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Hayleigh is a future photographer who loves drawing and Almond Joys. Hannah enjoys country music, nature, and chicken nuggets. View profile

Becoming a parent can take many paths. Pursuing adoption is a wonderful way to build a family, and we're here to guide you through your journey to adopting a child. You can call 1-800-ADOPTION at any time. As a national adoption agency, we know the work it takes for potential adoptive families to pursue child adoption and become parents, but we also know the joy that can come from it. Our founder, Scott Mars, was adopted as a child, and has a personal connection to adoption, as do many of our staff members, which means you can get personal attention from professionals who have been in your shoes. Like most families considering adopting a child, you probably have a lot of questions. We will begin to answer them below. If you're a birth mother reading this and considering placing your child for adoption, you can find out complete guide here. This process will look different depending on the type of adoption you choose. Here is what it will look like when you adopt a child through American Adoptions.

Step 1: Make Sure Adoption is Right for You

Adoption can turn your dream of a family into a reality. It's OK — recommended, even — to take your time making this choice. Adopting a child will change your life. If you know that adopting a child is the next chapter of your family's story, then you are ready for step two.

Step 2: Choose the Type of Adoption

As we said above, there are several types of adoption. When adopting a child, you have to know for certain which type you want to pursue before going any further. If your dream is to adopt a newborn, then domestic infant adoption with American Adoptions is right for you.

Step 3: Choose the Adoption Agency

You're almost there! This is the last big decision before you officially begin the process of adopting a child. There are several types of adoption agencies, and we recommend considering all of your options. American Adoptions is a full-service, fully-licensed domestic adoption agency. Being full-service means that we can meet your need at every step when you are going through the process to adopt a child. Fully-licensed lets you know that we are held to the highest standards of professional and ethical accountability. You can be confident your adoption will be done the right way, and we can offer you financial protection. We've helped thousands of families begin through adoption. We'd love to be your adoption agency.

Step 4: Become an Active Family

Now that you've made all these big choices, you're ready to become an active family. When you adopt a child through American Adoptions, you'll have personal guidance from your adoption specialist throughout the whole journey. Don't worry about being an adoption expert — that's what we're here for. To get things going, you'll fill out an Adoption Planning Questionnaire (APQ), which is essentially a document that gives you an opportunity to define how you'd like this process to go. The more open you can be, the more likely you will find a quick adoption opportunity. Next, you will need to complete your home study for adoption. We offer home study services in most of the states we work in. However, if we don't have in-house home study services in your location, you can use 1800homestudy.com or speak to your adoption specialist about finding a service provider in your area. While this is happening, you can also put together your adoption profile. Our media team helps you put the best version of yourself forward to prospective birth mothers through print and video profiles.

Step 5: Be Selected by a Prospective Birth Mother

Once your APQ, home study and adoptive family profile are complete, you will be an "active family," which means your profile will be shown to prospective birth mothers. Now comes one of the most difficult steps to adopting a child: the wait. We know you've waited a long time to start your family already. You deserve to hear those words "mom" or "dad" as soon as possible. You can have the shortest wait time with our agency because we put your family profile in front of more prospective birth parents. In fact, you'd need to join more than 25 other adoption professionals at the same time to have the same exposure for your profile (here's how much that would cost). Too often, families choose other adoption professionals who quote unrealistic wait times. In fact, we encourage you to read this comparison between adoption agencies and consultants so that you avoid falling into any traps from professionals who promise false wait times. Even with a shortened waiting period, it can be hard. But it's so worth it when you get the call saying that you have been chosen to adopt a child.

Step 6: Pre-Placement Contact and Adoption Placement

Once a prospective birth mother has chosen you to adopt a child, you will usually have the opportunity to get to know her through pre-placement contact, depending on the level of openness in your adoption. There's a lot more to learn about this, but what you need to know now is that 90% of domestic infant adoptions are at least semi-open. This is a good thing, as it helps prospective birth mothers feel confident in their choice of adoptive parents and can become a beautiful relationship. Then, when the time comes, you'll get another amazing phone call: Baby is on the way. You'll travel to the hospital where, after official consent to the adoption is given, your child will be placed with you. Adopting a child is a long journey, and you need to savor this moment. It's the manifestation of a dream, and it's truly amazing.

Step 7: Post-placement and the Life Ahead

There are a few steps left to finalize the adoption. For many families, the process of waiting for ICPC can be difficult, but going with the flow and trusting your adoption professional makes a difference. Your adoption specialist will make sure everything goes smoothly post-placement. In a way, that's the end of the adoption process. But it's only the beginning of the adoption journey. You're parents now! That comes with all of the joys — first steps, first words, endless moments of laughter — and challenges — sleepless nights, dirty diapers, arguments — of parenthood. You'll also, depending on your communication plan, have the chance to stay in contact with the birth mother as your child grows and thrives. More information on Adopting a Child

We know that's a lot of information to take in. Adopting a child can be a challenging process, but it's also an incredible opportunity. Most things worth doing aren't easy, and that's most certainly true when you want to adopt a child. We can tell you this: in the end, it will always be worth it. To learn more about adopting a child, you can contact us at 1-800-ADOPTION. Prospective birth mothers, remember to complete this form to speak with one of our professionals about placing a child through adoption. We know you have questions and our experienced staff can give you the answers you need to begin the life-changing journey of adoption today.

Disclaimer

Information available through these links is the sole property of the companies and organizations listed therein. American Adoptions provides this information as a courtesy and is in no way responsible for its content or accuracy. For over 25 years, Angel Adoption has helped birthmothers and prospective parents navigate domestic infant adoption with compassion, care, trust, and accessibility. Founded by two adoptive mothers, Angel Adoption is a small company dedicated to providing a personalized level of service and support. Our staff is extremely knowledgeable about the U.S. infant adoption process, and we can offer incomparable assistance in helping to connect adoptive parents with birthmothers. Learn more about the different types of adoption.

Get Started on Your Adoption Journey

If you're hoping to adopt a baby, our caring and passionate team can help you! We will personally guide you through the adoption process. Our expert marketing and advertising services are designed to ensure you have the best possible chances for a successful infant adoption. Our team will design a custom adoptive family profile for you as well as an adoption profile on our website. Your profile will then be accessible to birthmothers in our Family Finder tool. In addition, our marketing and advertising strategies, network of professional partnerships, and extensive outreach will get you unparalleled exposure to birth parents who are considering placing their infant for adoption. Every step of the way, our staff at Angel Adoption Agency will help you navigate your domestic infant adoption journey. Ready to get started? Start Your Adoption Journey!

24/7 Availability for Birthmothers

If you are currently pregnant and considering adoption, Angel Adoption is here for you! We are committed to providing a safe space to explore domestic adoption at your own pace, without any pressure or judgment. As a potential birthmother, our adoption services are always 100% free and confidential to you. Find an adoptive family for your baby and decide how much communication you'd like to have with them. Because we take great care in working toward the best outcomes for birthmothers and adoptive families, all of our adoptive parents have been pre-screened and legally approved for infant adoption. Each family is ready to provide your baby with a stable and loving home and every opportunity for a happy, fulfilling life. Our careful and empathetic process is what makes us stand out from other adoption agencies and service providers, and it's helped us unite thousands of families through successful domestic adoptions. Our caring and dedicated adoption coordinators are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to speak with you in whatever way you are most comfortable. Whether by phone, text, live chat, or email, they will answer your questions, discuss your options, and help you make the decision that is best for you and your baby.

The Adoption Process for Birthmothers

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View profiles of parents & families ready to adopt. Whether you're an adoptee searching for your birth family or a birth parent hoping to reconnect, we're here to guide you on this emotional and life-changing journey. "After 25 years apart, I finally found my birth mother. This journey changed my life forever"

Understanding how to adopt a child from the foster care system is critical when considering this way of building a family. The process is thorough, but the following ten steps should give you a sense of what to expect. And, of course, reach out to our office for additional support!

1. LEARN about Adoption

Being here on our website is a good first step. Read through all of the information available below and the other drop-downs in the "About Adoption" section. Foster systems are managed by state governments, so you can start by searching on your state's main website or googling "foster system" and your state. This site will have links to various agencies that support adoption through the foster system in your state. While on these sites, keep an eye out for information that clarifies the difference between fostering a youth and adopting a youth. Beyond learning about the logistics of adopting from the foster system, you should become familiar with adoption in general. There are many ways to do this, including:

Read books about adoption

Attend an adoptive parents' support group or conference

Find social media groups

Ask friends and family who have built their family through adoption

2. SELECT an Agency

You must work with an adoption agency licensed in the state where you live. Contact several agencies to ask about the type of adoptions they offer, their fee structure, financial assistance (if needed) to help with the fees, how they assess and prepare families, and potential timelines. Get references: speak with other parents who have used the agency. Make sure the agency is licensed by your state to provide adoption services.

3. COMPLETE a Homestudy

A homestudy is a series of meetings between you and an adoption agency social worker. Think of it as an ongoing conversation that is part of the adoption process and prepares you for parenting. The social worker who prepares your homestudy will need to ask you for certain documents such as birth certificates, marriage license, child abuse clearances, and personal references before finalizing the report. At least one meeting will be at your home. All individuals who live in your home will need to attend. The social worker is not there to do a "white glove" inspection of your home, but is there to ensure that you and your family are prepared to support a child or youth. Your social worker can also answer questions for you and point you in the direction of further resources to support you as you move along on your journey. In addition to meetings and paperwork, each state has different education or training requirements. The agency will provide details.

4. SEARCH for a Child

Once your homestudy is complete, you may begin the search for a child, teenager, or sibling group. Your agency may have children in its care or your social worker may network with other child placing agencies. You can also be active in the search. For example, you may view our waiting children, and explore other exchanges' or agencies' listings of children.

5. EXCHANGE Information with Child's Agency

When you locate a child who seems like a match for all parties involved, your social worker and the child's social worker exchange information. Your homestudy is shared. If the child's social worker is interested in your family, you may then receive the child's profile. This step of the process may take some time and calls for both patience and persistence.

6. LEARN that You Have Been Selected for a Child

You and several other families may be considered at the same time. Each state is different with their family selection process. In most states, the child's adoption team makes the final decision on which family can best meet the child's needs. When you are selected, more confidential information is shared, so that you can be sure this is the child for you. If the child's parental rights are not legally terminated, it will be done at this time.

7. MEET and VISIT with the Child

The first meeting with the child is followed by several visits over a few weeks or months. If the child lives in another state, the child's agency will work with you to arrange for at least one or two visits. You will fill out various forms, such as the Interstate Compact or adoption assistance agreement, during this period.

8. RECEIVE a Placement

The placement date is when the child comes to live in your home. Your agency will visit and work with you for several months in post-placement supervision. During this time, you file a legal intent-to-adopt petition. Your agency and social worker will provide suggestions for supporting the child, and all members of your family, during this time.

9. FINALIZE Your Adoption

Your child or teenager becomes a legal part of your family when you attend a court session in which a judge finalizes your adoption. Some sessions are currently over Zoom. You will receive an amended birth certificate that names you as parents and a certificate of adoption after the court session.

10. SUPPORT Your Child

Adoption doesn't end after finalization. You will continue to learn about adoptive parenting, which will be different for each family. Talk with your child and others about adoption, find support and services for your child's needs, and connect with other adoptive parents. And, when you are ready, consider adopting again.

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