

Dear Prospective Adoptive Parent,

When my husband and I first considered adoption, the process seemed daunting; trying to understand how the different rules for each state worked and selecting an adoption agency was very scary. The majority of our friends who had adopted had chosen to go the international route; the few people we knew that had selected a domestic adoption had endured rather lengthy waits. Not knowing where else to start, I headed to Borders to purchase several books to try to learn all that I could; the more I read, the tougher the process appeared to be. Fortunately, about this time, my sister introduced me to two friends who had used Marcia Barker as a consultant in the adoption process. After talking with one of the friends, she convinced me that Marcia was the only way to go.

When we first met with Marcia at the end of September 2003, Tim and I immediately felt comfortable with her level of knowledge. We also felt like Marcia was someone we could trust to always be up front with us. Initially, she provided great examples of how to pull together our portfolio, and she always responded to us immediately, answering our questions and critiquing our work. In addition, she helped us to really think through the types of situations that we were willing to accept. Her home study contact for North Carolina proved to be a great match for us, and within a month, we were already signed up and receiving possible situations from one of the lawyers. Marcia's dedication to her work never failed to amaze us. I don't know how many nights we would e-mail Marcia after 9:00 with questions about a specific situation, and we'd often hear back from Marcia that night. Marcia was also a great sounding board; when we became frustrated with the process at times, Marcia was always willing to listen and steer us back in the right direction.

With Marcia's help, we signed up with several agencies across the country that seemed to fit with our needs. By February, we had been selected by a birth mom, and on March 27, we were able to take our son home with us from the hospital! It hasn't even been a year since we met Marcia, and our son is already five months old. When we first made the decision to adopt, we never dreamed that we would have a child that quickly. It is scary to think how long the process could have taken had we not been introduced to Marcia.

Marcia Barker has definitely found a niche by which she can make a tremendous difference for couples who choose to adopt. She always completes her work with dedication and with a desire for what is best for the adoptive couple. When we make the decision that it is time to adopt a second child, Marcia will be one of the first to know!

Sincerely,

Suzanne and Tim