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## Genie Miller Gillespie

In 1993, I helped my first family join together through the process of adoption. It was a joyful and life-affirming experience. I decided then that this was what I wanted to do with my life. For more than 25 years, I have been helping children and parents build and grow their families through adoptions of all types: agency adoption, international adoption, interstate adoption, relative adoption, co-parent adoption, step-parent adoption, and foster parent adoption.

My law practice is exclusively devoted to adoption and the legal issues concerning the safety and security of children. I've helped over one-thousand couples and individuals realize their dreams of parenthood. Whether you are hoping to adopt for the first time, or you want to bring a sibling home to join your other children, my law office can assist you.

I typically work with prospective parents who have already identified a child that they want to adopt, but I am happy to work with you at any stage of the process. The child may be a waiting child here in the U.S., or a child from overseas who has been brought home but needs final paperwork completed. It may be a child in the juvenile or foster care system. It may be a baby, a small child, or an older child who has already experienced a great deal of turmoil in his or her life.

Wherever you and your child are on your journey to becoming a family, I can help. In order to serve adoptive parents and families better, I am extensively involved in the local and national adoption communities. I was honored to be named a 2016 Angel in Adoption by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute in Washington, DC. I am a Board Member and Fellow of the Academy of Adoption and Assisted Reproduction Attorneys. I am also a two-time past chair of the Chicago Bar Association Adoption Law Committee.

I was the co-founder of the Center for Law and Social Work, a nonprofit agency that develops viable back-up plans for older or ill adoptive parents. I am the former Director of the Child Custody and Adoption Pro Bono Project of the American Bar Association and I have trained hundreds of attorneys to properly handle pro bono adoption and guardianship cases. I currently serve as the Board President for the Family Formation Charitable Trust, which provides financial assistance to prospective adoptive parents, and am also a board member of the I Am Who I Am Foundation, which helps children with special needs.

Even when your adoption is complete, I am here for you. No parent wants to give up, and neither do I. I never turn away from my clients in their time of need. I am a trained mediator and I use this and other skills to help families address the challenges they face to avoid adoption disruption. I understand the stresses the system imposes or worsens.

I also help families with long-term planning for the care of their child and can advise you on standby adoption, standby guardianship, and other options available to parents in Illinois.

I invite you to contact my law office for a free initial consultation. Learn how I can help you and your child unite for a bright future. My fees are reasonable, and I offer payment plans and a sliding fee scale. My office is centrally located in downtown Chicago, in the Loop, near all public transportation.