



IOWANS FOR ADOPTION

Court hearings take place for Sabrina Ray & Natalie Finn

Two of our board members attended the public hearing concerning the deaths of Sabrina Ray and Natalie Finn, who died under the hands of their adoptive parents. The Iowa Department of Human Services has hired national experts to help find ways to improve the state's child-protection efforts.

At the time of death, Ray weighed only 56 pounds in April and Finn suffered cardiac arrest in October. The disturbing cases



have created calls for reform among state policymakers. Gov. Kim Reynolds said in a press conference, "There are a lot of great foster parents out there, but this is unconscionable." The state is currently seeking applications to replace

former DHS Director Charles Palmer, who resigned the week prior to the hearings.

Legislators spent six hours questioning welfare workers, law enforcement officers and advocates for child abuse prevention. Iowa's Child Death Review Team launched personal investigations into the deaths of the two girls as well.

The department hired Child Welfare Policy and Practice Group to review the system. Consultants will look for problems that prevent state workers from protecting children. Although changes are being made, there are still many issues to resolve within the system.

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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!



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

All participants will receive snacks, beverages and promotional items.

*****NEW THIS YEAR-SET UP A PERSONAL FUND-RAISING
 PAGE*****



Runner Donation: \$30

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



**Spectator or Walker
 Donation: \$20**

Includes: 1 short-sleeve shirt.



Family Donation for Walkers: \$60

Includes: 4 short-sleeve 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: Iowans For
 Adoption, c/o Michelle Vogel, 2232 227th Pl,
 Ames, IA 50014

*Late registrations are those received after **October 27, 2017**. There will be a **\$5 late fee** per shirt after this

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!

Iowans for Adoption, Adoption Advocates of Iowa, AMP-Achieving Maximum Potential,
 YSS, Adoption Associates of Iowa, Wicked Soundz, ISU Adoption Club, The Bokhoven
 Family, and The National Center for Adoption.

Iowans for Adoption Banquet

Dinner, Silent Auction & Cash Bar

Thursday, Sept. 28

5:00-9 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.

To register securely and pay for this event, click [here](#).

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 their 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.



Doctor visits required for state subsidized adoptions

A new policy considered by the Iowa Department of Human Services will require families who receive state financial funding for their adopted children to document annual doctor visits. DHS implemented this policy shortly after the court hearings regarding the deaths of Sabrina Ray and Natalie Finn, who died under the hands of their adoptive families. This will help strengthen the state's child welfare system and make it easier to identify if families are abusing their adopted children.

In addition to physicians, the policy should consider including dentists, therapists, nurses and health professionals who are mandatory abuse reporters.

Iowa spent roughly \$42 million in 2017 to help adopted families. On average, families received \$7,700 a year per child. The parents of Ray and Finn were collecting these subsidies.

All About Adoption

ADOPTING FAMILIES

30% of Americans

have considered adopting

71% from foster care

63% domestically

40% internationally

2% of Americans have adopted a child

136,000 children now adopted annually

6% higher than 2000

15% higher than 1990

Method of adoption

41% public child welfare agencies

13% international

46% private agencies & other sources

17% of women who have adopted a child have never been married

Common characteristics

Women

Impaired fertility or infertility (75%)

Age 40-44

Men

Remarried

Have children already

ADOPTED CHILDREN

115,000 children

in public foster care in the U.S.

20,000 American

infants placed for adoption each year

60% of adopted children are over the age of 1

Gender of children adopted

63% female

37% male

INTERNATIONAL ADOPTIONS IN 2011

Ethiopia - 1,732

India - 226

China - 2,587

Bulgaria - 75

South Korea - 736

Taiwan - 205

Thailand - 44



INFOGRAPHIC PROVIDED BY:

www.wacapadoption.com

Sources:
https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/s_seek.pdf
<https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/adopted0708.pdf>
http://adoption.state.gov/about_us/statistics.php



Meet Our Board Members



Bill Pearce

Bill Pearce is the co-director of Adoption Associates of Iowa and is certified as an Iowa Adoptions Investigator. Adopted by his stepfather at the age of 15, Pearce began to support adoption at a young age. He held numerous professional seminars on child development, juvenile justice, family dynamics and adoption issues. Pearce earned his B.A. and M.A. in Sociology at Drake University. He has been married for 56 years and has two children and three grandchildren. Pearce worked in Juvenile Court for 25 years and served as the Iowa Court System unofficial lobbyist. He free-lanced as a writer, investigated contested custody cases, managed a psychiatric clinic and now owns a secular, adoption agency. He is the co-author of *Scruffy Shares a Secret*, an illustrated storybook about young children of alcoholics and the co-author of *Tough-Minded Parenting*. Pearce has an understanding of individuals with problems, families as systems, formal organizations, budgets, policy and law.



Diana Lang Baltimore

As the founder and executive director of The National Center for Adoption, Diana Lang Baltimore hopes to educate others about adoption terminology, the adoption processes and the positive aspects of adoption that can enhance the well-being of children and families. Adopted at birth, Baltimore is in reunion with her birth family members. Her birth father was also adopted. She is a proud mom of two children—Blake and Danielle. Blake is biologically-related to her and she adopted Danielle six months after her birth. Diana earned her B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. from Iowa State University. Her desire to educate others about adoption stems from her experiences as an adoptee, an adoptive parent and an adoption researcher. She interviewed and surveyed numerous individuals who have been involved in the adoption process. The majority of individuals who participated in her research indicated a need to educate others about **adoption as a positive parenting option.**



Meghan Hoyt

Meghan Hoyt is the Customer Relations and Business Operations Manager at EnSoft Corporation. In her prior roles, Hoyt was a project coordinator at EnSoft, a shelter intern at ACCESS Women's Shelter and a respite care provider for Healthy Connections, Inc. She received her B.S in Psychology, Sociology and Women's Studies at Iowa State University. Hoyt was adopted at a very young age. In total, her parents adopted five children and have been foster parents for roughly 30 years. Adoption and foster care have always been the foundation of her family. She considers herself fortunate for having been adopted and advocates for children successfully finding adoptive families. Through her current job, Hoyt is knowledgeable on managing websites, applying for funding and communicating with people from countries all over the world.

Meet Our Board Members



Ryan Genest

Ryan Genest attended Southern Illinois University at Carbondale earning his Bachelor's Degree in Political Science in 1989. He attended Drake Law School in Des Moines, Iowa earning his Law Degree in 1992. He has been in private practice since graduating from law school. Genest practices in domestic relations (including adoption) and criminal law. He is a referral attorney for Catholic Council for Social Concern, Inc. He has represented clients throughout the state, including all of the counties in the central Iowa area. He is a member of the Iowa Trial Lawyers Association and the Iowa and American Bar Associations, Family Law Section.



Melonie Wallace

Melonie became an advocate for adoption after she and her husband started the adoption process. They experienced 3 scams and a birth mom who decided to parent 3 days after her baby's birth. Finally, they became proud parents of 2 daughters through adoption. Melonie feels very blessed to be a mom through adoption, but realized her story caused some to shy away from adoption. Melonie, a co-founder of Adoption Advocates of Iowa, helped pass an Iowa bill making it a fraudulent act to run an adoption scam. She is also co-chair of The Gingerbread Run/Walk. Melonie has networked with thousands throughout her career and enjoys talking to others about adoption. She looks forward to making additional, positive changes.



Erin Kiernan

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 their son, Michael Francis.

Visit Our Website!

www.iowansforAdoption.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!

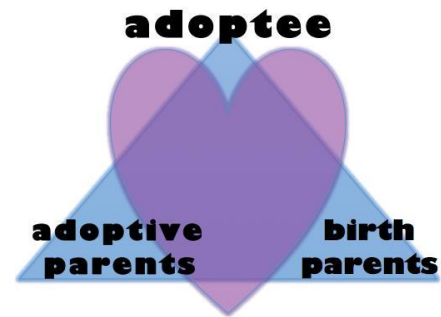


Like us on Facebook!

Please visit Iowans 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 IowansforAdoption.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 Diana Lang Baltimore at Baltimore.diana@gmail.com and we will post it on our website (without your identifying information).