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The National Center for Adoption

Promoting adoption as a positive parenting option

Summer 2017

Adoption fraud bill signed

On May 9th, Governor Branstad joined members of Adoption Advocates of Iowa at the Iowa Capitol to sign a bill allowing adoptive families more protection against scammers. The bill sets limits on the type of individuals who can work with adoption in Iowa. At this time, only licensed agencies, certified adoption investigators and attorneys can legally perform adoption in Iowa.

In the past, many women claimed to be pregnant, thus creating an easy outlet to steal money from potential adoptive



parents. As a way to combat this issue, the bill will cap the amount of money adoptive parents can pay to birth parents to \$2,000 and will require transparency about all money exchanged during the adoption process. In terms of penalties, women

in the future who try to scam hopeful, adoptive families will face class C felony charges, as opposed to a misdemeanor in the past.

Gov. Branstad and many other adoption advocates worked on this bill for months. Sen. Brad Zaun examined this issue carefully. Thank you to the members of the Adoption Advocates of Iowa and the following: Rep. Roby Smith and his wife, Kari, Kim Laube, LuAnn Barnes, William Pearce, and Melonie Wallace.

To check out the whole news story on Channel 13 News, click [here](#).



Saturday @ 10 AM
November 4th, 2017

{Pick-up registrations/shirts: 9-10 AM}

Ankeny DMACC, Ankeny Bldg #3W



Runners, walkers, families and spectators are welcome to celebrate **ADOPTION!**



NEW! Walk at BOTH events by only registering for one. Or, run BOTH events by registering for Ames & pay just \$10 more to run in Ankeny on Nov. 4th.

- Kids' Gingerbread Person Chase at 10 AM-Face painting, too! •

All participants will receive snacks, beverages and promotional items.



Runner Donation: \$30

Includes: 1 long-sleeved shirt, timed event, medals for 1st place in many age/gender categories.



Spectator or Walker Donation: \$20

Includes: 1 long-sleeved shirt.



Family Donation for Walkers: \$60

Includes: 4 long-sleeved shirts; all additional paid family donations for walkers only = \$10

Walkers who do not wish to have a T-shirt are asked to register online and to sign the consent form. Donations can also be mailed to: **The Gingerbread Run for Adoption**, c/o The National Center for Adoption, PO Box 154, Des Moines, IA 50301

*Late registrations are those received after **Nov. 1st, 2017**. There will be a **\$5 late fee** per shirt after this date.

To register, sign up on:

www.getmeregistered.com • keyword: Ankeny
Participants can register online and pay by mail or credit card.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

Adoption Advocates of Iowa, Iowa KidsNet, AMP-Achieving Maximum Potential, Youth Standing Strong, Lutheran Family Services, Adoption Associates of Iowa, Wicked Soundz, Beauty Amidst the Ashes, ISU Adoption Club, Joyful Colorz, Plumb Supply Company, Princess & Pirates Facepainting, Georgie and Cheryl Humphreys, The Bokhoven Family, The Marchetti Family, and The National Center for Adoption.

Iowans for Adoption Banquet

Silent Auction

Thursday, Sept. 28

5:30-8 p.m.

Glen Oaks Country Club

1401 Glen Oaks Dr.

West Des Moines, IA 50266

• • Tables of 10 for \$450 • •

• • Single ticket for \$50 • •



Proceeds will help pay for grants provided to hopeful, adoptive parents and adoption-related educational & promotional materials.

Guest speakers: Erin Kiernan & Myron Linn



Erin is a co-anchor of WHO Channel 13 news team and an advocate for adoption and adoptive parents' rights. Kiernan became pregnant at age 16 and chose adoption for her son, who is now in his twenties and remains an important part of her life. She and her husband, Michael, made public their eight-year struggle to start a family of their own, a process that involved multiple rounds of artificial insemination and in vitro fertilization. The experience prompted her to help spearhead a bill in the Iowa legislature that would guarantee an adoptive parent the same maternity leave as a birth mother. Today, Erin and Michael are the proud parents of an 18-month-old son, Michael Francis.

Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) has hired Myron Linn as the agency's new deputy director. Linn most recently worked at the capitol last session representing ABI members as part of the ABI public policy team and served as the ABI chair in 2014. He worked at Pella Corporation for more than 25 years in government relations and various leadership roles. In his spare time, he officiates high school and college football, softball, and baseball. He and his wife Leanne have been married for 42 years and have two daughters. Myron and Leanne have been Pella residents for 36 years.



DHS investigating death of adopted Perry resident

DHS and adoption investigators are launching a full review of the recent death of 16-year-old Sabrina Ray, who was found dead in Perry only weighing 56 pounds. This case is similar to 16-year-old Natalie Finn of West Des Moines, who died of a heart attack due to starvation in her adoptive home.

Many adoptive and foster care officials are disgusted by this situation. The Ray home was monitored by DHS for complaints, however those pertained to the day care they ran.

DHS Spokesperson Amy McCoy mentioned that the number of full-time DHS employees have declined by 689 employees from July of 2011 to July of 2016. This makes it more difficult accessing resources and applying the law.

McCoy hopes to do a comprehensive look in their systems to see if there are gaps in the way they communicate between child care and child welfare as well.



Celebrity adoption success

After their year-long journey of adoption, country singer Thomas Rhett and his wife Lauren welcomed their new daughter from Uganda into their home.

The couple had been trying to conceive for a year, however, were unsuccessful. As a result, the family begin to discuss adoption. In 2016, Lauren traveled to Uganda and instantly fell in love with 18-month-old Willa.

The adoption process was not a simple one. The process included several months of documentation and traveling back and forth to Africa. During the end of 2016, Lauren discovered she was pregnant.

Lauren traveled to Uganda this past April to bring Willa home, however the adoption was not finalized before she needed to return home for a pregnancy check-up. Fortunately, Lauren's parents brought Willa back to their home in Nashville.

The happy family is now adjusting to parenthood and they continue to prepare for their second newborn in August.

Visit Our Website!

www.thenationalcenterforadoption.org

Our website is an interactive online resource for anyone who is interested in learning more about adoption. Subscribe to receive our newsletters and to donate to our organization, click on the Donate. Feel free to read posts regarding the process of adoption and information about our annual Gingerbread Run. We could not be where we are without you!



Like us on Facebook!



Please visit The National Center for Adoption on Facebook and LIKE our page. If you can't find us, click [here](#). Recommend us to your friends to help gain recognition for our organization and promote adoption as a positive parenting option. We thank you in advance for your help!

Get Involved!

We are always looking to use the talents of our volunteers to further our organization and our mission. Many opportunities are available to help educate others about adoption. Please contact us at info@thenationalcenterforadoption.org to volunteer your talents with us!



Share Your Story!

Please share your adoption-related story by posting it on our blog page. Or, e-mail your story to us at info@thenationalcenterforadoption.org and we will post it on our website (without your identifying information).