

Different Types of Adoption Processes

Child Characteristics

Private Domestic Infant Adoption	Generally, an infant when placed
Foster Care Adoption	Varies widely Average age of a child placed through foster care is 6.5 years. Many children placed through foster care have diagnosed special needs, which are then tied to subsidy assistance Sibling group adoption is common
Kinship Adoption	In this situation, the child is a biological family member (often grandchild, niece/nephew etc.)
Intercountry Adoption	Varies widely, but rare to adopt a young child internationally, under two years often not possible due to timeline Generally, children have a diagnosed special need, common special needs vary by country program



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[Adoption of Children with Special Needs- NCFA Webinar](#)

[Adoption Advocate 131: The Role of Pre-Placement Medical Review in Contemporary Adoptions- Dr. Dana Johnson](#)

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Potential Prenatal and Childhood Experiences

Private Domestic Infant Adoption

Varies widely, but adoptive parents should be prepared for:

- potential in-utero substance or alcohol exposure
- pre-natal trauma
- loss of main attachment figure

Foster Care Adoption

Varies widely, but adoptive parents should be prepared for:

- potential in-utero substance or alcohol exposure
- pre-natal trauma
- loss of main attachment figure
- potential history of abuse/neglect
- likelihood of multiple temporary caregivers

Kinship Adoption

This information may be known or unknown, depending on kinship relationship. These experiences will vary widely depending on the child's family circumstances.

Intercountry Adoption

Varies widely, but adoptive parents should be prepared for:

- potential in-utero substance or alcohol exposure,
- pre-natal trauma
- loss of main attachment figure
- impact of orphanage and/or foster care
- sensory deprivation and history of abuse/neglect



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[Adoption Advocate 137: Telling the Truth to Your Adopted or Foster Child: Helping Your Child Come to a Strength-Based Understanding of His or Her Life Story](#)

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Openness

Private Domestic Infant Adoption

Many are “open” adoptions to some degree, wherein the child is aware of their adoption and there is an ongoing relationship and/or communication with birth family.

Foster Care Adoption

Parental rights have been terminated by state, but typically some level of openness exists. This may be decided by the state based on safety factors or may be more fluid.

Kinship Adoption

Typically, there is some level of communication and relationship between the birth parent(s) and the kinship adoptive family and/or child. But this depends on the child’s family circumstances.

Intercountry Adoption

Birth parents are most often unknown and there is not contact, but parents should be prepared for the possibility of a later search.



Related to This Topic:

[What is Open Adoption?](#)

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Timeline

Private Domestic Infant Adoption	Current <i>average</i> is one to two years waiting for match with an agency
Foster Care Adoption	Timeframe that a family is fostering prior to goal being adoption, varies widely based on child's case. Average wait after parental rights are terminated is one year.
Kinship Adoption	Varies greatly depending on individual family member and case
Intercountry Adoption	Varies widely by country program, but generally two years or more from time of application to travel.

Cost

Private Domestic Infant Adoption	Varies based on provider When utilizing an agency only, generally \$20-40K
Foster Care Adoption	Minimal costs
Kinship Adoption	Minimal cost but requires an agency or attorney to finalize
Intercountry Adoption	\$20-40K



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Role of Professionals

Private Domestic Infant Adoption	Adoption agency is required to complete the home study. Families may choose to also retain an attorney and/or consultant and/or facilitator. *
Foster Care Adoption	Families may work with the state or a private agency. Some families choose to retain an attorney as well.
Kinship Adoption	May work with agency and or attorney to finalize adoptive placement
Intercountry Adoption	Primary provider and home study agency needed. Note that some specific cases may require consultation with an immigration attorney.

**In many states it is illegal to use a facilitator.*



Related to This Topic:

[Adoption Advocate 140: Choosing an Adoption Professional](#)

Parent Eligibility

Private Domestic Infant Adoption	There are state requirements that must be followed including an approved home study.
Foster Care Adoption	There are state requirements that must be followed including an approved home study. When seeking to adopt a specific waiting child, agencies may also consider best fit based on child's age, capacity to parent siblings where applicable, special needs, etc.
Kinship Adoption	Determined through the home study process.
Intercountry Adoption	Determined by U.S. state and federal requirements, and the sending country's requirements.

