope you will establish on-going communications with this family. We have worked with over 600 clinics across the United States, coordinating the logistics for safe shipment of this precious cargo between the placing and adoptive families' providers.

Our commitment is to provide caring and professional services to each client, recognizing their unique needs and backgrounds, while offering your embryos the opportunity to live the life for which they were created. As each placement is finalized, we do not view our job as completed, but recognize that our family has just grown again.

As an agency founded on Christian principles, we are excited to see God's plan unfold for you and your family. If you do not share our faith, it is our hope that we will reflect God's love for you through this amazing process called adoption. We stand ready to walk with you through this emotional and rewarding journey.

Sincerely,

Daniel Nehrbass, Ph.D.  
President

*"A Father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling." Psalm 68:5*

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Offices in: California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Missouri, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas

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Nightlight pioneered the first embryo adoption program called **Snowflakes®** in 1997. This unique adoption choice enables pregnancy, childbirth, and life to remaining embryos.



Share  
your  
greatest  
joy  
&  
give  
the gift of  
life!

### Welcome to the Snowflakes Embryo Adoption Program!

You created your embryos with love, and the hope and dream of a child. You may not have anticipated having remaining embryos and you may find yourself feeling overwhelmed with the decision for their future. Many of the families we assist grapple with these feelings along with a deep desire to see their embryos be given an opportunity at life. Embryo adoption is a great way to help another couple with the same hopes and dreams of a child, while giving your embryos an opportunity to be born into a loving family.

Nightlight Christian Adoptions is a licensed adoption agency with over 60 years of experience in helping to build families. We were the first licensed agency in the world to provide an embryo adoption program. We manage the process as an adoption so that you, the placing family, can be as involved in the process as you desire and can rest securely in the fact that all the necessary matching, administrative, legal and medical details are handled appropriately by our expert staff.

You may be confused about the options available to you in placing your remaining embryos with a qualified family. Nightlight is here to provide support, counsel, and resources to you as you make these decisions. With a commitment to working with families without discrimination, Nightlight is well equipped to offer viable alternatives to post-infertility patients who must make difficult decisions.

The beauty of the Snowflakes program is that we allow you to be involved in the selection of the family who will adopt your embryos. We will encourage you to develop an on-going open relationship with them. All families presented to you as a potential match will have completed a home study, consisting of adoption education and counseling as well as personal background checks. You may establish broad or narrow preferences for the potential matches you will review for your approval.

The Adopting Parents' family profile (consisting of family photos and a glimpse into their family) will be shared with you to assist you in the matching process. Although Nightlight encourages open communication between you and the adoptive family, the degree of contact will be mutually agreed upon, by contract, by both parties.

Our experienced staff follows a well-defined process for helping both our placing and adopting families move successfully through the program. They will help your complete all documentation, including legal contracts. Our placing families who are placing three or more embryos do not incur any fees nor do they receive remuneration for storage or IVF expenses incurred prior to the matching phase of our program.



## Adoption versus Donation

How is Embryo Adoption through Snowflakes different from Embryo Donation that fertility clinics offer?

Which will you  
choose?

### Adoption



### Donation



	EMBRYO ADOPTION PROGRAM	CLINIC DONATION PROGRAMS
<b>Safeguards</b>	Snowflakes provides the same safeguards that the traditional adoption process.	Only clinic patients may receive embryos from their program.
<b>Selection</b>	You can be confident knowing you have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Personally selected a family to raise your genetic child or,</li> <li>- Delegated the responsibility to Nightlight with over 20 years of experience matching placing and adopting families.</li> </ul>	Embryos donated to a clinic are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Distributed to patients as determined by clinic staff</li> <li>- The process is anonymous</li> <li>- You do not have input regarding who or how many patients receive your embryo(s).</li> </ul>
<b>Screening</b>	You can have peace of mind, knowing that the family you have chosen to parent your pre-born child(ren) has completed an adoption home study and cleared the following screenings for a: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Criminal Background Check</li> <li>- Child Abuse Record</li> </ul>	Patients on a clinic waiting list for donated embryos may or may not be provided services by an in-house psychologist.
<b>Contact</b>	As an adoption agency, Nightlight will be encouraging you to consider some level of open communication with your matched family. This communication will be mutually agreed upon and written into your contract. You may choose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To communicate directly or indirectly using Nightlight as your mediator</li> <li>- Only want to be informed about any children that are born.</li> <li>- A closed placement.</li> </ul>	One or more patients may receive embryos from your donation. Most clinic programs are anonymous. You won't be told how many patients received your embryos. You won't know if any children were born from your embryos. The clinic does not keep permanent records for future potential communication needs.
<b>Counseling</b>	Our program recognizes the importance of counseling all parties involved.	Some clinics will provide pre-donation counseling services.
<b>Value</b>	Nightlight believes in helping children in all stages of their biological development. We will receive any remaining embryo into our program and diligently seek families who are willing to give birth to them. We are committed to treating you and your embryos with the dignity and respect you deserve.	Clinic staff are committed to helping their patients achieve a successful pregnancy. Clinic may restrict the quality and quantities of embryos they will accept.



## Understanding Roles

### Definitions

It's important to be on the same page as we discuss the process of Embryo Adoption. Therefore, we have defined some terms to help everyone involved understand their role, both emotionally and legally, as they move forward in the Snowflakes program.

#### **PLACING PARENT a.k.a. GENETIC PARENT**

That's you...

Whether you used your own gametes or those of an egg/sperm donor, we use these terms interchangeably.

#### **GENETIC SIBLINGS**

Many people with remaining embryos feel conflicted about allowing another family to give birth to embryos they created. This is understandable. The ability to establish a relationship and have your desired level of communication with the adopting family will allow you and your children to maintain the connection with your children's full genetic siblings and allow them to have a link to their biological roots.

#### **RELINQUISHMENT**

We use the term 'relinquishment' to describe the procedure by which you, the Placing Parents, terminate your legal rights and responsibilities to the frozen embryo(s).

A Frozen Embryo Transfer (FET) by the Adopting Parents cannot be scheduled until the contract is completed and the embryo(s) are received by their clinic.

#### **ADOPTING PARENT(S)**

The Adopting Parents are the recipients of your frozen embryo(s) and will be the legal parents of any child(ren) to whom they give birth. Their names are placed on the birth certificate.

#### **PRE-BORN CHILD**

Your Embryos...

At Nightlight, we believe life begins at conception. Therefore, embryos are pre-born children. As a result, we treat each case with the same dignity and respect as we would the adoption of a child already born.



## FAQ

## Will Snowflakes Work With Us?

### ***What if we don't identify as Christian?***

The Christian in our name explains who we are; it does not necessarily describe our clients. We work with families without discrimination and are committed to helping each assess their potential success with our program. Our goals include:

- Providing each Embryo, the opportunity to be born.
- Helping Placing Parents select the family who will give birth to their remaining embryos.

### ***What if we only have one embryo remaining?***

Every embryo is a life, a life that needs the right environment and sustenance to thrive, grow and be born. We are honored you are considering our Snowflakes program to help you find an Adopting Family.

### ***What if we used donor eggs or sperm to create our embryos?***

Would you believe that many of the embryos donated for reproduction were created using donor eggs and sperm? Nightlight will help you through the process of getting the federally required documentation to place your embryos. Required documents:

- Donor Profile
- Egg Donor Consent
- Donor Infectious Disease Screening Results

### **We ask that you provide us with any information you have, and we will pursue your clinic or donor agency for anything you may not already have in your files.**

We will provide a copy of the Donor Profile to the Adopting Family along with the Family Health History that you provide. We do need a copy of the Egg Donor Consent to verify that you have the legal authority to place the embryos for adoption with another couple and they are not specifically for your use only. The Infectious Disease Screening Results are part of the FDA Requirements in order for the Adopting Family's Clinic to accept the embryos into their facility.

### ***Our embryos have been frozen for many years. Is that a problem?***

We believe each embryo is a human life, and therefore our hope is that every embryo will have the opportunity to grow. We advocate for each embryo and share with all adopting families that there have been no definitive studies proving how long embryos can stay frozen and remain viable. We have had many successful pregnancies with embryos frozen for more than 15 years. However, we encourage you to make a decision about your embryos soon rather than later. The longer they are frozen, the more difficult they are to place for adoption.

### ***What if we don't live in a state where a Nightlight office is located?***

We serve placing families in all 50 United States. Currently, we do not have a cost effective method for getting embryos located internationally into the U.S. If you live internationally and your embryos are stored at a U.S. clinic or cryobank we can assist you.

Snowflakes accepts  
all embryos  
regardless of the:

- \*Quantity
- \*Time Frozen
- \*Medical History
- \*Quality

## How Much Will Snowflakes Cost Us?

### FAQ

#### **Will Snowflakes charge me a fee to donate my embryo(s) through their program?**

There are no fees for families donating three or more embryos through the Snowflakes Program. However, you will need to continue to pay for the storage of your embryos until you transfer ownership by contract to the Adopting Family and the embryos are shipped to their fertility clinic. We understand that storage costs may be a motivating factor for you in choosing to place your embryos for adoption and you may be concerned about how you will continue to make payments for the storage of your embryos. We do have storage program options available through our partner, Fairfax Cryobank. Please speak with the Snowflakes Inquiry Specialist for more details.

#### **Will Snowflakes reimburse the cost of infertility treatments and/or storage fees?**

Embryo donation is a gift of life to an Adopting Family. IVF treatments and storage costs incurred by the Placing Family remain their responsibility.

If the cost for storing your embryos is becoming unmanageable, you may be interested to learn more about a partnership that Snowflakes has with Fairfax Cryobank in Austin, Texas. Fairfax Cryobank has a variety of pricing options. If you choose to continue with your embryo placement through Snowflakes, and your embryos are stored at Fairfax Cryobank, we have found coordinating shipments is expedited allowing your Adopting Family to schedule their FET more quickly.

#### **Are there limitations regarding when we can begin the process?**

For families who have just given birth or are currently pregnant, we want to ensure their family building is complete before they place their remaining embryo(s) for adoption. It is important that families take time to bond with each child and adequately process the intellectual and emotional facts of embryo placement. Therefore, we ask that families wait until their youngest child has been in the home for at least 9 months before beginning the Snowflakes application process.

#### **How long after we let you know that we want to place our embryos through Snowflakes, will we be matched with an Adopting Family?**

Generally, it takes between 8 to 12 months from the time you begin the application and when you are matched with an Adopting Family. You must have all your application paperwork completed before we can begin seeking a match.

#### **How long before the embryos are moved from our clinic?**

After you are matched with an Adopting Family, it typically takes 2-4 months before the embryo(s) may travel, due to the following requirements:

- Clinic Approval Received
- Contract Signing Completed
- Shipping Coordination Arranged

#### **In what ways can I expedite the Adoption Process?**

- You can significantly speed up the process by completing all your paperwork in a timely manner and keeping your matching preferences open. We have adopting families with primary and secondary infertility **and** we have adopting families who already have children and want to expand their family through embryo adoption. We ask you to be open to matching with adopting families with and without children.



## FAQ

## Adopting Families

Adopting families come in all shapes and sizes. Many also have some type of infertility diagnosis. They may have genetic conditions that they do not wish to pass on to a child. We have families who simply want to adopt and are attracted to embryo adoption.



### ***What are the basic requirements for an Adopting Family?***

In order to evaluate, and educate, all adopting families must complete a Home Study/Family Evaluation. For Snowflakes, a primary eligibility requirement is that the adopting mother must be able to carry a child to term.

### ***Can single parents adopt through Snowflakes?***

Single women are eligible to adopt through Snowflakes, however, as the placing family, you can indicate in your application and through the matching consultation if you are open to placing with a single woman. Your wishes will ultimately determine who receives your embryos.

### ***What is a Home Study?***

An adoption home study is an evaluation and education tool to help us determine the adoptive family's preparedness to parent through adoption. It is a process that allows you have more peace of mind regarding the families who are made eligible to adopt your embryos.

There are three parts to the home study:

#### **\*Paperwork:**

- Fingerprinting
- Criminal Background Checks
- References
- Medical Evaluations, etc.



#### **\*Interviews with a Social Worker**

#### **\*Education:**

- through the Social Worker
- CPR/First Aid Classes
- Adoption Classes
- Required Reading

The most important component of a home study is the educational portion. This will help families explore their attitudes, plans and feelings regarding adoption. It will also help them prepare for how they will explain to the child their unique conception and birth.



# nightlight®

snowflakes® embryo adoption program

*...because every child deserves a family*



## Adopting Eligibility Requirements

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All Adopting Families are screened to ensure they fit both the state standards and the Nightlight Christian Adoptions Board of Directors' qualifications for adopting families. These qualifications are designed to benefit the child and adults involved in the adoption.

### **ADOPTION OF OTHER CHILDREN:**

Adopting Parents may participate in more than one adoption program at a time with approval by Nightlight. The youngest or newest addition to the family must have been in their home for at least nine months. This requirement is designed to provide adequate time for attachment and bonding with the child before another child is brought into the family.

### **EDUCATION:**

Adopting Parents will complete a home study meeting the requirements for the state in which they reside. Most importantly, they will complete an educational program designed to better prepare them to parent an adopted child or children.

### **EMBRYO COMMITMENT:**

The Adopting Parents must agree to have all surviving thawed embryos transferred or re-frozen. In addition, the Adopting Parents must agree to carry to term and give birth to all embryos transferred; that is, they must agree not to undertake any medical procedure to eliminate or reduce the number of embryos, which have implanted or carried to term.

### **FINANCES:**

Applicants must be able to provide a financially stable home, demonstrated by a solid economic history and an ability to live within their means.

### **HEALTH & AGE:**

Adopting applicants must give evidence of good health, which will be verified during the home study process by medical examinations. Your preferences will determine the allowable age of Adopting Parents. Snowflakes requires adopting mothers over the age of 44 to complete a recommendation form by the doctor who will be performing her frozen embryo transfer.

### **MARRIAGE:**

Adopting applicants are required to have been married a minimum of two years and must have a satisfying and secure marriage. Single women are eligible to apply for the program, but as the Placing Parent you will determine if you feel comfortable placing with a single woman.

### **PHYSICAL:**

An adopting mother must be physically capable of carrying a pregnancy and giving birth to the child. Alternatively, a surrogate may be secured through a licensed surrogacy provider.

### **RELIGION:**

Adopting Parents must be committed to providing their child with a secure, constructive, wholesome and spiritual home environment.

### **POSTADOPTION UPDATES:**

As part of the Nightlight ongoing commitment to our adopting families, Adopting Parents will have a six-week post birth visit from a social worker and submit a written update regarding the child's development to Nightlight at 12-months. This reporting is separate from communications the Adopting Family may maintain with you.

**FAQ**

***“Why do we need to provide a Family Profile?”***

Your family profile allows the Adopting Family to get to know a little bit about you, just as their profile allowed you to get to know them. Depending upon the relationship you maintain with your Adoptive Family, it will also be something they can share with any children born as part of the story of their adoption and birth.



## Application Process

**How do I apply?**



You are on  
your way!

## FAQ

*“Blood testing, is that really necessary?”*

*After all, we completed bloodwork when we created the embryos.”*

*“Ok so, I need blood work. What will the lab be testing for when they draw my blood?”*



## What Comes Next?

### *What happens after we complete the application?*

You will transition to our Snowflakes® Placing Parent Coordinator, who serves as a clinic liaison diligently working with clinics to acquire all the necessary clinic paperwork for our placing families. Once all your clinic documentation has been received, our coordinator will contact you and walk you through the next phase, the FDA Required Blood Tests.

**Answer the following question to determine whether you need to complete new bloodwork. When you created your embryos, did you use...?**

*An Egg Donor or  
A Sperm Donor*

*Your own Egg  
and/or Sperm*



An Anonymous Donor or “Eligible Donor” have already fulfilled the FDA Requirements, therefore, no updated testing is required for the person who contributed their egg, or sperm, in the creation of your embryos.

Since you were “sexually intimate partners (SIP),” and not Donors,” you would not have undergone all of the standardized FDA Testing Requirements and therefore, will require an updated blood panel.

Bloodwork can be expensive, so in order to help you Snowflakes will provide you with a voucher to complete the necessary blood panel and will cover the cost of the FDA required bloodwork.

### **The current FDA Required Blood Tests for Donors include:**

- Donor, HTLV-I/II Antibody Screen (Males)
- Donor, Chlamydia Trachomatis/Neisseria gonorrhea, RNA, TMA
- Donor, Hepatitis B Core Total Antibody
- Donor, Hepatitis B Surface Antigen with Reflex to Confirm
- Donor, HIV ½ Antibody Screen with Reflexes
- Donor, Rapid Plasma Reagin (RPR) with Reflex to Syphilis IgG
- Donor, HIV-1/HBV/HCV NAT Procleix with Reflex to HIV-1/HBV/HCV Discriminatory
- Donor, Cytomegalovirus (CMV) Total with Reflex to Syphilis IgG
- Donor, Hepatitis C Antibody
- Donor, West Nile Virus NAT
- Donor, Cytomegalovirus Antibody, Total with Reflex to IgM

### **What happens after the bloodwork is complete?**

Once we receive all your application materials, including your embryology records we request from your clinic, and any required bloodwork, our Placing Parent Coordinator, will contact you to set up your Pre-Matching Consultation.

### **Pre-matching Consultation, what does that entail?**

The purpose of the call is to discuss the criteria you have for the prospective Adopting Family as well as any desired future contact. You may choose to correspond through the agency or directly to each other.

### **If I choose an open relationship, what will the contact be like?**

Many of our families communicate through e-mail. As your relationship grows, you may choose to expand the arrangement you initially had with the family. You may also choose not to maintain contact with the adoptive family, but leave the door open for genetic siblings to contact each other when they are older.



## Resources

Nightlight provides the following videos for you to watch and gain a greater understanding of your thoughts, feelings, and considerations as you move through the process.



### ***Are You Ready to Let Go of Your Embryos?***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YsAKzepzxf&list=PLy0VnNHXVI0qYjbUToFR8qTgiv0VL915>

**(Approximately 21 Minutes)**



### ***The Extended Family Tree: Talking to kids about IVF and genetic siblings***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YSQLXs83bxA&index=2&list=PLy0VnNHXVI0qYjbUToFR8qTgiv0VL915>

**(Approximately 23 Minutes)**



### ***Starting Up Healthy Communication with Adoptive Families***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3hp9FSyXq3E&list=PLy0VnNHXVI0qYjbUToFR8qTgiv0VL915&index=3>

**(Approximately 24 Minutes)**



### ***Placing Family Stories: Jennifer***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tmoSWOu4pKw&list=PLy0VnNHXVI0rO107NjL6M7PGeQzEQ87eN&index=1>

**(Approximately 22 Minutes)**



### ***Placing Family Stories: Rebecca & Chris***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tmoSWOu4pKw&list=PLy0VnNHXVI0rO107NjL6M7PGeQzEQ87eN&index=1>

**(Approximately 40 Minutes)**



### ***Placing Family Stories: Anabelle & Tom***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4zqiBpfNfig&list=PLy0VnNHXVI0rO107NjL6M7PGeQzEQ87eN&index=3>

**(Approximately 26 Minutes)**



### ***Snowflakes Adoption Story: Chris & Kari***

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iZ\\_A7XD\\_xqU&list=PLy0VnNHXVI0p7ezEo9mLgFq6xkYcNEswP](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iZ_A7XD_xqU&list=PLy0VnNHXVI0p7ezEo9mLgFq6xkYcNEswP)

**(Approximately 22 Minutes)**



### ***Snowflakes Adoption Story: Kryna & Bert***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x-a5r-IJ-Vs&index=2&list=PLy0VnNHXVI0p7ezEo9mLgFq6xkYcNEswP>

**(Approximately 14 Minutes)**



### ***Snowflakes Adoption Story: Stacy Parsons***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KdLlOa5ur00&index=3&list=PLy0VnNHXVI0p7ezEo9mLgFq6xkYcNEswP>

**(Approximately 10 Minutes)**

We know this is a big decision, and we want you to feel comfortable as you move forward. Others, in your position, felt more at ease after speaking with a counselor. If you feel that this would benefit you, check out the following links to find a counselor in your area.

- ▶ Focus on the Family Counselor Resource <https://ccn.thedirectorywidget.com/>
- ▶ American Association of Christian Counselors <http://www.aacc.net/resources/find-a-counselor/>



## FAQ

## Choice, Clinic, & Contract

### How will we be matched with an Adopting Family?

You will receive a profile of an adopting family that meets your preferences. If you accept them, we will send your Family Profile and Medical Health History to them. If they agree to adopt your embryos, we have a match!

### What determines whether another clinic will accept our embryo(s)?

In order for embryos to be sent to the Adopting Parent's clinic, and accepted into their facility, the receiving doctor reviews the supporting documents to allow transfer of said embryos, i.e. your:

**Embryology  
Report**

**Infectious Disease  
Test Results**

**FDA Risk Assessment  
Questionnaire**

**Physical  
Evaluation**

If after the review, it is deemed more information and/or lab work is required, the doctor will inform Snowflakes, who will provide you with a lab order to do additional blood testing.

Once you have your match, Snowflakes will coordinate the communications agreements, and contracts, by which you will relinquish the legal and parental rights to your embryos to the adopting family. Nightlight and the experienced team of Snowflakes representatives will then manage all legal aspects of the embryo adoption.



## Embryo Adoption & The Law

### *What is the legal process for embryo adoption?*

The Adoption Agreement and Relinquishment Forms are legal contracts between the two families. In the U.S. the transfer of embryos is governed by property law and not adoption law and Nightlight contract reflect this legal status. The contract includes adoption language and covers the transfer of property. These legal forms are signed and executed *prior* to the embryos being shipped to the adoptive parents' clinic and *before* the embryos are transferred into the adoptive mother.

Once a child is born, the names of the mother and father listed on the birth certificate will be the names of the adoptive parents. In cases where a gestational carrier or surrogate has agreed to carry the adopted embryo to term, the adoptive parents Assisted Reproductive Technologies Attorney will be able to assist them in completing any additional legal requirements necessary to declare the adoptive parents are the child's legal parents.

Upon receiving the **Embryo Adoption Agreement** designating the placement of your embryos with the family you have selected, you are to sign the agreement in the presence of a notary. Additionally, you will complete an **Embryo Release Form** allowing your clinic to release your embryos for shipment.

## FAQ

## Shipping & Frozen Embryo Transfers

### Shipping Your Embryos

While you complete the adoption process, your embryos will remain where they are currently stored. Upon completion of the contract signing, the released embryos become the responsibility of the adoptive family. This includes shipping fees and storage fees charged by their fertility clinic. [You will not be reimbursed for any historic storage fees.].

In order for the Frozen Embryo Transfer (FET) to take place, the adopting family may travel to where the embryos are currently being stored, or opt to ship them to their fertility clinic.

If they should opt to ship them to their own clinic, Snowflakes will coordinate the shipment. The Snowflakes team will ensure they meet all the shipping requirements of both clinics, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the receiving state. *When transporting embryos, we maintain storage standards to ensure their safety.* They are placed in a dry shipper, which is a tank cooled with liquid Nitrogen to -320 degrees Fahrenheit, and Shipped overnight.

**Note:** Due to strict human tissue laws and transportation restrictions in New York State, we are unable to ship embryos within the State, but we are able to send them to a clinic located in any other U.S. State.



### Frozen Embryo Transfer

When an Adoptive Family's Frozen Embryo Transfer (FET) day arrives for the adoptive family, this can be a big day for you, too.

#### ***How many embryos may the adoptive family transfer per cycle?***

Many of the families we work are concerned about the possibility of high-risk multiple pregnancies for the adoptive families. We share in this concern and require our adoptive families to limit the number of embryos transferred to the number specified by the American Society of Reproductive Medicine (2-3 max) or that they are willing to carry to term in the event that all the transferred embryos attach, whichever is less.

#### ***Will Snowflakes notify us of the outcomes of an adoptive family's transfer attempts?***

Some of our placing families like to be a part of the day, even from afar, and may want to wish the adoptive family success. Others may simply desire only to know if a baby is born. Either way, this is a decision for you to make during contract negotiations. This will ensure everyone is on the same page when the time comes. Therefore, unless you have indicated to our office that you do not want to know, yes, we will contact you in accordance with your wishes with information on the outcome of the adoptive family's embryo transfer, or the results of a delivery, as soon as we have information available.



## Post-Adoption



### PREGNANCY

Pregnancy and birth is the culmination of the program in some ways, and in other ways, just the beginning. Your family will always have a connection to the children born from the embryos you placed. Nightlight recognizes the importance of this connection and our support of our genetic and adoptive families does not end when the adoptive parents add to their family.

***If the transfer results in a pregnancy, will we be notified when the baby is born?***

Yes. Unless you have indicated to our office otherwise, once we have heard from the adoptive parents we will notify you of the baby's birth. You may also have established direct communication with the adoptive family.

***If an adoptive couple become pregnant with multiples, may they selectively reduce the pregnancy?***

We value the life of each of your embryos and specifically require by contract that our adoptive families agree not to selectively reduce the number of fetuses that have begun developing. For this reason, we strongly recommend that adoptive families not transfer more than three embryos at a time. If our prohibition against selective reduction at any stage, for any reason, makes you uncomfortable, Snowflakes may not be right for you.

***What if pregnancy is achieved and there are still embryos remaining?***

The relinquishment you sign is only revocable if the adopting family makes no effort to have a frozen embryo transfer within twelve months of contract completion. If after 12 months, the adopting family has done nothing with the embryos you may revoke the contract and resume ownership of the embryos. It is important to note that revoking the contract requires proactive communication from you. Your contract will also specify what procedures you and the adopting family will follow if they choose not to use all of the embryos they received from your placement.

***What if a pregnancy is not achieved?***

If an adoptive family does not become pregnant after thawing and/or transfer of all the embryos adopted, they have the opportunity to be re-matched. They could also choose to pursue a domestic, international or foster adoption.



**DO YOU HAVE  
MORE QUESTIONS?**  
📞 Call 970.663.6799

### POST BIRTH

***How does Nightlight ensure Adoptive Families are doing well after the birth of the child(ren)?***

We require that adoptive families complete one Post Birth Report when their child is six-weeks old through their home study agency. In addition, we require that they provide us with pictures and updates of the child(ren) at 12 -months. This correspondence is separate from the information they share with you and serves as our way of knowing how the family is doing. It may help us provide the adoptive family with any additional services or referrals as necessary.



We make every effort to keep our documentation current. However, please note, this document is subject to change without notice.

Thank you for reading our Snowflakes Guide for Embryo Placement. We hope you will give your embryo(s) the opportunity to be born, whether through your own means, or through placing them for adoption. If you choose the latter, it would be our honor to serve you!