Dear Prospective Placing Parents:

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. All embryo adoption costs are covered by the adopting family except for the storage of the embryos during the adoption process.

Included in this package are an overview of the program, our eligibility requirements for adopting families, frequently asked questions (and answers), 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.

Since Nightlight Christian Adoptions first began the Snowflakes Embryo Adoption Program in 1997, we have assisted over 1,000 families in placing their embryos with loving adopting families. Nightlight has been helping families find solutions to difficult dilemmas through our Snowflakes program for nearly 20 years, and we also bring over 50 years of adoption experience to each placement. We carefully screen our adopting families to ensure that your embryos will be going to a family who has been vetted through the process of a home study and with whom you can maintain the level of communication you choose. We have worked with over 300 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 embryos the opportunity at 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 side by side with you during this emotional yet so rewarding journey.

Sincerely,

Daniel Nehrbass, Ph.D.
President

“God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.” (1 John 1:5)
Snowflakes® Embryo Adoption Program
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EMBRYO DONATION: How does it work?

Directed Donation Through Snowflakes for Families With Remaining Embryos

1. Embryo Donor Applies to Agency Program
   - application with medical health history
   - family profile with autobiography and pictures
   - medical records releases
   - evaluation of Fairfax Cryobank embryo storage alternative for donors

2. Agency Coordinates Embryo Donor Screening & Testing
   - FDA risk assessment questionnaire
   - physical evaluation
   - FDA panel of infectious disease tests for reproductive donors

3. Clinic Provides Pertinent Donor Medical Records
   - cryopreservation report
   - freeze/thaw protocol
   - infectious disease test results
   - egg and/or sperm donor profile, if applicable
   - egg donor consent, if applicable

4. Agency Facilitates Matching Process
   - based on donors’ and adopters’ criteria
   - donors have as much or as little involvement as desired

5. Agency Provides Legal Contract
   - allows ownership of the embryos to be transferred from the donors to the adopters
   - signed copy provided to clinic performing frozen embryo transfer

6. Embryo Adopters Have Frozen Embryo Transfer
   - agency coordinates and pays for embryo shipment, if required
   - frozen embryo transfer occurs at the original IVF clinic or the adoptive client’s clinic
   - agency communicates transfer results to donors per their request
PROGRAM OVERVIEW – Snowflakes® Embryo Adoption Program
 Information for Genetic Families

You created your embryos with love, and the hope and dream of a child. You may not have anticipated having remaining embryos and 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 50 years of experience in helping to build families and solve family problems. We were the first licensed agency in the nation to provide the adoption of embryos. 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 appropriately handled.

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 of many different religious and ethnic backgrounds, Nightlight is well equipped to offer viable alternatives to post-infertility patients who must make difficult decisions.

You may choose to be as involved in the selection process as feels comfortable to you -- from designating Snowflakes to choose a family for you to selecting and meeting with the adopting parents prior to the placement. All families presented to you as a potential match will have completed a home study, consisting of adoption education and adoption counseling as well as screening for parenting qualifications. You may establish broad or narrow criteria for the adopting parents and potential matches will be presented to you who closely meet your criteria.

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 can be tailored to meet your and the adoptive family’s needs and desires.

In addition, Nightlight will prepare and present the various agreements between the parties. Responsibility for medical approval of the adopting parents as embryo recipients and the transfer of the embryos rests with the infertility specialists designated by the adoptive parents. Any and all medical fees are the responsibility of the adoptive parents.

Please note: The cooperation of the medical facility working with the adoptive or genetic parents in disseminating information on Snowflakes does not represent an endorsement of the program or the services of Nightlight Christian Adoptions.
DEFINITIONS
To ease the understanding of the roles of the parties, both emotionally and legally, we have adopted the following definitions for the Snowflakes program:

Placing Parents/Genetic Parents: As the family who created the embryos to be placed through the Snowflakes Program, you are the placing or genetic parents. We use these terms interchangeably regardless of whether you used your own genetics or donor egg or donor sperm to create your embryos.

Pre-born Child: At Nightlight, we believe life begins at conception and embryos are pre-born children and treat each case with the same dignity and respect as we would the adoption of an already born child.

Adopting Parents: The adopting parents are the recipients of the frozen embryo(s) and, therefore, will be the child’s “birthparents” by law. A frozen embryo transfer (FET) will only take place after the contracts are completed by both parties and the ownership of the embryos is transferred to the adopting parents. The experienced Nightlight team will actively assist with the legal process. You always have the ability to have independent counsel review the contract language.

Relinquishment: We use the term relinquishment to describe the procedure by which the placing parents terminate their legal rights and responsibilities to the frozen embryo(s). The relinquishment is accomplished prior to the transfer of the frozen embryo into the adopting mother so that there is no later dispute as to the legal roles of the parties.

Genetic Siblings: Many of the genetic parents we work with are concerned about the existence of genetic siblings who will be born into another family through the process of embryo adoption. The ability to establish a relationship and have your desired level of communication with the adoptive family will allow you and your children to maintain the connection with your children’s fully genetically-related siblings while allowing those children to have a link to their biological roots.

ABOUT NIGHTLIGHT
Nightlight Christian Adoptions is a full-service, Hague accredited child placement agency. In 1997 we pioneered the first embryo adoption program offering this unique adoption choice to families. Nightlight programs also include comprehensive International, Foster care, Domestic, and Home Study services. We assist families in all 50 states and currently have licensed offices in California, Colorado, Georgia, South Carolina, Kentucky, and Oklahoma.

Since 1959 more than 2,200 domestic adoptions, 1,800 international adoptions and 800 embryo adoptions have been completed by Nightlight.

Nightlight completes about 50-70 embryo adoptions each year and with ongoing embryo transfers there are always 15-25 babies due at any given time

As a 501(c)(3) non-profit agency, fees paid by adopting parents as well as any fundraising efforts throughout the year cover agency expenses.

How is “embryo adoption” through Nightlight different from “embryo donation” that clinics offer?
Most fertility clinic embryo donation programs are done anonymously. Embryos donated to the clinic are given to patients as determined by the clinic. The donor does not have any opportunity to select a recipient patient. The donor will not
know how many patients receive their embryo donation (often given to multiple patients based on the number of embryos donated). The donor will not know if any children have been born as a result of their donation. Snowflakes provides the same safeguards that the traditional adoption process offers. You can have peace of mind, knowing that the family you have chosen to parent your pre-born child(ren) has been screened for a criminal history and child abuse record, as well as received education about how to parent an adoptee. You can be confident knowing you have handpicked a family to raise your genetic child. You may alternatively select to delegate the responsibility to Nightlight to choose a family on your behalf. You also have the opportunity to have contact with your adopting family to whatever extent you both are comfortable. Our program recognizes the importance of counseling all parties involved. Most importantly, at Nightlight we recognize the personhood of embryos and we treat them with appropriate respect.

**Does Nightlight store embryos?**
While we do not store embryos, during the adoption process, your embryos may either stay at their current storage facility or you may move them to the Nightlight partner storage facility, Fairfax Cryobank. We understand that storing embryos can be expensive, and you may be concerned about the costs of continuing to store your embryos while you are waiting for the right family to receive them. We know it is a difficult decision to gift your embryos to another family, we also know it is the only option available to you which will give your remaining embryos an opportunity to be born. With this in mind, the Snowflakes program offers to store your embryos at no cost for up to 12 months while you are in the process of being matched with a family. You are responsible to pay $150.00 to have your embryos shipped to Fairfax. Please talk with our Inquiry Specialist to learn more about this special storage program.

**Approximately how long does it take for our embryos to be matched and to get to the shipping phase?**
About 8-12 months.

- Application paperwork usually takes 1-4 months to complete and submit.
- Matching usually takes 1-4 months depending on adopting families currently in the program, what your criteria are for adopting parents, and your background. Fewer criteria open the door for more potential matches!
- Clinic approval usually takes about 1-2 months.
- Legal document notarization and embryo travel coordination usually takes between 2-3 months.
- In total, placement of your embryos will probably occur 8-12 months after you submit your application.

**PROGRAM FEES**
There are never any fees for families choosing to place their embryos through Snowflakes. 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 a storage program available through our partner, Fairfax Cryobank. You will pay $150.00 to ship your embryos to Fairfax and Nightlight will pay the first year of storage while you are selecting a family for your match. Please speak with the Snowflakes Inquiry Specialist for more details.

**Are any of our costs reimbursed for our infertility treatment or storage fees?**
Your embryo donation is a gift of life to the adopting family. The adopting family is responsible for the costs associated with embryo adoption. There are no fees for Snowflake placing families. The expenses incurred by the genetic family for IVF and subsequent storage are the responsibility of the genetic family.
CAN WE PLACE OUR EMBRYOS THOUGH SNOWFLAKES?

We are not Christians; will you still work with us to find a family for our embryos?
The “Christian” in our name explains who we are; it does not necessarily describe our clients. We work with families from all spiritual or no spiritual backgrounds. We need all types of placing families to meet the criteria of various adopting parents.

Our embryos have been frozen for a long time. Does this impact our ability to place them for adoption?
We believe each embryo is a human life that should be given 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 successful pregnancies with embryos frozen for more than 15 years.

Will Snowflakes work with us if we have only one or two frozen embryos?
Yes! Every embryo is a life that deserves a chance.

If we used Donor Egg or Sperm in the creation of our embryos, can we place them through Snowflakes?
Yes, Nightlight will help you through the process of getting the required documentation to place your embryos. 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.

The documentation that is needed is as follows: the donor profile, egg donor consent and donor infectious disease screening results. We will provide a copy of the donor profile to the adopting family along with the family health history that you provide. We 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 results are part of the FDA requirements in order for the adopting family’s clinic to accept the embryos into their facility.

How soon after giving birth to our youngest child may we place our embryos?
We ask that families wait until their youngest child has been in the home for at least one year before placing their remaining embryos. We believe families need time to bond with each child and adequately process the intellectual and emotional facts of embryo donation.

Does Snowflakes handle out-of-state embryo adoptions?
Yes. We work with placing and adopting families living in any state and even internationally.

Can you work with us if we live in, or our embryos are stored in, another country?
This is handled on a case-by-case basis. We have worked with genetic families living in countries such as Canada, Australia, England and China; however, the embryos must eventually be stored in a facility in the U.S. in order to proceed with the matching phase of the donation process. We encourage you to contact our office and speak to someone in the Snowflakes Program to discuss your specific situation.

SPECIAL SITUATIONS

We are just beginning IVF – if we have remaining embryos, will you work with us?
Yes. Choosing donation for any remaining embryos you may have before starting IVF is an excellent decision on your part! Please contact our office to discuss the medical testing procedures you will want to complete now in order to eliminate any future testing procedures when you are ready to place.
Our clinic wants to know exactly what we would want done with our frozen embryos if we were to die before we were able to transfer all of our embryos. Can we indicate that we want our embryos to go to Nightlight, ONLY in the case of our deaths?

It’s great that you are thinking about contingency plans for remaining embryos in the case of your death(s) or even divorce. We would like you to complete the Snowflakes application which will be kept on file in our database. In addition, you will also need to incorporate your wishes into your Will so that the executor can make sure your wishes are fulfilled. It is also necessary to notify your clinic and have subsequent infectious disease tests performed as well as sign any documents they require to release your embryos to our agency. Please contact our office for additional information.

THE MATCHING PHASE – LET’S MAKE A MATCH!

During the application and matching process, you will provide Nightlight with information about yourselves and indicate the characteristics that are important to you in a family. You will indicate your preferences for the adopting family regarding factors such as age, religion, ethnicity, and financial stability, as well as your preferred level of future contact. Our adopting families will also provide information about themselves and share characteristics in the match that are important to them. When we have an adopting family on file that matches your criteria, their family profile is sent to you for consideration. Some families may decide that it is more comfortable to allow Nightlight to select a family on their behalf, but you may be as involved in the selection process as you would like.

If the adopting family is accepted by you, then your family profile and medical health history is sent to them for consideration. We encourage you to write a personalized brief note, which can be anonymous or just shares your first names, letting the potential adopting family know about your selection of them as a potential match for your embryos. This is for us to include with your family profile. If the adopting family also feels that it is a great match, then you have been matched and will enter the contracts phase.

Do we have to have an open relationship with the adopting family?

As the family placing the embryos, you get to choose the level of communication with the adopting family that feels most comfortable to you. Nightlight does encourage some mechanism of communication between you and the adopting family so that information about the child’s genetic roots are available to her, and as she grows up, she has the opportunity to know about her origins and important family medical information. This may mean that you simply provide the adopting family with your family profile and medical information and they in turn provide you with a family profile, allowing you to determine if their family feels like a good match. Any contact between the families and/or children (including no contact, agency mediated, or direct contact) is arranged by mutual agreement.

As you explore your thoughts on communication with the adopting family and the children born from this adoption, our Snowflakes Staff is available to answer any questions or discuss concerns you may have. You may also choose to be connected with families who have placed embryos and are willing to talk with other families about their experiences.

What if we would prefer an alternate arrangement? Would you still be able to help us place our embryos for adoption?

We will do our best to accommodate your wishes. We would still need you to provide our office with all the necessary paperwork to place your embryos for adoption.
**What if we decide against placing our embryos for adoption?**
The Snowflakes team will be helping you understand all of the ramifications of donation in order to help you make the decision that is right for you. You are able to withdraw from the program, but we ask that you make this decision before we match you with an adopting family.

Once you are matched you will sign a relinquishment which transfers your ownership rights of the embryos to the adoptive parents before the embryos travel to the clinic for the transfer. You have three business days from the date you sign the relinquishment in which to notify Snowflakes that you no longer wish to place your embryos.

**How many of our embryos will the adoptive family be matched with in total?**
The Snowflakes program with match you with one adopting family who will receive all of the embryos you have available to place.

**Can the adoptive family specify the gender of their adopted embryo(s)?**
Snowflakes is absolutely committed to ensuring that each embryo has an opportunity for life. The program does not allow for an adoptive family to do Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis (PGD) testing on the embryos. However, if your family did complete PGD testing for the embryos, this will not prevent you from placing your embryos through Snowflakes.

**WHO IS THE ADOPTING FAMILY?**
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 also have families who simply want to adopt and are attracted to embryo adoption. Whether your wish for your embryos is to be the first child or to be born to a family with loving siblings waiting, the choice is yours.

**What are the basic requirements for an adopting family?**
The agency requires that the adopting family must have completed a home study or family evaluation. The home study is used to evaluate and educate adopting parents choosing adoption. 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?**
The mandatory home study that adopting families must complete is required by the state for all adoptions and is an evaluation and education tool to help us determine the adoptive family’s preparedness to parent through adoption. There are three parts to the home study including: **paperwork** (fingerprinting, criminal background checks, references, medical evaluations, etc.); **education** (through the social worker, CPR/First Aid classes, adoption classes, books, etc.) and **interviews with a social worker**. The most important component is the educational portion as families explore their attitudes, plans and feelings regarding adoption and how they will explain their child’s unique conception and birth.
ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR ADOPTING PARENTS

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.

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.

COMMITMENT TO THE EMBRYOS: 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.

RELIGION: Adopting parents must be committed to providing their child with a constructive, wholesome and spiritual home environment.

HEALTH AND 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 45 to complete a recommendation form by the doctor who will be performing her frozen embryo transfer.

MARRIAGE: Adopting applicants are strongly encouraged to have been married a minimum of three years when the matching phase begins and must have a satisfying and secure marriage. Single women are eligible to apply for the program, but as the genetic parent you determine if you feel comfortable placing with a single woman.

EDUCATION: Adopting parents will complete a home study meeting the legal 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.

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.

POST-ADOPTION UPDATES: As part of Nightlight’s ongoing commitment to our adopting families, adopting parents are required to provide letters and pictures concerning the child’s well-being to us annually after the adoption is complete. This information is separate from communications the adopting family may maintain with you.

ADOPTION OF OTHER CHILDREN: Adopting parents are not permitted to be involved in more than one adoption program at a time and their 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.
COORDINATING THE LEGAL ASPECTS

Once you are matched with an adopting family, 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. All legal aspects of the embryo adoption are managed by Snowflakes, but you may obtain independent legal counsel to review the process and legal documents, if you desire.

What legal processes are followed with embryo adoption?
The adoption agreement and relinquishment forms are legal contracts between the two families. Currently, applicable law is property law, not adoption law. Snowflakes has created the contract to match the current position of the courts that the embryos are property. The contract covers the transfer of property and also includes additional adoption language. 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 the adoptive mother gives birth, her name and her husband’s name will be listed on the birth certificate as the mother and father. If the adoptive family has chosen to use a gestational carrier or surrogate, then their assisted reproductive technologies attorney will assist them in completing any additional legal requirements to ensure they are recognized as the child’s parents.

SHIPMENT OF THE EMBRYOS

Snowflakes will coordinate with your clinic and the adoptive family’s clinic to schedule the transportation of the embryos. Embryos are shipped to the adopting family’s clinic after the execution of the contract. The Snowflakes team will make sure that all the requirements of the clinic, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and of the state into which they are being transferred have been met. Alternatively, the adoptive parents may choose to travel to the clinic where your embryos are currently stored. Once the embryos have been relinquished to the adoptive family, they will assume responsibility for the embryos storage fees.

Do we ship the embryos to your facility?
While you complete the adoption process, your embryos may either stay at their current storage facility or you may move them to the Nightlight partner storage facility, Fairfax Cryobank. The cost to you is $150.00 for embryo shipment and Nightlight will pay the first 12 months of storage while you are selecting a family. Embryos may be shipped to Fairfax as soon as one week after receipt of all completed and required paperwork from you and your clinic. Snowflakes will coordinate with Fairfax to ship your embryos to the adopting family’s clinic at the appropriate time.

How are the embryos shipped?
The embryos will be shipped via Federal Express Priority Overnight in a dry shipper. A dry shipper is a tank cooled with liquid Nitrogen to -320 degrees Fahrenheit which keeps the embryos safe while traveling.

Are there any states that place restrictions on the shipping of embryos?
Yes. New York does not allow embryos to be shipped into the state; this is due to their strict human tissue laws. If your embryos are stored in NY, we are able to ship them to a clinic in any other state for the adoptive family.
THE ADOPTIVE FAMILY’S FROZEN EMBRYO TRANSFER (FET)

When transfer day arrives for the adoptive family, this can be a big day for you too. 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 desire to only know if a baby is born as a result of the transfer. You will be determining how to handle these issues during contract negotiations.

*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.

*If an adoptive family becomes pregnant with multiples, may they selectively reduce the pregnancy?*

We value the life of each of your embryos and specifically require 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.

*Will we be notified of the outcome of our adoptive family’s transfer attempts?*

Yes. Unless you have indicated to our office otherwise, we will contact you to tell you the outcome of the adoptive family’s embryo transfer as soon as we have information for you.

PREGNANCY AND POST-BIRTH

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 pregnancy is achieved 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.

*What kind of contact will we have with the adoptive family after the child(ren) are born?*

You may choose to correspond through the agency or directly to each other. During your pre-matching consultation with the Genetic Parent Coordinator you will indicate what type of contact arrangement you would like with the adoptive family and we will match you accordingly. 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.

*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 affirmative action on your part. 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. If the adopting family chooses not to use all of the embryos, you will be given the option of placing the embryos with a subsequent adoptive family of your choice. The adopting family is responsible for the embryo storage fees until the embryos are re-matched with a new adopting family.

**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.

**How does Nightlight ensure adoptive families are doing well after the birth of the child(ren)?**
We require that adoptive families complete one post adoption 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) three additional times during the first year and once a year thereafter for the first five years. 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.

**HOW DO WE GET STARTED?**
*We are ready to move forward. What do we do to get started?*
When you feel confident that this is the right decision for your remaining embryos, please contact the Snowflakes team at 714-693-5437 and we will provide you with access to our online application. If there is anything we can do to help as you’re trying to make this decision, please contact us as well. It is our desire to support you as you’re considering what lies ahead for your embryos.

**What happens after we complete the application?**
1. **Pre-Matching Consultation** – Once we receive all your application materials including your embryology records we request from your clinic, our Genetic Parent Coordinator will contact you to discuss the criteria you have for the prospective adopting family as well as any desired future contact.
2. **Matching Phase** – 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 the embryos, we have a match!
3. **Clinic Approval (and possible blood testing)**—If your embryos will be sent to the adopting parents’ clinic, the doctor reviews your embryology report, infectious disease test results, FDA risk assessment questionnaire, and physical evaluation and informs us if additional information or lab work is needed before the embryos can be accepted into their facility. If necessary, we will provide you with a lab order to do additional blood testing. Snowflakes pays for FDA required testing.
4. **Contract Phase** – You will receive an Embryo Adoption Agreement to be signed and notarized designating the placement of your embryos with the family you have selected.
5. **Fill out an embryo release form** to allow your clinic to release your embryos for travel.
6. **Transport of your embryos is scheduled by Nightlight OR Adoptive Parents make plans to travel to embryos.**
7. **Post-Adoption** - In accordance with your wishes, we will contact you with information regarding the outcome of the frozen embryo transfer and/or birth and development of the child(ren).
**What are the current requirements for blood testing?**

Snowflakes follows FDA requirements for embryo donation. Anonymous egg and sperm donors would not be required to have updated testing because they were already screened as an anonymous donor and are therefore already considered “eligible donors.” You were likely screened as a “sexually intimate partner” and therefore did not have all the required tests of a donor. We will arrange for the testing and provide the lab order and sample collection kit.

The current FDA required blood tests include:

1. HIV 1 and 2
2. HTLV I/II
3. Hepatitis B surface antigen
4. Hepatitis B Core Antibody (IgG/IgM)
5. Hepatitis C Antibody
6. RPR (Syphilis)
7. CMV IgG/IgM
8. HIV/HCV/HBV NAT
9. Gonorrhea/Chlamydia culture
10. Blood typing
11. Rh factor

**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.

**How long after we let you know that we want to place our embryos through your agency will we be matched with an adopting family?**

Generally, it takes between 8 to 12 months from when you apply and when the embryos are matched, contracts are coordinated and the embryos are ready for the travel stage. You must have all your application paperwork turned in before we can seek a match.

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

After a match is found, generally 2-4 months of clinic approval, contract signing, and shipping coordination are required before the embryos can travel.

If you need your embryos moved from your clinic based on cost, Snowflakes has partnered with Fairfax Cryobank to provide embryo storage for your embryos while you complete the adoption process. Embryos may be shipped to Fairfax as soon as one week after receipt of all completed and required paperwork from you and your clinic. Please contact the Snowflakes Inquiry Specialist for more information.

**Is there a way for us to expedite the adoption process?**

Yes. You could choose to have the agency select the family who will adopt your embryos for you; however, you would still need to complete all the application paperwork and the pre-matching interview. You can also significantly speed up the process by completing all your paperwork in a timely manner and keeping your matching preferences open.