



Hello I am...



Stephanie



My Hopes & Dreams

Your child already has and will always have my whole heart. I have always wanted to have a family, and I knew from my early 20's that adoption would be part of that journey. When I was in medical school, I met a friend's mother who was a famous children's cardiologist. She adopted several of her own patients over the years to make sure their medical needs were met. From that time forward, adoption has always been part of my plan.

My hope is to raise a child to be a good and a kind person. I have a large and involved support system who will shower your child with unconditional love. I want your child to have a childhood filled with travel, education, and for me to be actively present in their life. I will be there to support whatever activities the child chooses whether its sports, music, the arts, drama, or anything else he or she can dream up. I want the child to have the opportunity to experience everything life has to offer and discover his or her true passions.

I look forward to all of the firsts and seeing life through a child's eyes. The first time they wake up on Christmas morning and realize the presents under the tree are for them, the first time we take an airplane to see grandparents, the first time we see a spectacular sight like an elephant at the zoo or better yet in the wild on a safari. I really look forward to having the opportunity to introduce this little person to the world.

My family is made up of all kinds of diverse, interesting people. We are diverse in terms of race, ethnicity, opinions, careers, and experiences. And, we have lots of history to pass along. I only live 20 minutes from most of my family including the 200-year-old family farm. We will experience life together whether it's supporting a cousin at her high school soccer games, sharing a love of American and European football with other cousins, or watching another cousin on stage when his band is touring. We will learn about Ukraine, Black History Month, or just hang out with other friends and family.

Regardless if you select me to parent your child, I want you to know that I believe you are brave and full of love. If you select me, I would like your relationship with me and your child to be as open as you would like for it to be. You will always have a place in your child's life.

Respectfully,

Stephanie

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Values & Beliefs as a Parent

KINDNESS AND GRATITUDE - I try to show my gratitude to family, friends, and co-workers with gifts and words of praise to show them I am always thinking about them. Sometimes I'm thinking about them halfway around the world, and find a little trinket to show it. Sometimes I might just send them a little note. I like to donate my time and gifts to local charities. This year I spent time volunteering for Parkinson's research and donated to many charities including a domestic violence support service and Toys for Tots. We will continue to participate in these opportunities as our child grows to teach him or her the importance of showing kindness to others.



INCLUSIVITY - I believe we should treat everyone with equity and celebrate our differences. My friends and family are diverse and I love them and accept them for exactly who they are. We will be surrounded by all different kinds of families. Families with different skin colors, different religions, and different kinds of parents. I have even started a mini collection of books that we will read to show the child that we are all the same on the inside, and that families come in all kinds of different shapes and sizes. Most of all, your child will learn by being surrounded by people of different backgrounds and their life will be enriched just as mine has been.

SELF-LOVE - I want your child to love himself or herself just as they are. Getting to a point where we truly love ourselves makes us better equipped to love others. It also creates a space that prevents the negativity of others from impacting our self-image. I want your child to have a strong sense of self, to know he or she is just the person they need to be, and to understand that when others are unkind it is a reflection of that person rather than of your child. Self-love will contribute to your child being a kinder person and a stronger adult.



ACCOUNTABILITY - Understanding the rewards and consequences of our successes and failures builds character and coachability. It is all part of a 'never stop learning' approach to life. I'm a big believer in rewards that are for growing and improving, not just given for showing up. I will always praise and recognize your child for their accomplishments as well as for their ability to correct and learn from their mistakes.

INTEGRITY - I believe keeping one's word and promises are important. If I tell someone that I will do something, I keep my word. Your child will know that if I tell him or her that I will be somewhere to support them, I will be there. I also want your child to know that their word and promises mean something too. Your child will grow up being a person of integrity.



GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP - As big as the world is, it is truly a small place. What happens around the globe impacts all of us. I want your child to experience life and history in real terms. Travel will always be part of our lives, both domestic and international. We will see the fun things like the castle in Germany that inspired the Cinderella castle at Disney World, but also history like the 5000-year-old Great Pyramid in Egypt. I have been to both, and it has helped me understand the world in a totally different way. I want your child to understand we are part of something much greater than ourselves, and that deserves our respect and admiration.

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Home & Neighborhood



My home is a wonderful place for children to grow and discover. My neighborhood has lots of children from different backgrounds; families of all different races, ethnicities, blended families, and families through adoption are all in our neighborhood.

The neighborhood has a club house, a pool with a splash pad, and multiple playgrounds where your child will have the opportunity to play and make friends who live near us. I frequently see kids throwing balls or playing tag. Our schools are some of the best in the state, and our local parks department has opportunities for every sport and activity imaginable. Your child will go to wonderful schools and be able to choose from all kinds of activities to find their passion. There is a music school right up the road, and it is next to the cutest dance studio I have ever seen.

My house is bright with tons of natural light. When my family and friends' children come to visit, they know right where to find the toys. They never want to leave because it is so much fun. We make trips to the playground and pool whenever the weather is nice. Most years, my best friend Jess and I take her daughter to Boo at the Zoo for trick or treat and during the holidays we go see the Nutcracker.

Sports and music were a big part of my life growing up. I played tennis, swam competitively, took dance Living in Music City, we have it all. Country music, classical music, and some rock legends live around town. And then there are the sports. Even though we did not have a very good football or hockey season this year, we have the best fans around. Without a doubt, our child will know some crazy cheers by the time they are 4 or 5.

I love traveling and seeing new places. My younger sister lives in Colorado if we decide we want to learn to ski, and my father lives in Florida for when we want to visit the beach. I try to take one trip outside the country each year to disconnect from technology and learn from the history. I also like to cook, bake, and try new things in the kitchen. My recent cooking adventures have been trying to recreate dishes from Italy, Egypt, and Korea. The memories of travel mixed with food are just something I find comforting. This is why my kitchen is designed so that I can share my love of cooking with your child.

Your child will be the center of my life. I imagine playing between breakfast and work. We'll talk about what happened at school. And, of course, there will be lots of snuggles and reading in the evening. The daycare I plan to use is in the neighborhood and is mostly attended by the neighborhood children. This will be a good way for the child to socialize with other children and make friends. But it is only about five blocks away, so I can be there in an instant if my child needs me.

The child's room is neutral with a jungle themed mural. There is a crib that converts to a toddler bed, a glider for rocking and reading stories, and books galore. There are stuffed animals to snuggle with including a sloth, an elephant, a tiger, a panther, and a giraffe – all picked out from my aunt to my future child. The room feels bright and calm at the same time. My home is filled with love, and just needs the laughter of a child to feel complete.

HOBBIES:

Adoptive Mother: Watching hockey and football, swimming, playing tennis and soccer, hiking and being outside, kayaking, running marathons, listening to music, going to the symphony, spending time with family, traveling

PROFESSION:

Adoptive Mother: Physician

EDUCATION LEVEL:

Adoptive Mother: Doctoral Degree

PLUS:

- Non-smoker

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Family

I will be a single parent by choice. My greatest strengths are independence, being loving and generous, and having deep family roots. I view my being a single parent as a strength because it will allow me to teach my son or daughter to be independent so that when they do meet someone as an adult, they will form a partnership without feeling reliant on that person.

I love my family and would do anything for any of them. My family has lived in this area since 1825; my aunt still lives on the family's 200-year-old farm. It is a place where my family has gathered for decades, and there is a sense of something special when we are there. We are the type of family that is so close that people become very confused as to how we are all related.

Your child will be the first grandchild in my immediate family. My father is really looking forward to a grandchild. He often talks about the things he wants to do as a grandpa, specifically he is looking forward to taking his grandchild to the beach. He and my stepmother have been helping me pick out furniture for the nursery and looking at pre-schools. My aunts are really excited as well and are looking forward to coming over to spend time with my child. Aunt Linda wants to teach our child all about the family's history, but Aunt Carol just wants a shopping buddy. Then there is my friend Clay and the Dallas Bears boys, who have already bought themselves "Guncles" shirts and laid claim to babysitting duties. Your child will be surrounded by people who love him or her...and maybe slightly spoiled from them too.

I look forward to us starting our own family traditions like going to the first home hockey game of the season. I'm sure we will make signs and try to get the players to give us pucks and sticks to collect over the years. I can't wait to celebrate birthdays as well as the first day of school. I always loved going shopping for school supplies and can't wait to create that same excitement for your child. Most of my family's traditions are around Thanksgiving and Christmas. For more than 10 years, I've hosted Thanksgiving for up to 20 people. I am excited for us to join the annual holiday trip to the Hotel. The hotel is decked out with lights and all kinds of decorations every year both inside and out. They also have an area called ICE that is based on holiday cartoons with slides and other activities for kids. Creating these memories will provide a life full of possibilities. And really, a life of happiness is about all we can wish for our children.



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