

A Little About Adoption

Types of Adoption

- Domestic adoption - adopting a child from the same country
- International adoption - a child is adopted from another country
- Birthparent adoption - the birthparent/s (parents who intend to choose adoption for their biological child) are matched with a family who intends to adopt. Many times, the birthparent/s works with the adoption agency to choose a family for her child.
- Foster -Adopt - a child who is in foster care is adopted. A child is first in a foster family. After the birthparents' parental rights have been terminated, the child is adopted into their forever family.
- Independent adoption - usually refers to adopting through a lawyer, physician, or other facilitator rather than through an agency
- Private adoption - adopting through a licensed private adoption agency
- Public adoption - adopting through the state's public agency

The Adoption Process

While adoption typically follows the process below, there are additional steps and requirements depending on the type of adoption a family chooses and the laws of the state and/or country.

1. The family chooses a type of adoption and selects the agency, lawyer, etc.
2. The family completes a homestudy. This requires a lot of paperwork and multiple visits with a social worker. The family often takes adoption specific and parenting classes. The family prepares for an addition to their family and gets their home ready for another child.
3. Parents and child are matched and meet. If the child is not born, the birthmother may meet the adoptive family if she chooses.
4. Placement is when the child goes to live with their new family. The parents usually obtain "guardianship" of the child through more paperwork which is signed by a judge. They have certain legal responsibilities and rights and take the child home. Some families call this "Gotcha Day."
5. A social worker visits the family to complete a "post-placement visit."
6. Finalization is when the child becomes a legal part of the family. The family goes to court and stands before a judge. This day is often celebrated as the child's "Adoption Day." The family receives an adoption certificate and a new birth certificate.