



Families in Crisis Fund

Family Futures 'Families in Crisis Fund' was set up in order to help two specific groups of families.

- The typical contemporary adoptive family, who will have adopted a child who could be 3, 4 or 5 at the time of adoption. The child would have spent the critical early years of their infancy in a dysfunctional birth family. There is now a consensus amongst leading clinicians in the UK and the USA that infants removed from their birth families and placed in public care will inevitably suffer some degree of what is now called Developmental Trauma. Every aspect of the child's development would have been negatively impacted by neglect, abuse and multiple placements. It is now recognised that for adoptive parents to enable their children to reach their true potential post-placement and post-adoption, multi-disciplinary assessment and treatment programmes are vital. Sadly, such programmes are not universally available and as a consequence, many contemporary adopters find themselves reaching the point of desperation. Our 'Families in Crisis Fund' was set up to enable Family Futures to provide an immediate response and a comprehensive assessment so that families can make the case for the sort of help they need.
- There is now another group of young people and adoptive parents who have been approaching Family Futures for help in a crisis. The crisis for this group of families is generated when contact is established with a birth family member on Facebook, or some other social networking site. Contact may have been initiated by the adoptive person, or by the birth family member. Once the contact becomes public, it can cause a high degree of turmoil, confusion and uncertainty about the future. Equally, if the young person is struggling to deal alone and in secret with the contact they have made, their behaviour may become disordered as an expression of their distress: the adults around them will not know what is creating the problems. In order for a negative spiral of emotions and actions to be pre-empted or curtailed promptly, a swift, informed and sympathetic professional intervention is required in order to stabilise the situation.



Many families who have approached Family Futures for help in this situation have not found this response forthcoming from statutory services.

For both these groups of families who find themselves in crisis, Family Futures has now set up a fund which will enable us as an agency to provide a short-term but immediate intervention, pending a more long-term programme of support and therapeutic help being provided by statutory services. For adoption to remain a viable option for children into the future, it is essential that post-adoption services are available to all families. Family Futures have set up our fund in order to enable families to get the help that they need, and to ensure children receive the full benefits of adoption.

If you would like to make a donation, please send a cheque made payable to **Family Futures Consortium**, to:

Family Futures
3 & 4 Floral Place
7-9 Northampton Grove
London
N1 2PL.

Alternatively, you can make a payment by bank account transfer or set up a standing order to make regular payments. The account details are:

Account Name: - Families in Crisis Fund
Bank Name: - Lloyds TSB
Account number: - 23429560
Sort code: - 30-94-57

If you would like to discuss whether family futures can provide this service to you or your family, please email contact@familyfutures.co.uk or call 020 7354 4161.