



Advocates for Children and Families

Serving Children and Families since 1992

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Better Together: Adoption Authority and ACF Adoptions Merger; Advocates for Children and Families Setting New Standards

North Miami Beach, Fla. (December 3, 2021) – For 14 and 29 years respectively, Adoption Authority and ACF Adoptions have been providing ethical programs and services to support the well-being of children, women, and families. As of January 2022, these two successful non-profits are joining together to help even more individuals and families thrive.

The newly merged organization will operate under the name of **Advocates for Children and Families (ACF)**. The name reflects the organization's philosophy of putting children first. Helping to establish and support stable, healthy families is vital to ACF's mission.

As these two work families join, they resolve to provide services that improve outcomes for individuals, families, and communities. This collaboration renews and strengthens their combined commitment to offer high-quality, comprehensive services, through **ACF Adoptions, ACF Community, and ACF Counseling**.

"This is our life's work," says Attorney and ACF Executive Director Rob Lamarche, himself an adoptive father of three. "Many of us at ACF have personal experiences with adoption. Our combined staff has been in the field for decades and is wholly committed to helping children, families, and communities. While we strive to expand our services as a private agency, we will actively seek partnerships with public agencies to support them in meeting the needs of children in their care. I adopted my children through foster care. Adoption is not only my job; it is my heart."

ACF will offer increased scale and reach, greater technological capabilities, new partnerships, in-house legal counsel, and additional on-staff social workers. Expanded areas of expertise include fundraising, development, foster care, special needs adoptions, clinical counseling, post adoption services, and home studies. ACF will be able to better address critical issues such as the vulnerability of those in crisis; the need for trauma-informed practices; and generational cycles of abuse, neglect, poverty, and trauma. The result? An accountable, ethical agency able to expand services, participate in legislative advocacy, offer increased support and build even more thriving families.

"Together we can accomplish so much more than we ever could apart" says Hillary Berger, Adoption Authority's outgoing Executive Director and ACF's new Director of Development. "It has been an honor to lead a team of passionate professionals who fiercely advocate for the ethical treatment of vulnerable individuals for the last 7 years. It is hard to describe how incredible it is to know the work we started at Adoption Authority will be amplified through this merger."

As Adoption Authority and ACF join forces, the impact of two deeply committed organizations will be magnified, setting new industry standards that will promote stability for children, families, and communities.

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